

Introduction To Special Districts Principal Acts

Pursuant to Section 56065 of the LAFCO Act: “Principal Act means, in the case of a district, the law under which the district was formed”

Whether independent or dependent, formation of a special district, as well as changes of organization and reorganization proposed by special districts, is subject to LAFCO approval unless the principal act under which the district was formed specifically excludes LAFCO involvement. Section 56119 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 partially addresses this matter:

“It is not necessary for the principal act of any district to adopt or incorporate [the LAFCO Act] by reference and any change of organization or reorganization. . . . may be made by, or with respect to, any district. Except as otherwise provided [in the LAFCO Act], in any change of organization or reorganization, the principal act shall govern as to any provisions in the principal act pertaining to boundaries, to contiguity or noncontiguity of territory, to the incorporated or unincorporated status of territory, and to the overlapping of territory of a district with the territory of another district or city. Unless otherwise provided by the principal act, any territory annexed to a district shall be contiguous to the district, and shall not be part of another district formed under the same principal act without the consent of the other district.”

As further provided under LAFCO Act Section 57007: “Except when a district formation is part of a reorganization, protest proceedings shall be conducted as set forth in the principal act of the district to be formed, and commission protest proceedings shall not apply, except for the provisions relating to the completion and effective date of a change of organization or reorganization found in Chapter 3 [of the LAFCO Act] commencing at Section 57200.”

The table to follow summarizes the principal act provisions pertaining to these types of special districts located in Shasta County:

- California Water District
- Cemetery District
- Community Services District
- County Service Area
- County Water District
- Fire Protection District
- Health Care District (formerly Hospital District)
- Irrigation District
- Mosquito Abatement or Vector Control District
- Resource Conservation District

In addition to information with respect to powers, functions, and the governing body, the table also lists the districts in Shasta County which fall under a given principal act.

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