

ANNEXATION IN CALIFORNIA

Discussing Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCoS)

WHAT IS A LAFCO?

A Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is an independent regulatory and planning agency that oversees changes in the jurisdictional boundaries of cities and special districts.

Created in 1963 and amended in 2000 by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, there are 58 LAFCOs in California; one for each county.

WHAT IS LAFCO'S MISSION?



ENCOURAGE ORDERLY
GROWTH



DISCOURAGE URBAN
SPRAWL



PRESERVE OPEN SPACE &
AGRICULTURAL LANDS

LAFCOS GENERALLY OVERSEE THE TIMING & LOCATION OF:

- City and certain special district boundaries, including:
 - Water, sewer, fire protection, flood control (*growth-inducing facilities and services*).
 - Parks, libraries, airports (*growth supporting facilities and services*).
 - Hospitals, cemeteries, pest abatement (*non-growth-related facilities*).

LAFCOS GENERALLY DO NOT OVERSEE:

- County boundaries
- Air Districts, school districts, roadway districts
- Redevelopment agencies, taxing districts
- Joint-powers agencies

LAFCOS ARE NOT:

- A County agency
- A City department or agency
- A Special District

HOW LAFCOS OPERATE:

- LAFCOs are independent, neutral agencies required by state law, and charged with coordinating growth within a region
- They maintain both **regulatory** and **planning** powers
 - *Regulatory powers control city and special district boundaries*
 - *Planning powers influence land use*

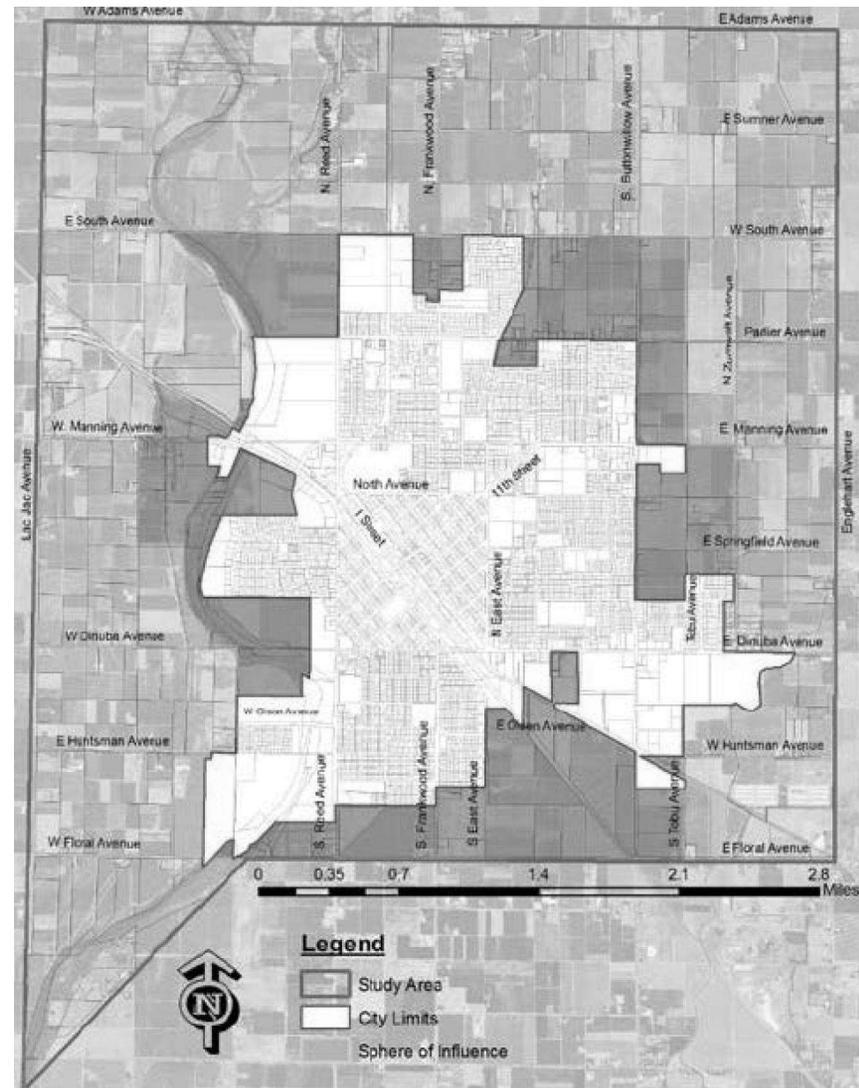
HOW LAFCOS OPERATE (CONT.):

- Membership is comprised of:
 - Two County Commissioners (plus a third alternate)
 - Two Elected Mayors
 - Two special district members (if applicable to the region)
 - One at-large member chosen collectively by the six members listed above
- Operating costs are split evenly by the county, cities, and any applicable special districts

MAJOR PIECES REQUIRED FOR ANNEXATION:

- Two key points and activities must be addressed to allow for annexation:
 1. Establishment of a **Sphere of Influence (SOI)**, which is required to be included within a municipality's general plan
 2. Conducting of a **Municipal Service Review (MSR)** analyzing the SOI, including the proposed annexation area(s)

MAJOR PIECES REQUIRED FOR ANNEXATION (CONT.):



THE OVERALL ANNEXATION PROCESS:

- The process consists of up to five steps:
 1. Initiation (either by property owners, a municipality, or by LAFCo directly)
 2. LAFCo Review (SOI, MSR, and MOU reviews and staff report)
 3. Conducting of Authority Actions, including public hearing(s) at the LAFCo Board
 4. Possible Elections (if necessary)
 5. Completion of annexation recording