

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE . . .

LAFCO is a *planning agency* charged by the State Legislature to determine and update at least every five years the “sphere of influence” of each city and special district.

A sphere of influence is a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency. Factors that LAFCO must consider in determining spheres of influence are:

- The present and planned land uses, including agricultural and open space lands,
- The present and probable needs for public facilities and services in the area,
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide,
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
- The present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing Sphere of Influence.

AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT STUDIES AND INITIATE CHANGES . . .

In updating spheres of influence LAFCO must prepare Municipal Service Reviews of relevant local agencies and services. The Commission is authorized to inventory and study governmental agencies.

Based upon the spheres of influence or special studies, the Commission may initiate proposals to consolidate special districts, merge a special district with a city, dissolve a special district, establish a subsidiary district or any combination of these changes.