

California Special Districts LAFCO Participation

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Overview

- Why is Special District participation in LAFCO Important?
- How can we encourage it?
- Selected FAQ's



Why Participate?



- LAFCOs are the proper forum for rendering decisions on important and Complex matters as jurisdictional reorganizations and/or consolidations of local government
- Special districts must be included as full and equal partners with counties, cities, and school districts in any strategic countywide or local planning that affects the services that special districts provide.
- Given the decisions LAFCOs make, and the reviews and reports they produce, obtaining representation on LAFCO is a valuable and worthwhile endeavor.
- As a key stakeholder in the delivery of core local services, along with cities and counties, special districts bring a meaningful perspective to the LAFCO process that diversifies decision-making.
- CSDA encourages all districts to seek and attain such representation for special districts.



How CSDA Encourages Participation



- Outreach, Education and Support
 - Public Affairs Field Coordinators
 - Countywide Organizing of Special Districts
 - Member Communications
 - Collaboration with CALAFCO



Selected FAQ's about County-wide Oversight Boards



- *What if my county does not currently have an Independent District Selection Committee?*
- In the case where more than one successor agency exists within the county, an Independent Special District Selection Committee shall be created pursuant to Government Code Section 56332. Each independent special district shall appoint a member representative to the committee and notify the LAFCo of the appointed member. The LAFCo shall then call and conduct a meeting of the committee, pursuant to Section 56332, for purposes of appointing a representative to the countywide RDA oversight board.



Selected FAQ's about Oversight Boards



- ***Does the Independent Special District Selection Committee also select an alternate, as it does with LAFCo commissioners?***
- The strictest interpretation of the statute only authorizes the appointment of one person, but a reasonable argument can be made for the appointment of an alternate. The Legislature expressly incorporated Government Code Section 56332 without elaboration, and that section allows for alternates.
- Health and Safety Code Section 34179 does not mention alternates for the countywide oversight boards, but does allow each appointing authority to appoint an alternate for the current individual oversight boards (prior to the consolidation into a countywide oversight board) (Health and Safety Code Section 34179(a)(11)). The selection process outlined in Government Code Section 56332(c) includes the selection of an alternate for the commission.
- To resolve any ambiguity, the Independent Special District Selection Committee may choose to adopt local policies, pursuant to its authority in Government Code section 56332, expressly authorizing the appointment of an alternate.



Questions?

