
Strategies to Address Climate Change

Monterey Bay Unified APCD Conference

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A Crucial Year

1963

Why LAFCO came about

- **Post World War II population and housing boom in California**
- **Street car suburbs; scramble to finance and extend services**
- **City annexation "wars," proliferation of limited purpose special districts**
- **Governor Pat Brown's Commission on Urban Problems focused on need to encourage orderly boundaries**

Ventura LAFCO – February 11, 1981

Mr. Chairman, my name is Duane Lyders. I'm the City Attorney of the City of Oxnard.

We've come a long way from the 1960s – when the law of the jungle prevailed – before LAFCO came into existence, when cities, based upon the political power that they could muster, would gobble up large acreages and hold them for future expansion.

I submit that the principle which has supplanted the law of the jungle – the principle embodied in the statutes creating LAFCO – is what we are dealing with today.

LAFCO'S PURPOSES ARE TO

- **Encourage orderly growth and development that are essential to social, fiscal and economic well being**
- **Encourage orderly boundaries and discourage urban sprawl**
- **Conserve agriculture and open space**
- **Promote efficient public services**
- **Consider regional housing needs, adequate water and other essential issues**

What the Courts have said about LAFCO

- **LAFCO is engaged in the pursuit of an overriding State purpose**
- **State laws fully occupy the field**
- **LAFCO is quasi-legislative; limited legal challenge to LAFCO decisions**
- **LAFCO is independent, not part of County**
- **LAFCO is the Legislature's watch dog for governmental efficiency**

As a planning agency LAFCO

- **Develops and periodically updates Spheres of Influence of cities and districts**
- **Prepares Municipal Service Reviews to help update Spheres of Influence and coordinate the provision of services**
- **Works cooperatively with public and private agencies and interests**

Senate Bill 375 and LAFCOs

- **Requires regional transportation agencies (RTA) adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy or an Alternate Planning Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning to reduce vehicle trips traveled. The law has the following wording**
 - **In preparing a sustainable communities strategy, the metropolitan planning organization shall consider spheres of influence that have been adopted by the local agency formation commissions within its region. (§65080(b)(2)(F))**

As a regulatory agency LAFCO

- **Regulates boundaries of existing agencies, creation of new ones and local governmental structure**
- **Can approve changes only if consistent with spheres of influence**
- **Controls extension of public services without annexations**
- **Is prohibited from directly regulating land use**

Factors LAFCO Must Consider

- **Population, population density; land area, land use; topography, natural boundaries**
- **Proximity to populated areas and the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas**
- **Need for organized community services; cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls and the probable effect of the proposed change on public services and controls**
- **Effects mutual social and economic interests and the local governmental structure**

Factors LAFCO Must Consider – Part 2

- **Consistency with city or county general and specific plans and with adopted sphere of influence**
- **Ability of the agency to provide services including the sufficiency of revenues**
- **Timely availability of adequate water supplies**
- **Extent a proposal will affect a city or county in achieving their respective fair shares of the regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments**
- **Extent a proposal will promote environmental justice**

Next Legislative Step?

- **Consideration is being given to legislation to add the following additional factor for LAFCO to consider:**
 - p) **The extent to which the proposal will implement a regional transportation plan, including a sustainable communities**

That's all folks!

