



## Yuba County Local Agency Formation Commission

### *What is LAFCO?*

- ❖ LAFCO is an acronym for Local Agency Formation Commission. It is a regulatory agency with countywide jurisdiction, established by state law for the purpose of encouraging the orderly and efficient provision of municipal services.
- ❖ LAFCO is responsible for reviewing and approving proposed jurisdictional boundary changes, incorporations of new cities, formations of new special districts, and consolidations, mergers, and dissolutions of existing districts and determining spheres of influence for each city and district.
- ❖ LAFCO's policy is to encourage orderly growth and development.
- ❖ LAFCO does not have direct land use authority and may not manage or operate local agencies.

### *Who are LAFCO members?*

- ❖ LAFCO is comprised of two members of the County Board of Supervisors, two members representing the cities of Marysville and Wheatland, and one member representing the public. The Commission has three alternates, two of whom represent the County, and one who represents the public.

### *New State requirement*

- ❖ In 2000 the State passed a new law, the Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act (AB 2838), requiring LAFCOs to review and update the spheres of influence of cities and districts in their jurisdiction once every five years.
- ❖ Before each sphere of influence review and update, LAFCO must comprehensively review municipal services in the county.
- ❖ All LAFCOs must complete their first set of municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates by January 1, 2008.

### *What is a Sphere of Influence (SOI)?*

- ❖ An SOI is the probable future boundary and service area of a city or a district, as established by LAFCO. It is a planning boundary, and sometimes extends beyond an agency's legal boundary.
- ❖ Most SOIs were initially established in the 1980s.
- ❖ The new State law requires that they be updated to reflect growth, service capacities, public preferences, and new development strategies for the future.

### *What is a Municipal Service Review (MSR)?*

- ❖ An MSR is a review of municipal services in a county, such as water, fire protection, reclamation, and cemetery services.
- ❖ An MSR provides comprehensive knowledge of available services, future needs for each service, and the efficiency and expansion capacity of service providers.
- ❖ MSRs must examine the pros and cons of reorganizing service providers.
- ❖ MSRs must be completed prior to (or concurrent with) SOI reviews and updates.

### *What is an MSR required to include?*

- ❖ Infrastructure needs or deficiencies
- ❖ Growth and population projections
- ❖ Financing constraints and opportunities
- ❖ Cost avoidance opportunities
- ❖ Opportunities for rate restructuring
- ❖ Opportunities for shared facilities
- ❖ Government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers
- ❖ Evaluation of management efficiencies
- ❖ Local accountability and governance

### *What was the legislative intent?*

- ❖ The Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century was concerned about future growth, constrained local agency finances, a lack of public engagement, and a lack of state plans for future growth.
- ❖ MSRs are intended to provide LAFCO with a knowledge base to encourage orderly growth and advantageously provide for present and future needs in the county.
- ❖ Meaningful spheres are regularly updated based on comprehensive studies of growth, service capacities and public preferences.

### *Is LAFCO required to act on MSR determinations?*

- ❖ LAFCO is not compelled by the State to act on MSR determinations.
- ❖ LAFCO is required to identify governance options, but is not required to initiate changes.
- ❖ LAFCO is required by the State to act on SOI updates.

### *The MSR and SOI update process*

- ❖ The preparation of an MSR is a cooperative effort among local agencies, LAFCO, stakeholders, and consultants.
- ❖ LAFCO serves as a fair and impartial reviewer, following specific guidelines for the assessment of municipal services.
- ❖ Local agencies will have several opportunities to review the findings before they are adopted by LAFCO.
- ❖ After the MSR is completed, agency and district SOIs are reviewed. Some SOI updates may simply involve the affirmation of existing SOI boundaries, while others may involve boundary modifications to address specific growth or service issues.

### *What roles do local agencies play?*

- ❖ Share information and public documents with LAFCO and its consultant.
- ❖ Participate in an interview with the LAFCO consultant.
- ❖ Review the LAFCO map of the agency boundary and SOI.

- ❖ Recommend or propose sphere of influence changes or governance alternatives.
- ❖ Review the draft MSR report.

### *Benefits to agencies*

- ❖ An opportunity for agencies to shape regional policy and plan for future growth.
- ❖ An opportunity for agencies to identify common goals and share expertise.
- ❖ An opportunity to build on the momentum of the Yuba County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ❖ The MSR report details best practices among local agencies.
- ❖ The MSR report serves as a valuable reference volume for local agencies and stakeholders.
- ❖ Standardization and digitization (GIS) of maps, which LAFCO makes available to local agencies.

### *Yuba County LAFCO Commissioners*

- ❖ Benjamin Wirtschafter, City of Marysville
- ❖ Enita Elphick, City of Wheatland
- ❖ Mary Jane Griego, County of Yuba
- ❖ Don Schrader, County of Yuba
- ❖ Art Aseltine, Public
- ❖ Dan Logue, County Alternate
- ❖ Roger Shelton, Public Alternate

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