

FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does San Diego gain by La Jolla becoming its own city?

A Win-Win Vision: The City of La Jolla initiative is more than just a local pursuit. It is a collaborative vision for regional benefit and prosperity.

Financial Relief for San Diego: A self-governed La Jolla means San Diego is relieved of all costs and liabilities for maintaining some of the oldest infrastructure in San Diego.

Net-Neutral Payments: San Diego will receive payments from the City of La Jolla to achieve net-neutrality between both parties. San Diego will receive income streams for municipal services to be contracted from the City of San Diego by the City of La Jolla.

Boosting Regional Revenue: As a worldwide destination, the City of La Jolla will strive to grow sales and hotel tax (Transient Occupancy Tax or TOT) to increase revenue for the San Diego region.

Collaborative Partner: The City of La Jolla will pursue innovative community and business models that can inspire other neighborhoods in San Diego.

Q: Why self-governance?

Local Decision Making: The City of La Jolla will have autonomous decision making on community matters and issues that affect all of us.

Enhanced Public Safety: Create a safer and cleaner environment for everyone.

Revitalized Aged Infrastructure: Top priorities include creating an enhanced physical environment, revitalizing infrastructure, and managing our coastline.

A Voice in Sacramento and Beyond: The City of La Jolla will broaden the scope of representation for the San Diego region statewide.

LAFCO

Q: What is LAFCO?

LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) is a state-authorized organization implemented at the county level that governs the formation and changes to local government boundaries including cities and special districts.

Q: What is the LAFCO process towards cityhood?

This is a multi-step process:

1. A Draft Preliminary Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (PCFA)
2. Petition (25% of registered voters within the area under consideration)
3. File application and fee to LAFCO
4. LAFCO analyzes the feasibility of La Jolla cityhood
5. La Jolla and citywide votes

Q: Where is La Jolla in the process?

Since August 2021, the Association for the City of La Jolla (ACLJ) has been investigating the viability of a City of La Jolla through research and conducting a PCFA. The next step is currently underway - a petition requesting LAFCO to research the feasibility of La Jolla becoming its own city. The legal deadline for the petition is December 1, 2024, with the goal of 7,000 signatures.

Q: When can a citywide election be expected and how will it be successful?

The proposed city must be approved by both a majority of those voting in San Diego and those voting in the City of La Jolla proposed boundaries. It is anticipated to be on the ballot in 2026.

Finances

Q: How will the City of La Jolla be funded?

The City of La Jolla will be funded from sales tax, property tax, TOT, state and federal grants, and other resources.

Q: How much of La Jolla's property tax revenue goes to the City of San Diego?

Cities in San Diego County receive approximately 18% of property taxes

collected within their boundaries.

Q: Will detachment from San Diego increase my property taxes?

No. Property tax rates are set by the State of California and will not change as a result of the incorporation. Individual property assessments are determined by the County Tax Assessor and are related to physical improvements and new ownership.

Q: What deferred maintenance and unfunded capital improvements will the City of La Jolla need to address? How will improvements be financed?

Determining and prioritizing needs and securing funds will be handled by the new city. Financial resources are available through existing county, state, and federal funding and targeted grants.

Q: Will La Jolla's detachment financially harm San Diego?

No. The LAFCO process requires and determines net-neutrality between La Jolla and the City of San Diego. The PCFA anticipates that San Diego will receive negotiated payments from the City of La Jolla to achieve net-neutrality.

Q: What obligations will the City of La Jolla have with the San Diego City pension responsibilities?

This will be determined as part of the PCFA review and future negotiations.

Q: Will San Diego city residents continue to receive benefits and reduced fees at Torrey Pines Golf Course?

Yes. Residents of the City of San Diego and the City of La Jolla will both continue to receive the same fees and benefits at the Torrey Pines Golf Course.

Governance

Q: What type of governance will the City of La Jolla have?

The City of La Jolla is envisioned to have a City Manager and City Council.

Services provided by city staff will include City Clerk and City Attorney, Environmental Services, Parks & Recreation, Planning/Development Services, Public Works and Library.

Services contracted from the City of San Diego will include police, fire, lifeguards, and water/waste. No expected change in cost of current services.

Q. Will public schools in the City of La Jolla be affected?

Public schools in the City of La Jolla will continue to be part of the San Diego Unified School District.

Q: How will start-up costs for the City of La Jolla be funded?

Under the LAFCO process, start-up funding for the first year will be provided from the City of San Diego to organize the new city.

Q: What Are the boundaries of the City of La Jolla and how were they chosen? See attached.

Based on the 92037 ZIP Code, the key boundary factors include:

- 1) Respecting natural topography
- 2) Following major transportation arteries
- 3) Preserving neighborhood integrity

North Boundary

This boundary follows the southern boundary of Torrey Pines State Park.

South Boundary

The irregular boundary between La Jolla and Pacific Beach used several of the elements listed above. ZIP Code and Planned District Ordinance (PDO) lines were used as guides to the traditional boundaries. In addition, the canyons and developed areas were key factors in keeping neighborhoods together.

East Boundary

This boundary follows Interstate 5 from the south to La Jolla Village Drive. It follows the borders of UCSD, keeping the main campus together. Moving north from Genesee on the west of Interstate 5, boundaries respected topography at the top of the canyons. Because areas west of Interstate 5 at the foot of the canyons identify with Sorrento Valley, they were not included in the proposed map.

West Boundary

This boundary is the Pacific Ocean, including any and all marine parks or areas currently in the City of San Diego.

Public Participation

Q: How do I stay informed?

Follow us on Instagram @cityoflajolla

Follow us on Facebook at Association for the City of La Jolla

Join our email list <https://cityoflajolla.org/>

Q: How can I get involved?

Sign the petition and help gather signatures

Email us at info@cityoflajolla.org to volunteer for

- Petition circulation at public events and signing locations
- La Jolla Farmers Market outreach
- Hosting informational meetings

Q: How do I make a financial contribution*?

Join ACLJ as a member or donate at <https://cityoflajolla.org/>

Alternately, send checks to:

The Association for the City of La Jolla

P.O. Box 2204 La Jolla, CA 92038

*The Association for the City of La Jolla is a 501(c)6 EIN#88-4006420. Membership dues are tax-deductible for businesses but not tax-deductible for individuals. Please check with your accountant for more specifics on your situation.