

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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**3.11 LEGISLATIVE PROCESS PARTICIPATION**

3.11.1 Process for Expeditious Legislative Relations

3.11.1.1 In situations when proposed legislation affecting LAFCO cannot be considered by the full Commission at a regular meeting due to timing, the Executive Officer is authorized to consult with the Chair to review the legislation within the context of the legislative policies of Section 3.11.2.

3.11.1.2 If a response is warranted, the Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chair, is authorized to provide written or email correspondence regarding the Commission's position, if the position is consistent with the adopted legislative policies of the Commission.

3.11.1.3 Matters in which the Executive Officer and Chair cannot agree upon a legislative position shall be placed on the next regular LAFCO meeting agenda for discussion and action by the full Commission.

3.11.1.4 Position letters will be placed on the next regular LAFCO meeting agenda as either informational or for discussion purposes.

3.11.2 Legislative Policies

3.11.2.1 LAFCO Purpose and Authority

3.11.2.1.1 Support legislation which enhances LAFCO authority and powers to carry out the legislative findings and authority in Government Code §56000 et seq., and oppose legislation which diminishes LAFCO authority.

3.11.2.1.2 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.

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- 3.11.2.1.3 Oppose additional LAFCO responsibilities which require expansion of current local funding sources. Oppose unrelated responsibilities which dilute LAFCO ability to meet its primary mission.
- 3.11.2.1.4 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.
- 3.11.2.1.5 Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the LAFCO process.
- 3.11.2.1.6 Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote his or her conscience on issues affecting his or her own jurisdiction.
- 3.11.2.2 LAFCO Organization
  - 3.11.2.2.1 Support the independence of LAFCO from local agencies.
  - 3.11.2.2.2 Oppose the re-composition of any LAFCO to create special seats and recognize the importance of balanced representation provided by cities, the county, the public, and special districts in advancing the public interest.
  - 3.11.2.2.3 Support representation of special districts on all LAFCOs in counties with independent districts and oppose removal of special districts from any LAFCO.
  - 3.11.2.2.4 Support communication and collaborative decision-making among neighboring LAFCOs when growth pressures and multicounty agencies extend beyond a LAFCO's boundaries.

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3.11.2.3 Agricultural and Open Space Protection

- 3.11.2.3.1 Support legislation which clarifies LAFCO authority to identify, encourage and ensure the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.11.2.3.2 Encourage a consistent definition of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.11.2.3.3 Support policies which encourage cities, counties and special districts to direct development away from prime agricultural lands.
- 3.11.2.3.4 Support policies and tools which protect prime agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.11.2.3.5 Support the continuance of the Williamson Act and restoration of program funding through State subvention payments.

3.11.2.4 Orderly Growth

- 3.11.2.4.1 Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as a management tool to provide better planning of growth and development, and to preserve agricultural, and open space lands.
- 3.11.2.4.2 Support recognition of LAFCO spheres of influence by other agencies involved in determining and developing long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 3.11.2.4.3 Support orderly boundaries of local agencies and the elimination of islands within the boundaries of agencies.
- 3.11.2.4.4 Support communication among cities, counties, and special districts through a collaborative process that resolves service, housing, land use, and fiscal issues prior to application to LAFCO.

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- 3.11.2.4.5 Support cooperation between counties and cities on decisions related to development within the city's designated sphere of influence.
- 3.11.2.5 Service Delivery and Local Agency Effectiveness
  - 3.11.2.5.1 Support the use of LAFCO resources to review Regional Transportation Plans, including sustainable communities' strategies and other growth plans to ensure reliable services, orderly growth, sustainable communities, and conformity with LAFCO's legislative mandates. Support efforts that enhance meaningful collaboration between LAFCOs and regional planning agencies.
  - 3.11.2.5.2 Support LAFCO authority as the preferred method of local governance. Support the availability of LAFCO tools which provide communities with local governance and efficient service delivery options, including the authority to impose conditions that assure a proposal's conformity with LAFCO's legislative mandates.
  - 3.11.2.5.3 Support the creation or reorganization of local governments in a deliberative, open process which will fairly evaluate the proposed new or successor agency's long-term financial viability, governance structure and ability to efficiently deliver proposed services.
  - 3.11.2.5.4 Support the availability of tools for LAFCO to insure equitable distribution of revenues to local government agencies consistent with their service delivery responsibilities.
  - 3.11.2.5.5 Support collaborative efforts among agencies and LAFCOs that encourage opportunities for sharing of services, staff and facilities to provide more efficient and cost-effective services. Support legislation which provides LAFCO with additional opportunities to encourage shared services.