



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Rich Constantine
Susan Ellenberg
Sergio Jimenez
Yoriko Kishimoto
Linda J. LeZotte
Mike Wasserman
Susan Vicklund Wilson

Alternate Commissioners

Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Matt Mahan
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

Executive Officer
Neelima Palacherla

December 7, 2022

**APPOINTMENT OF CITIES MEMBER AND/OR ALTERNATE CITIES
MEMBER TO THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF SANTA
CLARA COUNTY (LAFCO)**

CITIES MEMBER

The Cities member position is currently vacant. The City Selection Committee of Santa Clara County should appoint one council member or mayor to serve as LAFCO Commissioner for the remainder of the current term, i.e., until May 2024.

ALTERNATE CITIES MEMBER

Should the current Alternate member be selected to the Cities member position, the alternate member position would become vacant. The City Selection Committee of Santa Clara County should then appoint one council member or mayor to serve as Alternate LAFCO Commissioner for the remainder of the current term, i.e., until May 2024.

SELECTION PROVISIONS

Pursuant to State Law, the cities member may be selected from any of the cities in Santa Clara County, except from the City of San Jose – which has a permanent seat on LAFCO. Additionally, the cities member must not be from the city where the LAFCO public member resides. Currently, LAFCO public members are residents of the City of Palo Alto and the unincorporated area of the County.

Further, State Law encourages the City Selection Committee to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the cities in the county, with respect to population and geography.

While there are no term limits for LAFCO commissioners, a cities member may only serve on LAFCO while holding office as a city officer.

At the time it appoints a member or alternate, the City Selection Committee may provide that the member or alternate is disqualified from voting on proposals affecting the city which the member or alternate represents.

ROLE OF LAFCO COMMISSIONERS

Pursuant to State Law, while serving on LAFCO, all commissioners must exercise their independent judgement on behalf of the interests of the public as a whole in furthering the purposes of LAFCO, and not solely the interests of the appointing authority. All commissioners are required to sign the Commissioner Pledge

acknowledging their understanding of their unique role and responsibilities as a LAFCO Commissioner.

Alternate members are expected and encouraged to attend and participate in all LAFCO meetings, even if the regular member is present. The alternate cities member shall serve and vote in place of the cities member if the cities member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating on a specific matter before the Commission at a regular/special Commission meeting or in closed session.

LAFCO PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

LAFCO is a state mandated independent local agency established to oversee the boundaries of cities and special districts within the county. Santa Clara LAFCO's mission is to promote sustainable growth and good governance in the county by preserving agricultural and open space lands, preventing urban sprawl, and encouraging efficient delivery of services.

LAFCO regulates jurisdictional and planning boundaries of cities and special districts. Boundary change proposals that LAFCO considers may include city / district annexations, detachments, formations, dissolutions, mergers, consolidations and urban service area amendments. LAFCO also has regulatory authority over service extensions outside city and district jurisdictional boundaries. LAFCO plans for orderly growth and development through its service review program and sphere of influence updates. LAFCO works for the good of the whole county – protecting natural resource lands while facilitating development of vibrant communities.

LAFCO COMPOSITION AND FUNDING

Santa Clara LAFCO is composed of seven commissioners including two County supervisors appointed by the Board of Supervisors; one council member from the City of San Jose, appointed by the City Council; one council member from any of the other 14 cities, appointed by the City Selection Committee; two special district members – one appointed by the Independent Special District Selection Committee and one appointed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (by agreement); and one public member appointed by the other members of the Commission. Five alternate commissioners are appointed, one for each of the categories.

LAFCO is funded jointly by the cities, the independent special districts and the County, and contracts with the County of Santa Clara for its staffing and services.

LAFCO MEETINGS

LAFCO typically meets on the first Wednesday of even months at 1:15 PM at the County Government Center in San Jose. In response to the pandemic, LAFCO meetings are currently not held in-person, they are conducted only virtually. LAFCO commissioners are expected to make every effort to attend all six regular meetings. LAFCO commissioners receive a per diem of \$100 for attendance at LAFCO meetings. No LAFCO commissioner shall accept, solicit, or direct a contribution of more than \$250 from any party, or his/her agent; or any participant or his /or

her agent, while a LAFCO proceeding is pending, and for three months following the date a final decision is rendered by LAFCO.

MORE INFORMATION

More information on LAFCO is available on the web site at www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org and in the [What is LAFCO? Brochure](#).

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact Neelima Palacherla, LAFCO Executive Officer at (408) 618-4225 or by e-mail at neelima.palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org.