

A DIRECTORY OF
**LOCAL AGENCIES IN
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

Prepared by the

**CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

May 2011

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PREFACE

This inventory of local agencies was prepared by the **Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission** (LAFCO). LAFCOs were created by the California State Legislature in each county in 1963 to discourage urban sprawl, preserve open space and prime agricultural lands, facilitate efficient public services, and encourage the orderly formation and development of local governmental agencies based on local conditions and circumstances.

This inventory is in keeping with LAFCO's enabling act, specifically Government Code §56301, which states that:

One of the objects of the commission is to make studies and to obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies in each county and to shape the development of local agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of each county and its communities.

Government Code §56378 specifically directs LAFCO to prepare inventories of existing governmental agencies:

In addition to its other powers, the commission shall initiate and make studies of existing governmental agencies. Those studies shall include, but not be limited to, inventorying those agencies and determining their maximum service area and service capabilities.

Most of the maps included in the 2011 Directory are new and reflect LAFCO actions on MSR-related SOI updates. There are still some outstanding map revisions for districts that have not yet been through the latest MSR process or whose SOI updates are still pending. We will replace maps as we update them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission gratefully acknowledges the personnel in the County, cities and special districts who cooperated by providing information for the preparation of this report, giving freely of their time and expertise to serve the public.

Special appreciation is extended to the County Department of Conservation & Development, especially Kristine Solseng and Chris Howard for their ongoing and consistent work on Directory maps.

INTRODUCTION

This inventory of local agencies provides information about each city and district, how they are governed, their elected and appointed officials, and the types of services they provide. It includes updated maps of agency boundaries and spheres of influence.

The inventory is designed for easy printing of pages to be kept in a three-ring binder for ease of access and to facilitate periodic updates. As a resource on the LAFCO website (www.contracostalafco.org), the agencies are listed by agency category (e.g., cities, cemetery districts, community services districts, etc.), with a profile page for each agency followed by its map.

County of Contra Costa

Contra Costa County is situated in the San Francisco Bay area, extending from San Pablo Bay on the west to San Joaquin County in the Central Valley on the east. It is ranked ninth in population among the 58 counties in California.

Incorporated Cities

There are 19 cities in Contra Costa County. Their combined population of 889,240 (CA Dept. of Finance 2010 Population Estimates) represents 84.7% of the total population of the County, and the cities' combined 442,754 registered voters represent 84% of the 527,286 registered voters in the County (based on December 31, 2010 numbers).

Special Districts

There are 78 special districts in Contra Costa County. Of these, 44 are governed by locally elected boards and are referred to as "independent special districts" and five have appointed boards. The remaining 29 special districts are governed by the Board of Supervisors and are termed "dependent special districts."

Report Format - This inventory describes:

- City and Special District locations, boundaries, and spheres of influence

Government Code §56425 requires LAFCO to determine the sphere of influence of each city and special district. A sphere of influence is "...a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission." LAFCO has updated the majority of spheres in this new edition.

- City and Special District functions and services
- City and Special District governing boards