

Translation Protocols and Accommodations

BACKGROUND

State law directs San Diego LAFCO to consider current and future community needs in meeting its overarching task by the Legislature to facilitate orderly growth and development. This includes considering comments from the residents and general public anytime LAFCO acts on proposed city or special district jurisdictional changes. Relatedly, LAFCO recognizes substantial numbers of persons who live, work and pay taxes in San Diego County are unable – either because they do not speak or write English at all, or because their primary language is other than English – to effectively communicate without reasonable accommodations.

PURPOSE

This policy establishes baseline protocols and accommodations for communicating the Commission's regulatory and planning activities into other languages to enhance community feedback that otherwise is underrepresented due to language barriers. The policy relatedly addresses the translation of online content and interpreter services.

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POLICY

Policy Highlights

The Commission recognizes and values the plurality of different cultures in San Diego County and is committed to proactively address and mitigate against language barriers in providing and receiving community feedback.

LAFCO will translate all written public hearing notices and displays required under statute and/or local policy into one or more other languages if spoken by 20 percent or more within the affected and/or targeted households based on census information.

LAFCO will translate all municipal service reviews' executive summaries into one or more other languages if spoken by 20 percent or more within the affected communities based on census information.

LAFCO will ensure a translation feature is readily available on the agency website. Language options should include no less than the 10 most common other languages spoken in San Diego County as of the most recent census release.

LAFCO will make reasonable accommodations to provide interpreter services for Commission meetings, Commission Committee meetings, and other Commission community engagement events.

San Diego LAFCO recognizes and values the plurality of different cultures in San Diego County and is committed to proactively address and mitigate against language barriers in providing and receiving community feedback.



For the full policy please visit www.sdlafco.org/resources/policies