



Hamer Island and Placentia Frequently Asked Questions

What is a county unincorporated island?

An island is a pocket of unincorporated County land that is surrounded or substantially surrounded by a city, and receives government services (e.g., police, fire, roads, etc.) from the County of Orange. Residents within the County Island are represented by the County Board of Supervisors instead of a local City Council.

Why is the County getting out of the municipal services business?

The County is best positioned to serve as a regional service provider. The County distinguishes between municipal services (such as public safety, road maintenance, and parks and recreation services) and regional services (such as the, jails, public health, and regional parks). The County has determined that it is more efficient for cities to provide municipal services to residents located within an island. Since 2000, over 70 islands have been successfully annexed into cities in Orange County.

Why annex islands?

The County's main function is to provide regional services (such as public health and welfare, the County court system, social services, and regional parks). One of the City of Placentia's main functions is to provide municipal services (such as public safety, land use planning, code enforcement, and road maintenance). Annexing Hamer Islands into Placentia improves the delivery of municipal services and is more cost-effective. Annexation also provides residents with more local representation through a City Councilmember rather than representation through a County Supervisor. Placentia City Council represents 5 Districts and each oversee a few thousand residents, whereas the County Board of Supervisors oversee hundreds of thousands of residents throughout the County and across multiple cities. It continues to be the mission of the County to strongly encourage cities to annex county unincorporated islands into their communities.

What is the process of Annexation?

California law (Government Code Section 56375.3) allows Cities to annex islands through a process that does not require protest proceedings or elections, provided

the island meets specific criteria and is 150 acres or less in size. The City Council would meet to consider adopting a resolution initiating annexation application to the OC LAFCO. The City Council would then consider approving a City/County Agreement. The County Board of Supervisors would also meet to consider approving the City/Council Agreement. Lastly, OC LAFCO would hold a public hearing to consider approval of the City's annexation application.

What is LAFCO?

A state mandated agency that oversees the boundary changes between cities, counties and special districts. There is a LAFCO in every county in California and Orange County LAFCO (OC LAFCO) has jurisdiction over the boundaries of cities and special districts within Orange County. The OC LAFCO Board consists of seven voting members: 2 from the Board of Supervisors, 2 representing cities, 2 representing special districts and 1 representing the public.

If my property is annexed, to which agency do I pay my property taxes?

Upon annexation, property owners will continue to pay their property taxes to the County of Orange.

Can the property tax rate (Proposition 13) be changed as a result of annexation?

No. Property taxes are fixed at a constant rate (1% of the assessed value of the property) set by the State in accordance with Proposition 13. This rate does not change.

Are there any other additional costs or taxes associated with annexation?

County Island residents would be subject to Utility User Tax (UUT) which is 3.5%. While the City has reached out to various utility providers, the City received one response. Southern California Gas Company indicated that an average of \$1.37 per month is collected for UUT.

Will areas be rezoned upon annexation?

Upon annexation and in accordance with Government Code 56375(e), the City is required to pre-zone the annexation area and may not change the pre-zoning designations during the first two years following annexation. The proposed zoning for the Hamer Island is similar to the surrounding areas which is "R-1 Single Family Residential." This is the current zone as set forth by the County.

What services will change and how?

The County of Orange currently provides most government services (planning, code enforcement, public safety, solid waste) to all unincorporated areas. The City currently provides Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to Hamer Island residents. Upon annexation, government service responsibility is transitioned to the City of Placentia.

Will any of my utility companies (sewer, water, gas, electric, internet) change as a result of annexation?

All current utility service providers will remain the same. If annexed into Placentia, Hamer Island residents will be able to subscribe to a new broadband Internet service via a Citywide fiber optic system currently under construction that will bring fiber optic lines in every home and business in the City. Placentia FiberCity will provide 1 gigabyte data speeds which far exceeds what is currently provided by local Internet service providers.

If my property is annexed into the city, will my address change?

No, all address numbers will remain the same. The City's public safety providers (fire, police and EMS) already have Hamer Island residents' addresses in their current database.

Will I be able to protest the annexation if the City files for annexation?

Under State law, annexation of small unincorporated islands (150 acres or under) that are initiated by a city are not subject to resident protest and shall be approved by OC LAFCO (Government Code Section 56375.3). Hamer Island is 75 acres.