MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS
LEGISLATIVE POLICY L-106

SAN DIEGO LAFCO

Municipal Service Reviews | Legislative Policy L-106

Purpose

Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) provide a framework to evaluate local service delivery across the county, ensuring growth and development are orderly, efficient, and aligned with community needs. They guide sphere of influence updates, jurisdictional changes, and long-term planning under California Government Code §56430.

Why They Matter

- **Transparency & Accountability:** Ensure local services are reliable and responsive.
- **Community Engagement:** Public involvement is built into every step.
- **Strategic Planning:** Provide data-driven insight for future growth.
- **Orderly Development:** Support sound land use and infrastructure decisions.

Key Policy Principals

1. Goals & Objectives

- MSRs are the primary tool to inform LAFCO's planning and regulatory actions.
- They guide sphere of influence (SOI) updates, jurisdictional reorganizations, and potential new service responsibilities.
- As a general rule, an MSR must be updated before approving an SOI change unless exceptional conditions apply (public health/safety needs, boundary clean-ups, reorganizations with agreement, or significant changed conditions).

2. Timing

- LAFCO maintains a rolling five-year schedule for MSRs.
- Local agencies and stakeholders are notified in advance and reviews are integrated into the annual workplan.

3. Funding

- LAFCO funds scheduled MSRs through its budget, with applicants paying maintenance fees to support MSR preparation.
- MSRs undertaken outside the five-year schedule (e.g., SOI amendments) to accommodate a filed proposal must be applicant-funded.

4. Preparing Reviews

- The Executive Officer leads preparation in collaboration with agencies.

- Reviews rely on quantitative performance measures (e.g., infrastructure capacity, fiscal health, service levels).
- Draft reports are shared with agencies for review (up to 60 days) before public release.

5. Community Engagement

LAFCO prioritizes inclusive and transparent engagement through:

- Dedicated MSR project webpages.
- Presentations at local agency board/council meetings.
- Use of social media.
- Translation of documents, as appropriate.
- Public review & comment periods of at least 45 days.

Additional efforts may include:

- Public workshops, community surveys, targeted staff presentations to stakeholders.

6. Commission Action

- All MSRs are considered at noticed public hearings.
- The Commission may direct additional analysis during the draft phase.
- Final action includes filing the MSR report to inform future decision-making and adopting a resolution with determinative statements on statutory factors.

7. Post-Action Follow-Up

- Agencies receive official notice and are encouraged to share the MSR with their governing bodies.
- Final MSRs are published online and made available to libraries for community access.

The Bottom Line

Municipal Service Reviews are critical planning tools that combine technical analysis with community input to ensure services are:

✅ Reliable ✅ Sustainable ✅ Aligned with growth needs ✅ Transparent to the public

Through MSRs, LAFCO advances its mission of facilitating orderly growth, efficient service delivery, and responsive governance.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?



PRISCILLA MUMPOWER

Assisitant Executive Officer (AEO)

Email Priscilla



MICHAELA PETERS

Local Government Analyst II

Email Michaela



JOELLE BURILLA

Local Government Analyst

Email Joelle



MEGHAN TRAYNOR

Local Government Analyst

Email Meghan