

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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3. Government Code §56375 gives Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) the authority to initiate proposals for the consolidation, dissolution, merger, or reorganization. With the statutory authority to make changes, LAFCO can correct the shortcomings of special districts. Unfortunately, it lacks the staff to use this authority.
4. The Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector collects information demonstrating the shortcomings of the finances of special districts but has no authority except to monitor the audits of special districts.
5. Because of the number and complexity of the problems in special districts, grand juries have neither the time (one year term) nor experience to fully look into these problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Board of Supervisors should:
 - a) place the matter of the shortcomings in the audits of special districts on its agenda for discussion upon being advised of these issues by the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector.
 - b) increase the budget of the grand jury enabling it to hire investigative and forensic auditing services. This would provide the grand jury with resources to more thoroughly investigate the shortcomings in the operation and governance of special districts in Tulare County.
 - c) recommend LAFCO adopt an annual budget permitting it to hire additional full time personnel. This would enable LAFCO to monitor the operation and governance of special districts. Then LAFCO could act to encourage the boards to make changes that would permit the special districts to operate more effectively. Where boards fail or are unable to operate the districts effectively, LAFCO could act to dissolve or reorganize the district.
 - d) develop a procedure for recruiting individuals for appointment to the boards of special districts in addition to the requirements of the Maddy Act (§§54970 – 54974).

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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