



Local Agency Formation Commission
for San Bernardino County

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Role of the Commission

Goals of the Commission

1. Encourage orderly growth
2. Promote logical and orderly service boundaries for cities and special districts
3. Discourage premature conversion of prime agricultural lands to urban uses
4. Promote efficient and effective service delivery for cities and special district



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Planning Function

First, the Commission has been given a planning function which is accomplished through its **“sphere of influence” program**. A sphere of influence is defined as the probable future service boundary of a city or special district, and it represents the area within which the city or district is expected to grow. Properly established, the sphere of influence line discourages competition among agencies for developable land, it promotes orderly land use and service planning, and it provides direction to landowners when and if they need a broader range or higher level of services.

State law requires the Commission to consider the following factors in determining a sphere of influence boundary:

- The present and future land uses within the study area
- The adequacy of current services available from agencies that already overlaying the study area
- The capability of city or district to serve the study area in the future



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Regulatory Function

The second role of the Commission is its **regulatory function**. By law, any proposal to add land to a city or special district (annexation), create a new city or special district (incorporation or formation), remove land from a city or special district (detachment), consolidate, merge, or dissolve cities or special districts must be reviewed and approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission.

In its regulatory function, the Commission review of a proposal generally focuses on the following issues:

- *Boundaries:*
 - Do the proposed service boundaries make sense? Do they represent a logical and recognizable area within which services can be provided.
- *Financial Effects:*
 - What are the financial implications of the proposal on local governments and landowners within the study area?
- *Service Effects:*



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- *Environmental Effects:*
 - What are the possible environmental consequences of a proposal?

Special Studies

The third role of the Commission provided in state law is its function of **special studies**. The Commission is empowered by law to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of cities and special districts, and to propose changes in organization where appropriate. For example, the Commission might review the pattern of service boundaries that overlay a community or region and suggest changes that might improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.



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