

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
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March 7, 2002 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

LAFCO Processing Fee Schedule for FY 2002-2003

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission

1. Receive this report, accept any public testimony and approve the proposed processing fee schedule to be effective July 1, 2002.
2. Direct the staff to distribute the proposed fee schedule to the County, cities, independent special districts, the city selection committee and the independent special district selection committee as part of the Proposed Budget as required by Government Code Section 56381.
3. Schedule a public hearing to adopt the final processing fee schedule on Thursday, May 2.

DISCUSSION

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Act, Government Code Section 56383, allows LAFCO to recover costs by charging processing fees, provided the fees do not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged.

Fees are levied to recover costs to review boundary changes, process sphere of influence requests, consider out-of-agency service requests and reconsider LAFCO determinations.

It is recommended the processing fee schedule be increased by three percent across-the-board due to inflation. In addition, it is recommended that a supplemental fee be levied for proposals that require noticed public hearings to recover costs to publish notices and mail notices to landowners and voters as required by law, including the costs of conducting authority proceedings.

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It is estimated that the processing fee schedule will raise approximately \$20,000 in revenue, the same amount that was projected for the current year. It is predicated on processing 18 boundary changes at an average of \$900 (\$16,200), two sphere of influence applications (\$1,700) and a formation or incorporation (\$2,200). The actual revenue received will be predicated on a number of factors including the pace of land use development.

Standard environmental review costs are included in each fee, except when LAFCO is the lead agency and must prepare an EIR or Negative Declaration, in which case an additional fee will be charged to recover the costs to prepare and process the document, including any consultant costs.

The fee schedule allows the Commission not to charge a processing fee for proposals that result from LAFCO orders or recommendations. In addition, we have added authorization to charge for copies of documents. Last, the Commission may waive processing fees if it finds that payment would be detrimental to the public interest.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: Bob Geis, County Auditor Controller

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF PROCESSING FEES

To be effective July 1, 2002

Annexations and Detachments

<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Existing Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Less than 5	\$ 510	\$ 525
5 to 10	730	750
10 to 25	1,000	1,030
25 +	2,125	2,200

Reorganizations:

Annexation or detachment fee plus a 20% surcharge for each additional change of organization in the application, except for detachments from the County Fire Protection District.

<u>Formations and Incorporations</u>	\$2,125	\$2,200
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In addition to the processing fee, the cost of preparing the comprehensive fiscal analysis shall be borne by the applicant, proponents or supporters of the incorporation.

Sphere of Influence Amendment	\$ 825	\$ 850
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<u>Out-of-Agency Service Agreements</u>	The same fee as for an annexation.
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<u>Copies of documents</u>	1-50 pages is \$0.25 a page; 50+ is \$0.10 page
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Fee Policies:

1. Fees are not charged for proposals that result from LAFCO orders or recommendations.
2. Fees must be received before proceeding are completed.
3. A supplemental fee shall be charged for proposals that require LAFCO to conduct public hearings, including conducting authority hearings. The fee shall recover actual costs to publish notices and mail notices to landowners and registered voters as required by law.

4. Additional fees may be charged for preparing environmental documents when LAFCO is the lead agency.
5. A \$1,100 deposit payable to "County of Santa Barbara" for reviewing maps and legal descriptions must be submitted with proposals that include maps and legals. Boundary changes will be recorded only when obligations to the County Surveyor are satisfied.
6. The fee for filing a request for reconsideration shall be 50% of the original processing fee amount. The fee shall be returned to the applicant if the Commission determines that the reconsideration is required to correct a procedural defect in its earlier action.
7. The cost for the State to review the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis for an incorporation shall be the responsibility of those requesting the review.