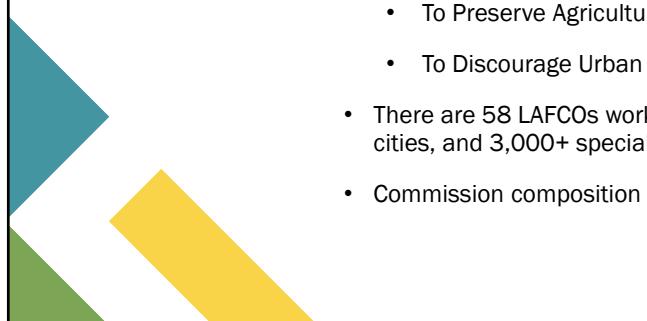


# Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

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Shasta County Board of Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
September 10, 2024

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## About LAFCOs

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- Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are local agencies formed by the California State legislature in 1963 to:
  - Encourage the Orderly Formation of Local Governmental Agencies
  - To Preserve Agricultural Land Resources
  - To Discourage Urban Sprawl
- There are 58 LAFCOs working with nearly 3,500 governmental agencies (400+ cities, and 3,000+ special districts).
- Commission composition varies (county, city, special district, and public)

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## About Shasta LAFCO

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- Currently a seven (7) member Commission
  - Two (2) **County Members** with one (1) alternate
  - Two (2) **City Members** with one (1) alternate
  - Two (2) **Independent Special District Members** with one (1) alternate
  - One (1) **Public Member** with one (1) alternate

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## About Shasta LAFCO

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Total of  
48  
Member Agencies

- Three (3) cities: Anderson, Redding, Shasta Lake
- Twelve (12) County Service Areas
- Six (6) Community Services Districts
- Six (6) Cemetery Districts
- Ten (10) Fire Protection Districts
- One (1) Healthcare District
- One (1) Irrigation District
- Three (3) Mosquito Abatement Districts
- Two (2) Resource Conservation Districts
- Four (4) Water Districts

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## LAFCo Regulatory Functions

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- Regulatory authority granted by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act)
  - Government Code Sections 56300 - 56430
- Responsible for reviewing and approving changes of organization including:
  - Changes of organization or reorganization
    - Incorporation or Formation
    - Disincorporation or Dissolution
    - Annexation or Detachment
    - Consolidation or Merger
    - Subsidiary District Formation
    - New Powers Activation
  - Extension of Services by Contract or Agreement

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## LAFCo does NOT have land use authority

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- Cannot regulate the use of land, property development, or subdivision requirements.
- Factors considered in a sphere of influence review focus on:
  - Current and future land use
  - Current and future need and capacity for service
  - Any relevant communities of interest

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## Boundary Types

Jurisdictional Boundary – where the agency has some type of legal authority to implement its adopted rules and regulations.

Sphere of Influence (SOI) - a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission:

- Coterminous – same as jurisdictional boundary
- Expanded – larger than boundary indicating future expansion
- Reduced/Contracted – smaller than boundary indicating future detachments
- Zero – no SOI which indicates future dissolution

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- For any change of organization/reorganization, out of agency service request, powers activation, SOI amendment, an application needs to be submitted to LAFCo.
- Two ways to submit an application:
  - Petition (property owner or registered voter)
  - Resolution of application (preferred!)

Tips for a successful application:

- Early and frequent coordination with LAFCo
- Public outreach
- Completed CEQA documentation
- Completion of other regulatory approvals

## Application Process

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An agency may see a need to provide additional services within its boundary. This would require activation of powers by LAFCo so that services may legally be provided. For these applications, LAFCo looks at:

- Type of proposed services
- If other adjacent agencies already provide the service
- Capacity of the agency to provide the service
- Financial ability of the agency to provide the service

## Activation of Powers

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Cities and special districts are required to obtain LAFCo's approval prior to entering into contracts with private individuals or organizations to provide services outside of the agency's boundaries.

- "In anticipation of a later change or organization" (within SOI)
- "To respond to an existing or impending threat to the public health or safety" (outside SOI)

Note: Annexations are generally preferred to out of agency service agreements.

## Out of Agency Services

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## LAFCO as a Planner

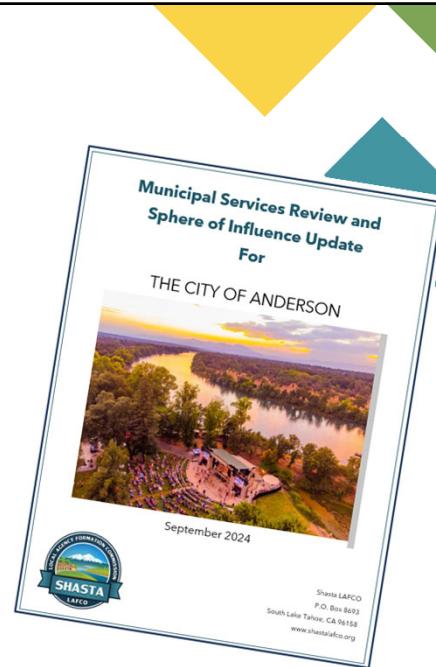
- Government Code Section 56301 states, in part:
  - One of the objects of the commission is to make studies and to obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies in each county and to shape the development of local agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of each county and its communities.
  - Planning is largely done through Municipal Service Reviews and Special Studies.

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## Municipal Service Reviews

MSRs are typically a snapshot of the agency at that point in time. Required determinations are set by Government Code. However, they can also be used to:

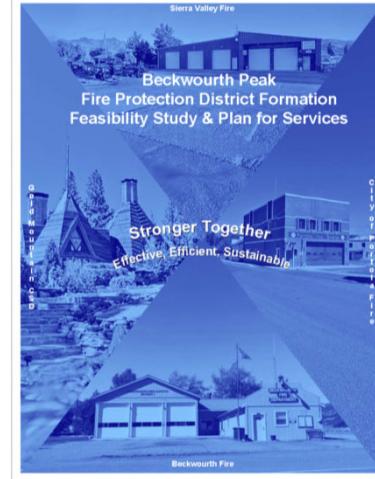
- Identify strengths
- Identify needed capital projects and support grant applications
- Provide education on reporting requirements
- Assess trends in agency finances



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## Special Studies

- Special studies can help inform LAFCO decisions about annexations, consolidations, formations, and other types of reorganizations.
- Can be conducted by LAFCO or by a stakeholder group with LAFCO input.
- Used to assess areas of concern or more efficient provision of services.



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## Thank you

Krystle Heaney Brogna, AICP  
 Executive Officer  
 Shasta LAFCO  
 o: (530) 242-1112  
[krystle@shastalafco.org](mailto:krystle@shastalafco.org)

*Zoom meetings available upon request.*

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