

PREFACE

Since the establishment of Local Agency Formation Commissions in 1963, various acts of the state Legislature have defined, amended, and expanded the role of LAFCOs in the State of California. This manual is, therefore, a dynamic document which must change as state directions, state mandates, and local needs change.

The manual is divided into six sections:

Section I is a background of statewide problems which led to the creation of LAFCOs in every county in the state is provided to place the current LAFCO role within a historical context. This section includes an outline of the current organization, structure, and processing procedures of the San Bernardino LAFCO.

Section II provides an overview of the statutes that govern and provide direction to LAFCOs. The statutes outlined herein are not exhaustive, but they reflect the scope of LAFCO responsibilities and the elements of LAFCO decision-making.

Section III lists the locally adopted Rules of Order by which the Commission conducts its hearings. Rules, which are not directly required by state law, are subject to change by a majority vote of the Commission members.

Section IV lists the adopted policies of the San Bernardino LAFCO. Recognizing that the needs of one county may be substantially different from another county, the state allows significant flexibility to each Commission, authorizing the LAFCO in many cases to apply the statutes "based on local conditions and circumstances". These local policies are therefore the catalyst for implementation of state laws designed to "discourage urban sprawl and encourage the logical and orderly formation and development of local agencies".

Section V lists policies regarding Independent Special District Representation and Rules and Regulations affecting functions and services of special districts.

Section VI lists and provides forms adopted by San Bernardino LAFCO.

The Executive Officer and staff are responsible for reviewing and processing all changes to this manual. Policy amendments, which are approved by the Commission, will be distributed to all manual holders.

Public entities and interested persons are invited to submit proposed changes to the manual.