



CALAFCO Legislative Policies

Adopted by the Board of Directors on 9 November 2007

1. LAFCo Purpose and Authority

- 1.1. Support legislation which enhances LAFCo authority and powers to carryout the legislative findings and authority in Government Code §56000 et seq.
- 1.2. Support authority for each LAFCo to establish local policies to apply Government Code §56000 et seq. based on local needs and conditions, and oppose any limitations to that authority.
- 1.3. Oppose addition of unrelated responsibilities which dilute LAFCo ability to meet its primary missions.
- 1.4. Support alignment of responsibilities and authority of LAFCo and regional agencies which may have overlapping responsibilities in orderly growth, preservation and service delivery, and oppose legislation or policies which create conflicts or hamper those responsibilities.
- 1.5. Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the LAFCo process.
- 1.6. Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote his or her conscience on issues affecting their own jurisdiction.

2. LAFCo Organization

- 2.1. Support the independence of LAFCo from local agencies.
- 2.2. Oppose the recomposition of any or all LAFCos without respect to the existing balance of powers that has evolved within each commission or the creation of specials seats on a LAFCo.
- 2.3. Support representation of special districts on all LAFCos with

independent districts and oppose removal of special districts from any LAFCo.

- 2.4. Support communication and collaborative decision making among neighboring LAFCos when growth pressures and multicounty agencies extend beyond a LAFCo's boundaries.

3. Agricultural and Open Space Protection

- 3.1. Support legislation which clarifies LAFCo authority to identify, encourage and mitigate the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.2. Encourage a consistent definition of agricultural and open spaces lands in law and application.
- 3.3. Support policies which encourage cities, counties and special districts to direct development away from prime agricultural lands.

4. Orderly Growth

- 4.1. Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as the management tool to provide better planning of growth and development, and to preserve agricultural and open space.
- 4.2. Support adoption of LAFCo spheres by other agencies involved in determining long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 4.3. Support orderly boundaries of local agencies and the elimination of islands within the boundaries of agencies.
- 4.4. Support communication between cities, counties, and districts through a collaborative process that resolves service, housing, land use, and fiscal issues prior to application to LAFCo.

- 4.5. Support cooperation between a county and city on decisions related to development within the city's designated sphere of influence.

5. Service and Local Agency Effectiveness

- 5.1. Support the use of LAFCo resources to review regional growth plans and scenarios to ensure reliable services, orderly growth and sustainable communities, and that assure conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.2. Support LAFCo authority and tools which provide communities with local governance and efficient service delivery options, including authority to condition proposals that assure conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.3. Support the creation or reorganization of local governments in a deliberative, open process which will fairly evaluate the proposed agency's long-term financial viability, governance structure and its ability to efficiently deliver proposed services.
- 5.4. Support availability of tools for LAFCo to mitigate and ensure equitable distribution of revenues to local government agencies consistent with their service responsibilities.

Authority of LAFCo Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's authority to condition proposals to address any or all financial, growth, service delivery, and agricultural and open space preservation impacts of the proposal.

Agriculture and Open Space Protection Preservation of prime agriculture, open space, and natural habitats that maintain the quality of life in California. Support that recognizes LAFCo ability to protect prime agricultural and open space lands, and that encourage other agencies to coordinate with local LAFCos on preservation and orderly growth.

Water Availability Insure adequate water supplies and infrastructure planning for current and planned growth. Support policies that assist LAFCo in obtaining accurate data to evaluate current and cumulative water demands for service expansions and boundary changes including impacts of expanding private and mutual water company service areas on orderly growth.

Issues of Interest

Housing Provision of territory and services to support affordable housing, and the consistency of regional land use plans with local LAFCo policies.

Transportation Infrastructure impact of transportation systems on future growth and services needs, and ability of local agencies to provide future services.

Flood Control The ability and effectiveness of local agencies to maintain and improve levees, and the public safety of uninhabited flood risk territory proposed for annexation to urban areas. Support legislation that includes assessment of agency viability in decisions involving new funds for levee repair.

2008 Legislative Priorities

Primary Issues

Viability of Local Governments Support legislation that maintain or enhances LAFCo's ability to review and act to assure the efficient and sustainable delivery of local services and the viability of agencies providing those services to meet current and future needs. Support legislation which provides LAFCo and local communities with options for local governance and service delivery, including incorporation as a city.