



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION

Ventura LAFCo

Introduction to and Overview of LAFCo & Overview of the Formation Process of a Community Services District

Kai Luoma

Ventura LAFCo Executive Officer

LAFCo Introduction & Overview

What is LAFCo?

Who is LAFCo?

What are the purposes of LAFCo?

How does LAFCo achieve its purposes?

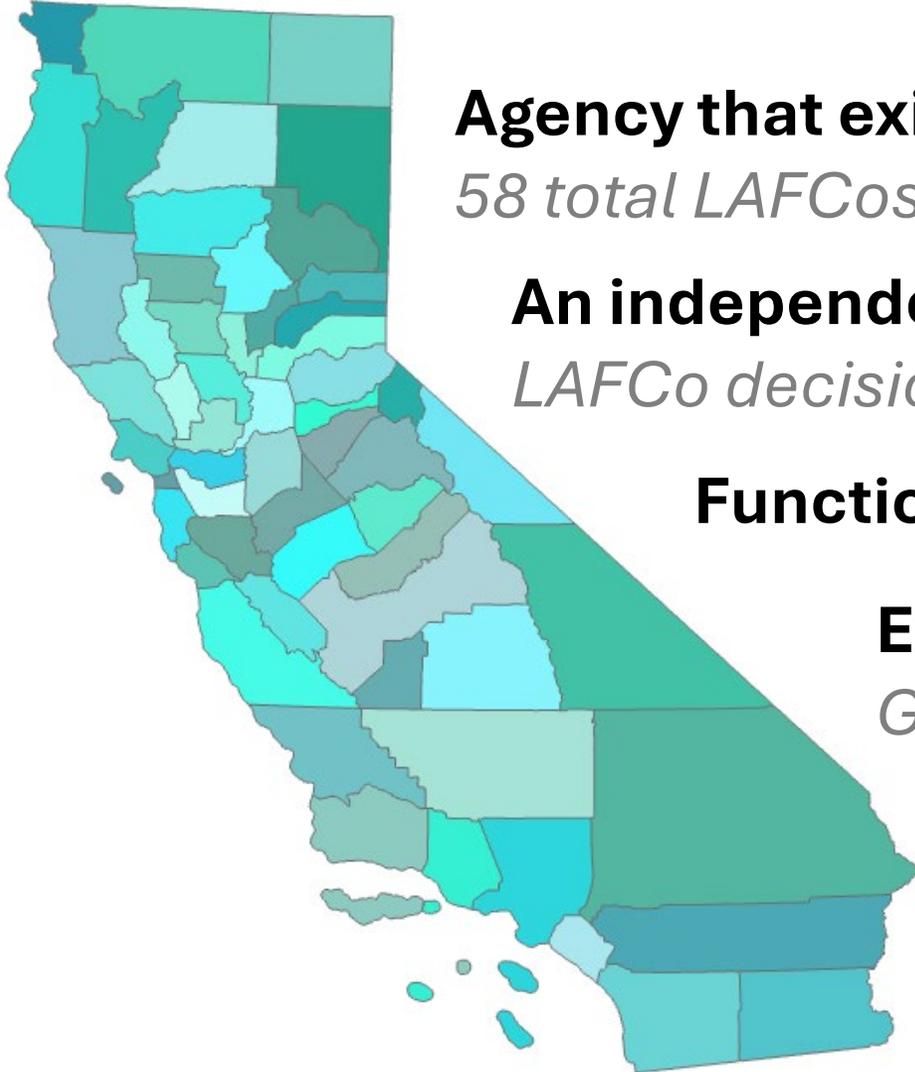
What is LAFCo?

What does “LAFCo” stand for?

LAFCo

Local Agency Formation Commission

LAFCo Overview



Agency that exists in every county in California

58 total LAFCos

An independent, quasi-legislative agency

LAFCo decisions are final & cannot be appealed

Functions as a state agency

Exercises authority pursuant to State Law

Government Code Section 56000 et seq.

Acts as a “watchdog” established by the State Legislature to achieve its specified purposes

Who is LAFCo?

LAFCo Commissioners



2 members

Board of Supervisors
of Ventura County

Plus  1 alternate



2 members

City councils
of Ventura County cities

Plus  1 alternate



2 members

Independent Special Districts
in Ventura County

Plus  1 alternate



1 member

Public

Plus  1 alternate

2026 LAFCo Commissioners

Board of Supervisors

Jeff Gorell, District 2

Janice S. Parvin, District 4

Matt LaVere, District 1 (Alt)

City councils

Jenny Crosswhite, City of Santa Paula

Bert E. Perello, City of Oxnard

Susan Santangelo, City of Camarillo (Alt)

Independent Special Districts

Raul Avila, Calleguas Municipal Water District

Chris Stephens, Ventura Port District

Mohammed A. Hasan, United Water Cons. Dist. (Alt)

