

Consultation with Local Agency Formation Commission

In developing the Sustainable Communities Strategy, BCAG considered the spheres of influence for cities and special districts that have been adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Proposed sphere changes included with the various general plan updates were also considered in the development of the SCS. A sphere of influence is defined as a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local government agency, as determined by LAFCO. All territory proposed for annexation to an incorporated city or a special district is required to be included in an agency's sphere of influence. For the purposes of developing the SCS, only special districts which provide essential municipal services such as domestic water, sewage collection and treatment, and structural fire protection were reviewed in relationship to future development potential within the Butte County region. Butte LAFCO has provided mapping and service data to BCAG and indicated a need to ensure that new areas proposed for potential development be consistent with the spheres of influence and jurisdictional boundaries of each agency providing municipal services.

Butte LAFCO is responsible for implementing the State Legislature's directives to promote orderly growth and development by coordinating the jurisdictional boundaries and services provided by the cities and other public service providers in the county. It is essential that LAFCO objectives be blended with the overall development of regional priorities established in the SCS. These include: accommodating growth within or through the expansion of local agency boundaries, extending necessary government services when/where appropriate, preserving open space and prime agricultural lands, promoting the provision of housing for residents of all incomes, and addressing environmental justice concerns among others.

LAFCO also is a representative on the BCAG Planning Directors Group (PDG), which provides coordination on regional planning efforts among member agencies. As a member of the PDG, LAFCO is a participant in the development of the regional growth forecasts, regional guiding principles, the BCAG Blueprint Program, and the Butte Regional Conservation Plan. These projects and programs are key components in the development of the SCS. The collective efforts of the PDG are key to coordinating the growth forecasts with all agencies that play an active role in approving new growth and development.