

Issues related to LAFCO and LAFCO Policies

The information provided here is in response to the question received related to UCSC growth and LAFCO's policy as quoted in the underlined section of the question below.

UCSC growth

You use an estimate for UCSC growth that is based on the settlement agreement between the City and UCSC that estimates that water demand on campus will roughly double by 2030. Since that settlement agreement, our local LAFCO has adopted the following policy:

"In cases where a basin is overdrafted or existing services are not sustainable, a boundary change proposal may be approved if there will be a net decrease in impacts on water resources."

Because of this requirement, UCSC will need to participate in a program to offset their proposed increased water use. Because of this LAFCO requirement, wouldn't it be more realistic to model water demand at UCSC remaining flat?

To provide clarity, information is provided in a Q/A format.

- Q. Does LAFCO have any jurisdiction over decisions related to providing water service inside a utility's water service established water service boundary?
- A. No. Once LAFCO approves an agency's water service area, it is no longer responsible for any other approvals for, or review of, water service to customers or projects located within that water service area. At that juncture LAFCO only involves itself in the agency's operation should the agency be asked or seek permission to serve properties or customers outside the previously approved water service area boundaries.
- Q. Does LAFCO's policy quoted above apply to any additional development that UCSC might pursue that lies within the existing water service area boundary areas covered by either its main campus or its other satellite sites or facilities elsewhere in the water service area?
- A. No.
- Q. Is it feasible that some part of the increased demand included in the interim demand forecast is associated with UCSC growth that is occurring or planned to occur within the existing water service area?
- A. Yes. The new Marine Science building being planned for the Marine campus is an example.
- Q. What is the status of decision-making by LAFCO over extending water service to the UCSC land area that is outside the current City water service boundary?
- A. Since the Draft EIR on extending water service to the north campus was found to be inadequate by the courts several years ago, no further steps have been taken by the University to resolve this matter.
- Q. What is the status of the University's compliance with the City-CLUE-University Settlement Agreement?
- A. The University is in compliance with all applicable provisions of the City-CLUE-University Settlement Agreement that relate to water, and neither the LAFCO policy statement quoted above nor any provision that would result in a similar outcome is included as a provision of the Settlement Agreement.