

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PRIVATE PARTIES OUTSIDE AGENCY BOUNDARIES

Amended by Resolution 2011-1; February 2, 2011

1) AUTHORITY

These regulations are authorized by Government Code Sections §56375 (i) and (k).

2) PURPOSE

The purpose of these regulations is to explain to the public, cities, and districts the procedures by which the Commission will review requests to authorize a city or district in Santa Cruz County to provide one or more services outside its jurisdictional limits pursuant to Government Code Section §56133.

3) COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR NEW OR EXTENDED SERVICES

Except for the specific situations exempted by Government Code Section §56133, a city or district shall not provide new or extended services to any party outside its jurisdictional boundaries unless it has obtained written approval from the Local Agency Formation Commission.

4) LIST OF PRE-EXISTING SERVICES

Upon adoption of these regulations, the executive Officer shall ask each city and district to provide a list or map of parcels to which it was providing extraterritorial service of the effective date of Government Code Section §56133. The Executive Officer subsequently shall file his report on these extraterritorial services with the Commission. The commission shall consider as a regularly agendized item and vote on confirming the list of “grandfathered” services. After confirmation, the Executive Officer shall maintain the list of “grandfathered” services as public information.

5) AREAWIDE APPROVALS

Upon the initiative of either a public agency or the Commission, the Commission shall consider an areawide approval as a regularly agendaized item and may grant approval for subsequent services to be provided by a city or district within a mapped area as specified by the Commission. The approval may include conditions. The Commission shall specify a time period not greater than ten years for which the areawide approval shall be valid. The Commission may, upon its own initiative or at the request of a public agency, renew with or without amendments, an areawide approval for a period not to exceed ten years.

Before granting an areawide approval, the Commission shall determine that the city or district is able to provide the service in a manner that does not negatively affect the services provided within the agency's boundaries and sphere of influence, and in a manner that does not negatively affect the resources in the area. Also, before granting an areawide approval, the Commission shall determine that the approval is consistent with the requirements of law and LAFCO policies.

6) INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS

Individual requests for extraterritorial service shall be filed with the Executive Officer on a prescribed application form. The applicant shall pay the costs of processing the application as specified in the Commission's Schedule of Fees and Deposits. Upon adoption of these regulations, the application deposit is \$500; the deposit may be subsequently changed in future revisions of the Schedule of Fees and Deposits.

The Executive Officer shall not file the application unless the affected public agency has submitted a written endorsement indicating its willingness to provide the service if the Commission approves the request.

The Commission shall consider the request after it has been placed on an agenda of a Commission meeting.

7) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

All matters that are reviewable pursuant to these regulations are subject to the applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

8) COMMISSION ACTION

The Executive Officer shall prepare a report and place the request for extraterritorial service on the Commission's agenda. The Commission shall provide an opportunity for any interested individual or party to address it. The Commission may call a subsequent public hearing in order to receive additional public testimony before acting upon a request. The Commission acts on the request by majority vote. Subsequently, the Executive Officer shall notify the applicant in writing of the Commission's action. If the Commission denies a request, a similar application cannot be re-filed for one year unless the Commission grants an exception to this rule.

9) POLICIES

9.1 The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 and this Commission's adopted policies to implement that act stress the primacy of spheres of influence in coordinating services and protecting resources. Therefore, the Commission intends to reinforce that the standard manner in which services will be extended is by annexation (and sphere of influence amendment, if necessary). The Commission shall limit its extraterritorial service authorizations to public health emergencies and circumstances where:

- a) Facilities are already in place, and
- b) Annexation would not be practical, and
- c) Extraterritorial service is determined by the Commission to be consistent with the policies adopted in and pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

9.2 When the Commission authorizes the emergency provision of water or sanitary sewer services via extraterritorial service outside an agency's boundaries, and annexation is practical, the Commission will require annexation to be completed within two years.

9.3 LAFCO recognizes that the water resources of Santa Cruz County are limited, and the Commission's objective is to ensure that its decisions relating to water do not lead to adverse impacts on the natural resources of Santa Cruz County. In reviewing extraterritorial service applications, LAFCO shall be guided by the potential impacts of the proposal on water resources and will consider the efforts of the water agencies and land use agencies to maintain stream and river flows, promote high water quality of surface waters and groundwater, and reduce groundwater overdraft.