

## State Law Governing Community Services Districts

(Sections 61000-61226.5, Government Code)

Community service districts are governed by a five-member board of directors. The County Board of Supervisors can appoint the board or the populations they serve can directly elect them. The initial board of directors may be the Board of Supervisors for proposed districts containing less than 100 voters and only unincorporated territory in a single county (61020-22 & 61040-48). If two or more districts consolidate or reorganize to form a single district the number of directors can be temporarily increased by LAFCO to 7, 9 or 11 and then as terms expire the number of directors will be reinstated to five (61030.1).

To form a community service district a petition must be signed by no less than 25 percent of the registered voters within the proposed district (61010). A Notice of Intention must be filled with the LAFCO Executive Officer prior to circulation of the petition beginning (Government Code 56700.4). Once formation proceedings have been initiated a noticed public hearing must be held. The LAFCO Commission may approve, modify, or deny the proposed district formation after receiving public testimony. If LAFCO approved the formation of the district, the Commission, acting as the Conducting Authority, shall give notice of an election to be held in the proposed district area. After the district has been formed, the boundaries of the district may be altered and contiguous or noncontiguous incorporated/unincorporated territory may be annexed to the district (61007).

Community service districts have the power to provide all of the following services, however, the plan for services must be authorized by LAFCO and be economically sound as well as in the interest of the public (61100-61107).

- (a) Supply water for beneficial uses, similar to a municipal water district;
- (b) Collect, treat or dispose of sewage, waste water, recycled water and storm water;
- (c) Collect, transfer, dispose of solid waste and provide solid waste handling services;
- (d) Provide fire protection services, similar to a fire protection district;
- (e) Construct, maintain and improve facilities similar to a recreation and park district;
- (f) Organize and conduct community recreation similar to a recreation and park district;
- (g) Construct, improve and maintain street lighting and public landscaping;
- (h) Provide services similar to a mosquito abatement and vector control district;
- (i) Provide police protection and law enforcement services;
- (j) Provide security services, including burglary and fire alarm services;
- (k) Provide library services, similar to a library district;
- (l) Construct, improve and maintain streets, roads and bridges;
- (m) Convert existing overhead electric and communications facilities;
- (n) Provide emergency medical services;
- (o) Provide and maintain public airports, similar to an airport district;
- (p) Provide transportation services;
- (q) Abate graffiti;
- (r) Plan, design, improve, maintain and operate flood protection facilities;
- (s) Construct, improve, maintain and operate community facilities;
- (t) Abate weeds and rubbish;
- (u) Construct, improve, maintain and operate hydroelectric power generating facilities;
- (v) Construct, improve, maintain and operate television translator facilities;
- (w) Remove snow from public streets and roads;
- (x) Provide animal control services;
- (y) Control, abate and eradicate pests, similar to a pest abatement district;
- (z) Construct, maintain and operate mailboxes on districts property;
- (aa) Provide mail delivery service under contract with the United Postal Service;
- (bb) Operate, improve and maintain cemeteries, similar to a cemetery district;
- (cc) Finance the operations of area planning commissions;
- (dd) Own and maintain land within or outside of the district for habitat mitigation purpose.