SANTA CLARA LAFCO'S GUIDE FOR PREPARING A PLAN FOR SERVICES

Policy objective that LAFCO seeks to achieve through the Plan for Services

LAFCO will use the information contained in a Plan for Services to ensure that the proposed service provider is able to adequately provide services to the proposal area without detracting from current service levels within the service providers' current service area or in the areas the service provider has already committed to serve.

What should a Plan for Service Contain?

A Plan for Service describes the services that would be provided to the proposal area upon LAFCO approval of the proposal. It explains how and when the service provider would provide the services, how much the services would cost and how those costs would be financed and whether the services and costs are considered in the service providers' long range master plans, Capital Improvement Plans, and budgets. The Plan for Service should also include information on whether the service provider is able to meet its current service demand and describe any ongoing service or infrastructure deficiencies and the service provider's plan for addressing the deficiencies as specified in its master plans, Capital Improvement Plans, and budgets.

GC §56653 outlines the information that a Plan for Service must contain. Further clarification of the specific requirements is provided below:

- 1. An enumeration of current and proposed services (including but not limited to water, sewer, storm drainage, solid waste collection, fire, police, lighting, parks, library services, roads and schools) in the proposal area. A description of who currently provides the service and who would provide the service to the proposal area upon LAFCO's approval.
- 2. The level and range of the service provider's existing services/facilities/ infrastructure that will be used to provide the desired services to the proposal area including detailed information on the extent, size, location and capacity of existing facilities and infrastructure that will be used to provide desired services to the proposal area.
 - 2.a. For each service, the capacity analysis should include:
 - The total capacity / service units of the current system
 - Number of service units already allocated
 - Number of service units within current boundaries anticipating future service
 - Number of service units within the system available after providing service to areas within current boundaries that anticipate future service
 - Number of service units required to serve the proposed project and whether there is enough capacity within the current system
 - Number of service units proposed to be added to meet the demand

- 2.b. In the event there is a need to add service units to serve the proposed project, the applicant shall provide a plan for obtaining the capacity necessary to provide the service which must include the following information:
 - Number of service units proposed to be added to meet the demand from the proposal area
 - A description of the required facility or infrastructure (new or expansions), or additional personnel or equipment
 - The viability and likely schedule for completion of the expanded capacity project, its viability, and its relation to the proposal and the proposal timeline
 - A list of required administrative and legislated processes, such as CEQA review or State Water Resources Board allocation permits, including assessment of likelihood of approval of any permits and existence of pending or threatened legal or administrative challenges if known
 - The planned total additional capacity
 - The size and location of needed capital improvements
 - The proposed project cost, financing plan and financing mechanisms including a description of the persons or properties who will be expected to bear project costs, and how much the costs will be
 - Any proposed alternative projects if the preferred project cannot be completed.
- 3. The estimated time frame for service delivery to the proposal area
- 4. A statement indicating any capital improvements, or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water treatment facilities or other conditions the agency would impose or require within the affected territory prior to providing service if proposal is approved
- 5. A description of the cost of services and how the services will be financed
- 6. Agency's general statement of intent to provide services to the affected territory, indicating the agency's capability of providing the necessary services in a timely manner to the affected territory while being able to serve all areas within its current boundaries and without lowering the level of service provided to areas currently being served by the agency