Public

Gene Talmadge

Joe Piechowski (Alt)

Commissioners Must Wear their “LAFCo Hat”

Do not represent the agency upon which they were elected to serve

Do not represent special districts, cities, or the County

Must work on behalf of the interests of residents, property owners, and the public as a whole

Must work to further the purposes of LAFCo

2026 LAFCo Staff

Executive Officer

Kai Luoma

Deputy Executive Officer

Andrea Ozdy

Office Manager/Clerk to the Commission

Richelle Beltran

LAFCo Legal Counsel (Chief Assistant County Counsel)

Jeffrey E. Barnes

**What are the purposes
of LAFCo?**

Purposes of LAFCo

- 1 Discourage urban sprawl
- 2 Preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands
- 3 Encourage the efficient provision of government services
- 4 Encourage orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances

**How does LAFCo
achieve its purposes?**

LAFCo's Oversight

10 cities

29 independent special districts

19 dependent special districts

LAFCo's Primary Duties

Cities

Special
Districts

- Coordinate logical & timely **jurisdictional boundary changes**
- Establish **spheres of influence**
- Conduct **special studies** recommending ways to **simplify & streamline governmental structure**
- Determine or approve **services that special districts are authorized to provide**
- Consider **out-of-agency service requests**

Boundary Change Types

Annexations

Detachments

Incorporations

Disincorporations

Formations

Dissolutions

Mergers

Consolidations

Special Districts in VC

Community services districts (2)

County sanitation districts (2)

County service areas (7)

County water districts (4)

County waterworks districts (6)

Drainage districts (2)

Fire protection districts (1)

Harbor and port districts (1 & 1)

Healthcare districts (1)

Flood control districts (1)

Groundwater management agencies (2)

Library districts (1)

Memorial districts (1)

Metropolitan water districts (1)

Municipal water districts (3)

Public cemetery districts (3)

Recreation and park districts (3)

Resource conservation districts (1)

Sanitary districts (3)

Transit or rapid transit districts (1)

Water conservation districts (2)

Overview of CSD Formation Process

CSD Law (Govt. Code Section 61000 et. seq.)

LAFCo Law (Govt. Code Section 56000 et. seq.)

Petition Process

LAFCo Formation Process

Petition Process

Petition Process

Begins and ends with LAFCo

- 1 Application to start process
- 2 Proponent responsibilities prior to submittal to LAFCo
- 3 Submittal to LAFCo of signed petition

Petition Process

1 Application to start process

- LAFCo determines boundaries of proposed CSD
- LAFCo determines number of registered voters
- LAFCo calculates 25% of total voters and informs proponents

Petition Process

2 Proponent responsibilities

- Publish Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition
- File Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition with LAFCo
- Circulate petition for signatures (6 months to collect signatures from 25% of voters)

Petition Process

2 Required contents of petition

- All proposed changes of organization
- Description and map of boundaries
- Terms and conditions
- Reasons for proposal
- Services to be provided
- Methods to finance the services (special taxes, benefit assessments, and fees)
- Various other requirements

Petition Process

3 Submittal to LAFCo of signed petition

- County Elections Division determines sufficiency of signatures (30 days)
- If insufficient, process stops (or 15-day extension)
- If sufficient, LAFCo issues Certificate of Sufficiency – application can be accepted

LAFCo Formation Process

LAFCo Formation Process

1

Application
to LAFCo

3

Commission
consideration

5

Protest process (if no
reconsideration filed)

2

LAFCo Review

4

Reconsideration
(if approved)

6

Election

LAFCo Formation Process

1 Application to LAFCo

- 30 days to determine completeness
- If incomplete, applicant is notified (applicant has 90 days to provide additional materials)
- If complete, LAFCo issues Certificate of Filing & LAFCo review process begins

LAFCo Formation Process

2 LAFCo Review

- All affected agencies consulted
- Review of services to be provided, including level of service & method of service delivery
- Cost of services
- Funding for services
- Property tax exchange calculated

LAFCo Formation Process

3 Commission consideration

- Commission can approve, with or without amendment, wholly, partially, or conditionally
- Commission can disapprove

LAFCo Formation Process

4 Reconsideration (if approved)

- 30 days in which a request for reconsideration can be filed
- If valid request is submitted – process stops until commission holds a public hearing to reconsider approval

LAFCo Formation Process

5 Protest Process (if no reconsideration)

- 30-60 day period for registered voters and/or property owners to file written protests
- Public hearing to count number of protests filed
 - > 50% protest = proposal terminated
 - < 50% protest = election ordered

LAFCo Formation Process

6 Election

- Majority of registered voters if no new taxes or benefit assessments
- $\frac{2}{3}$ registered voters if new taxes required
- $\frac{2}{3}$ property owners if new benefit assessment required

Questions?