



DIVISION 4 – SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

CHAPTER 3 – STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING, UPDATING AND AMENDING SPHERE OF INFLUENCE BOUNDARIES

SECTION 4.3.3 CRITERIA FOR CITY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

4.3.3.1 City and School District Collaborative Planning: To ensure that the affected city and school district(s) have engaged in good faith, collaborative long range planning for school sites, LAFCo will consider the following criteria when reviewing proposals for city sphere of influence amendments: (Amended October 16, 2002)

- (a) Whether a school site committee, made up of the affected city and school officials have been meeting to engage in discussions and long range planning and the meetings are ongoing.
- (b) Whether the affected city has discussed all major development proposals with the school district.
- (c) Whether the affected city has a policy of considering school capacity and location when reviewing major development proposals and long range plans.
- (d) Whether an official inventory of all potential sites has been evaluated and has been subject to public review.
- (e) Whether the affected city general plan and specific plans include adequate and appropriate school locations.
- (f) Whether school siting has been addressed in the last five years of development in the affected city.
- (g) Whether the proposed sphere of influence change may be unnecessary if the affected city is considering expansions to the sphere of influence or city urban growth boundary.

4.3.3.2 Options Exhausted: To ensure that the affected school district(s) have exhausted options within the existing sphere of influence or city urban growth boundary, LAFCo will consider the following criteria when reviewing proposals for city sphere of influence amendments: (Amended October 16, 2002)

- (a) Whether the affected school district(s) has a long-range facility plan.
- (b) Whether the affected school district(s) has prepared an inventory and evaluation of all district-owned facilities.
- (c) Whether the affected school district(s) has considered joint use facilities with other entities, cities, parks, and other public institutions.
- (d) Whether the affected school district(s) has evaluated all undeveloped land within the affected city's sphere of influence or city urban growth boundary.
- (e) Whether the affected school district(s) has, after consideration of the safety and health of the children, considered asking for any appropriate exceptions from State of California school size guidelines.



(f) Whether the school district has considered and eliminated multi-story school buildings as an option.

4.3.3.3 Overall Planning Issues Addressed: To ensure that the affected city and school district(s) have addressed overall planning issues, LAFCo will consider the following criteria when reviewing proposals for city sphere of influence amendments: (Amended October 16, 2002)

- (a) Whether there are unique safety and health concerns of the proposal.
- (b) Whether the proposed new school site is considered growth inducing.
- (c) Whether the proposal adversely affects agriculture and/or provides buffers between the school site and adjacent agriculture.
- (d) Whether the proposed school site is the best site available when considering logical, orderly, and efficient city boundaries and adopted greenbelts.
- (e) Whether the affected city is willing to support expanding the urban growth boundary to accommodate the development site, including requesting a citizen's vote if necessary.
- (f) Whether the affected school district(s), after an unsuccessful vote for approval, indicates that the school site must be sited outside the existing urban growth boundary.