

## **Policy for Holding Public Meetings within Affected Communities**

### **I. POLICY**

To establish guidelines by which the Commission may consider holding a public workshop or public hearing in an affected community for a proposal.

### **II. BACKGROUND**

The Commission reviews and considers applications that generate substantial public interest from time to time. These applications usually meet the criteria of the Commission's conflicting proposal policy and/or have significant regional implications and have periodically prompted the Commission to hold meetings in the affected community. Meetings in the community foster public input and make the OC LAFCO process readily available to citizens. There are, however, administrative constraints involved, including the cost of holding "extra" meetings, the difficulty in arranging facilities, and the difficulty in coordinating the schedules of eleven Commission members.

### **III. POLICY STATEMENT**

To encourage public participation in the OC LAFCO process while taking into consideration the administrative constraints of meeting in an affected community, it is the policy of this Commission that:

- A. The Commission shall normally hold public hearings at its regular hearing room in Santa Ana.
- B. If a proposal meets the criteria of the conflicting proposal policy, the Commission may consider holding a public workshop prior to the public hearing in the affected community. A request to hold a public workshop in the affected community shall be submitted by the applicant or an affected agency to the Executive Officer for approval prior to being forwarded to the Commission.
- C. The Commission, at the request of the Executive Officer, may consider: 1) holding a public workshop prior to the public hearing or 2) a public hearing in an affected community for any proposal that is determined to have issues that affect a significant number of Orange County citizens, are regional in nature or have significant financial, social-political, or land use considerations to one or more cities or defined communities.

- D. Any member of the Commission at any time may request the Commission to hold a public workshop prior to the public hearing or a public hearing in an affected community for any proposal.

**Originally Adopted: 2/10/1999**

**Last Reviewed: 3/8/2023**

**Last Revised: N/A**