

SAN BENITO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, CA 95023
(831)636-4000 Ext. 13
lafco@cosb.us
cosb.us/departments/lafco



December 14, 2023

District Name

Address 1

Address 2

Re: Seating of Special Districts on LAFCo

Dear General Manager/Board Chair,

At San Benito LAFCo's meeting on December 14, 2023, the Commission discussed the potential of inviting the special districts to join LAFCo. As you may be aware, LAFCos generally consist of 2 County Supervisors, 2 City Council Members, and 1 Public Member and alternates for each seat type. LAFCos may also have 2 Special District representatives and 1 alternate. Approximately half of all LAFCos in California have special district representation, which allows special districts to have a vote regarding decisions that may affect them. Included here is a presentation on why special districts should be included on LAFCO and the process for seating districts.

LAFCo's main duty is to establish boundaries for all cities and special districts within the County. Presently, since LAFCo of San Benito County does not have special district representation, your district does not have a voice equal to the County and the cities in LAFCo affairs, including the formation of new districts, the consolidation, merger or dissolution of existing districts, annexations and changes of organization and the establishment, amendment and updates to spheres of influence boundaries. The ability to have a direct voice in all LAFCo affairs is now more compelling given LAFCo's expanded mandates and independence. Ask yourself, why wouldn't your district want to be represented on a commission that has oversight over your very existence and growth? LAFCo has the potential to make a decision that would affect a particular district without the perspective and concern that only special districts seated on the Commission could provide.

In order to join LAFCo, special districts would be responsible for funding one third of LAFCo's operating costs. The law has a formula requiring special districts to pay a third of LAFCo's operating costs based on its ratio of revenues to cumulative independent special district revenues in the County, unless another formula is otherwise agreed to by the Cities and the County.

In order to be seated on LAFCo, 1) LAFCo must first send a letter inviting the special districts to join LAFCo, 2) the special districts must then hold a vote through adoption of a resolution by each individual Board, 3) LAFCo adopts a resolution of intention, and 4) LAFCo gives notice and calls meeting of the districts to select representation.

LAFCo will be discussing whether to send a letter of invitation to all special districts in San Benito County at its Regular Meeting on XX, 2023 at 4pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. LAFCo of San Benito County would like to invite you to discuss a potential arrangement to seat special districts on San Benito County LAFCo.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Jennifer Stephenson, Executive Officer at (310)936-2639.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Stephenson".

Jennifer Stephenson
LAFCO Executive Officer
San Benito County