

Subject

PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Purpose

To further the policies and priorities of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 regarding the preservation of open space and prime agricultural lands.

Background

The State Legislature has instructed Local Agency Formation Commissions to establish policies that address the preservation of open space (Govt. Codes § 56300 and 56377). LAFCOs are required to consider how spheres of influence or changes of local governmental organization could affect open space and prime agricultural lands. Commissions are directed to guide development away from prime agricultural lands – unless that action would not promote the planned, orderly and efficient development of an area – and to encourage development of existing vacant or non-prime agricultural lands within a jurisdiction before approving any proposal that would allow development of open-space lands outside of an agency’s boundary (Govt. Code § 56377). Proposals must be further reviewed for their effect on maintaining the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands (Govt. Code § 56668).

Policy

It is the policy of the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission to:

1. Discourage proposals that would convert prime agricultural or open space lands to other uses unless such an action would not promote the planned, orderly, efficient development of an area **or** the affected jurisdiction has identified all prime agricultural lands within its sphere of influence and adopted measures that would effectively preserve prime agricultural lands for agricultural use;
2. Require rezoning of territory (city only) to identify areas subject to agricultural/preservation and planned development;

L-101 LEGISLATIVE POLICY

3. Follow San Diego LAFCO's adopted procedures to define agricultural and open space lands and to determine when a proposal may adversely affect such lands.

Adopted: November 6, 1978
Amended: June 4, 1990
Amended: May 4, 1998
Technically Updated: January 1, 2001

Cross-reference:

SAN DIEGO LAFCO PROCEDURES:
-Open Space and Agricultural Preservation