

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

2.1 LAFCO BUDGET

As stated in Section 1.1, under the law and LAFCO's Policies and Guidelines, LAFCO is an independent Commission that adopts and administers its own budget and controls its expenditures. Government Code §56381, et. seq., and the following policies will control the LAFCO budget process:

- 2.1.1 **Adoption of Budget:** The Commission shall adopt annually, following noticed public hearings, a proposed budget by May 1 and final budget by June 15 in the manner prescribed by §56381.
- 2.1.2 **Open, Collaborative Process:** LAFCO will encourage an open, collaborative process in the development and approval of its budget. LAFCO will encourage efforts to equitably apportion or reapportion the cost of its budget. In addition, LAFCO will encourage cooperation and collaborative efforts among agencies in order to reduce the costs of special projects, studies and state mandates.
- 2.1.3 **Adoption of Work Plan:** LAFCO will annually review and adopt a work plan to fulfill the purposes and programs of state law and local policy. The work plan will guide the development of the budget.
- 2.1.4 **Resources:** The budget will identify the resources available for LAFCO's use under the law and those resources necessary for the purpose of carrying out state law and the Commission's goals and policies.
- 2.1.5 **Budget Administrator:** The LAFCO Executive Officer shall serve as budget administrator to prepare, present, transmit, review, execute and maintain the LAFCO budget.
- 2.1.6 **Fees:** Fees charged by LAFCO are set at the maximum justifiable level to recover the costs of processing applications.
- 2.1.7 **Reserve:** LAFCO will appropriate monies to reserves consistent with Policy 2.10.
- 2.1.8 **Expense Claims:** All claims for expenses, other than usual employee costs (salaries and benefits), are to be reviewed by the Commission. Expenditure authorization for all expenses shall comply with Policy 2.9.
- 2.1.9 **Payments:** If the county, a city, or an independent special district does not remit its required payment within 60 days, the Auditor shall collect an equivalent amount from the property tax, or any fee or eligible revenue owed to the city, county, or special district (§56381(c)).

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- 2.1.10 **Advance:** At the first of each fiscal year, the Board of Supervisors shall transmit an advance equal to 1/6 of the final LAFCO budget to cover the first two months expenses of each fiscal year (§56381 (c)).

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2.10 FUND BALANCES

- 2.10.1 Fund balances are classified in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. Reporting of fund balance in LAFCO's CAFR will be based on the amounts and classifications listed in the fund balance summary of LAFCO's Annual Budget. Classification of fund balance reflects the current plans of the Commission with respect to the use of fund balance. These plans represent current intention and are subject to change and assignment. Furthermore, the classification of funds (reflecting current plans for asset use) does not in any way limit the ability of LAFCO to use those funds for other purposes, as deemed necessary by LAFCO.
- 2.10.2 Under GASB Statement Number 54, fund balances will be classified as "*Non-Spendable*" and "*Spendable*". Spendable categories will be further classified as *Restricted*, *Committed*, *Assigned*, and *Unassigned*.
- 2.10.3 Non-Spendable: The Commission shall designate fund balance as "Non-Spendable" for amounts that cannot be spent or are not in spendable form (i.e. prepaid items, land held for resale, long-term receivables), or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Although, if the use of the proceeds from the sale of those properties or from the collection of those receivables is restricted, committed, or assigned, then they should be included in the correct spendable classification rather than the Non-Spendable classification.
- 2.10.4 Spendable Category Definitions
- a. Restricted: The Commission shall designate fund balance as "Restricted" for amounts that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The Commission shall also designate fund balance as "restricted" if required by imposed enabling legislation or regulations.
 - b. Committed: The Commission shall designate fund balance as "Committed" for amounts committed for specific purposes by formal action of LAFCO, such as enacted ordinances, resolutions, or action items, which prevent the amounts from being used for any other purpose without formal action of LAFCO. Committed funds also include contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

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- c. Assigned: The Commission or Executive Officer may designate fund balance as “Assigned” for amounts intended to be used for specific purposes without formal action. This authority to determine the portions of a fund balance that is to be reported as "Assigned" in LAFCO’s CAFR may be delegated to the Executive Officer or the Executive Officer’s designee.
- d. Unassigned: The Commission shall designate fund balance as “Unassigned” for amounts that are in excess of Non-Spendable, Restricted, Committed, and Assigned fund balances.

2.10.5 LAFCO will allocate the fund balances in the following manner:

- a. Assigned: An “Accrued Leave” fund to cover the balance of all employees’ vested time off (vacation and sick leave), allocated annually as a line item in the budget. Funds may be expended for the sole purpose of compensating an employee who leaves the agency’s employment of the balance of his/her accrued time off, in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and in conformance with LAFCO’s policies. Disbursement of the Accrued Leave is delegated to the Executive Officer.
- b. Assigned: An “Operating Contingency” fund set at 10% of total operating expense, allocated annually as a line item in the budget. Funds may be expended to cover increases in cost for other budget items or unexpected expenses within the scope of other items in the budget. Disbursement of the operating contingency is at the discretion of the Executive Officer.
- c. Assigned: An “Emergency Expense” fund set at a maximum of 5% of the LAFCO budget for the purposes of funding non-budgeted legal expenses that may occur from time-to-time; unexpected catastrophic expenses; or an unexpected drop in revenues. Expenditure of “Emergency Expense” funds must receive prior approval of the Commission. An emergency expense can be authorized from the “Emergency Expense” with approval of the Executive Officer and either Commission Chair or Vice Chair for an amount totaling less than \$10,000.00 during a monthly period. Assignments into this classification will not be allocated in the budget. Instead, assignments into this fund will come from any carryover monies that are in excess of the estimated carryover amount specified in the final budget. Upon the time the “Emergency Expense” fund is fully funded in accordance with this policy, the application of any excess carryover monies will be applied per Policies & Guidelines Section 2.7.5.