



SPECIAL DISTRICTS ON LAFCO: WHY, WHY NOT, & HOW

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Why be on LAFCO?

- To “gain a seat at the table”
- If you’re not *at* the table, then you are *on* the table

Who's at the Table?

- Per Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, LAFCO is comprised of:
 - *2 County Supervisors + an alternate*
 - *2 City Council people + an alternate*
 - *1 public member + an alternate*
 - *AND: if they so choose,
2 Special District Directors + an alternate*

Advantages to Districts from being on LAFCO:

- Special Districts have 2 votes in LAFCO deliberations:
- Annexations & reorganizations of cities and districts
- MSR and Sphere of Influence decisions
- Latent powers of districts
- District consolidations and dissolutions

Advantages (continued):

- LAFCO is the **only** venue where special districts are a fully participating *equal* to Cities and the County
- All special districts gain stature when seated on LAFCO
- Build better relationships with county supervisors and mayors

Advantages to LAFCO

- Districts bring a perspective to LAFCO that is distinct from general government entities
- Districts are service-focused and bring a knowledge of infrastructure
- Districts on LAFCO often more in tune with the spirit and intent of LAFCO law
- We alter the dynamics between a County & the Cities in LAFCO deliberations

Cost of Being Seated on LAFCO

- Per 56381(1)(A), LAFCO is funded one-third each from the County, cities, and independent special districts. Can be negotiated. . .
- Cost of district one-third to each district is based on the ratio of the district's total revenues to combined revenues of all districts in the county

Changes to Districts:

- No longer “just a small district”
- Changes the balance of power
- **There will be change**, and by being at the table, you have a **votes** and an active voice in the process

The Process

- Letter of invitation from LAFCO
- Adoption of resolutions by majority of special districts proposing representation
- LAFCO adopts a resolution of intention
- LAFCO gives notice and calls meeting of districts to select representation (consists of presiding officer of each special district and may be conducted in writing)

References:

- www.calafco.org - CaLAFCO website for sample documents
- www.opr.ca.gov – Governor's Office of Planning & Research, Publications tab, for guidelines & information on LAFCo process plus CEQA & planning resources and links