



All About LAFCo

Your Local Agency Formation Commission is the secret to sustainable land use and services in your community.

California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

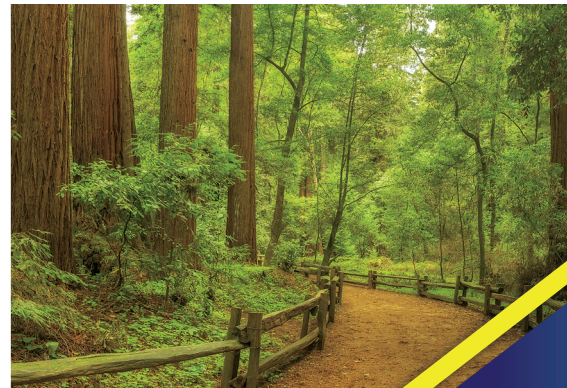
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CALAFCO

The California Association of LAFCOs (CALAFCO) was formed in 1971 to provide educational and technical resources to its members. CALAFCO serves as a resource to the California State Legislature and other bodies. The organization is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors made up of representatives from cities, counties, special districts and the public; it is divided into Northern, Central, Coastal and Southern California regions.



Ensuring efficient and effective government services and protecting open spaces in California since 1963.

Each of California's 58 COUNTIES have a Local Agency Formation Commission to oversee creation of local governmental boundaries and streamline government services for cities and special districts.

LAFcos PLAN FOR LOGICAL GROWTH OF CITIES AND AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES SUCH AS POLICE, FIRE, WATER AND SANITATION BY:



Encouraging the Orderly Formation of Cities and Special Districts

LAFcos review formation proposals for new cities and special districts and requests for boundary changes for existing cities and special districts.



Preserving Agricultural Land Resources

By guiding development toward urban land, LAFcos help preserve valuable agricultural resources statewide.



Discouraging Urban Sprawl

LAFcos prevent disorganized growth, promoting a more efficient system for cities and special districts, mitigating the unnecessary loss of open space lands, and reconciling differences between agency plans.

What is a special district?

Special districts are local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy and well-being. Examples include services for public safety, hospitals, cemeteries, libraries, parks and recreation.



Planning With Purpose

The need for planning and coordination of jurisdictional and service boundaries became apparent after the rapid growth of post-World War II California. The increased demand for housing, jobs and public services resulted in the formation of many new cities and special districts, often with little forethought given to governance structures within regions and premature conversion of agricultural and open-space lands.

Serving on LAFCo

The composition of LAFcos varies from county to county but generally includes:

- ✓ Two members from the Board of Supervisors
- ✓ Two members from the local city councils
- ✓ Representatives from independent special districts and the general public
- ✓ Alternate members for each category

Ensuring Efficient Growth and Services:

LAFCo Responsibilities



Boundary Changes – for cities wishing to annex pockets or “islands” of unincorporated land within their borders to avoid duplication of services with the county; for housing developers seeking annexation to a city to obtain urban services; for an individual homeowner with a failing septic system asking for annexation into a sewer district.



Sphere of Influence – the plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency.



Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) – to analyze governance structures and efficiencies of service providers and identify opportunities for greater coordination and cooperation between providers.



Out of Agency Service Agreements – for provision of services outside of an agency's boundaries, cities and special districts.



Adoption of Local Policies - to appropriately administer the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, which establishes LAFCo as a fully independent agency separate from counties.

