San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission

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Dear Prospective LAFCO Applicant,

Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are independent governmental agencies responsible for promoting orderly development through the logical formation and determination of agency boundaries. LAFCOs implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000 (Government Code Section 56000 et seq.), which grants them broad authority to review, consider, modify, condition, and approve or disapprove requests for changes of organization, including annexations.

In reviewing any request for a change of organization, LAFCOs must consider numerous factors such as, but not limited to, land use; the need for organized community services; the effect on the cost and adequacy of services in the area and adjacent areas; the ability of the city or district to provide services; the availability of water supplies; consistency with regional transportation plans and city/county general and specific plans; and the effects on agricultural lands. In addition, LAFCOs must comply with laws pertaining to environmental protection, land conservation, public records, open meetings, and taxation. The San Luis Obispo LAFCO has also adopted local policies, which are given great weight as part of its consideration of proposals.

Meeting all of the requirements in the initial application submittal is the best way to minimize processing time and costs. Generally speaking, it can take anywhere from 4 to 12 months from the time an application is submitted to the time it can be recorded (for proposals that are approved). However, it can take significantly longer if the application does not include all of the required information.

Pre-application meetings are available free of charge in most cases unless multiple meetings are required. Optimally, the consultation process should occur before the applicable agency initiates the environmental review process and well before a resolution to initiate a change of organization is adopted. Please take advantage of LAFCO staff to help make your LAFCO experience as efficient and cost effective as possible.

Sincerely,

San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission

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