

City of San José, California

COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE CITY BOUNDARY CHANGES IN EXISTING URBANIZED AREAS	PAGE 1 of 1	POLICY NUMBER 6-15
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BACKGROUND

For a variety of reasons, citizens living in the fringe areas of San José periodically submit requests to the City Council which would allow them to deannex from San José and annex to an adjacent community. Boundary changes are a complex issue of services and facilities. Since most boundary transfer areas constitute pieces and fragments of service areas, costs are very difficult to identify. Experience has shown that an analytical approach does not address the real issues that motivate boundary transfers. Identity is an emotional issue which does not lend itself to analysis.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish workable guidelines to be followed when considering boundary transfer requests. The foundation of this policy rests on the inherent responsibility of the cities involved to decide whether or not to modify their boundaries. Cities and districts must respect the existing boundary agreements. No government agency nor individual neighborhood interest group should be able to change a boundary unless both affected cities concur.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City of San José that the following guidelines be adhered to when considering city boundary change requests in existing urbanized areas:

1. Existing boundary agreement lines between cities should be maintained. It would serve no useful purpose to revive the long dormant annexation wars of the 1950's. Existing boundaries between cities have been established for a long time. Local governments have relied on these boundary agreements when planning and building facilities such as fire stations, parks, libraries, public works service yards, etc., and when developing programs for serving the incorporated territory.
2. The City of San José is satisfied with existing boundary agreements and will only consider modifications that include equal exchanges of like territory, population or tax base. City to city discussions are the appropriate forum for boundary agreements. If there are matters the affected cities want to work on together, they should initiate discussions to resolve them. Any exchange as listed above would have to be equitable from a fiscal standpoint to the concerned jurisdictions.
3. The City Council will consider citywide effects of any change in the boundary agreement line. The identity of a city extends throughout the entire city. Any change in the city boundary, particularly in an existing developed area, affects the whole city.
4. The City considers the needs and concerns of boundary area residents and property owners of equal importance to the needs of all citizens. City programs and services are citywide in scope. All geographic areas should receive equitable consideration.

