

# STANISLAUS LAFCO

**Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission**

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## LEGAL DESCRIPTION & MAP REQUIREMENTS

### Written Geographic Description(s) of the Project Area(s)

Descriptions of the territory are used to establish geodetic position and are not intended to establish property ownership in a court of law. Subdivision maps, tract maps, recorded survey maps, survey monuments, and deeds are not on file with LAFCO or other entities relying on these descriptions. Boundary descriptions that merely cite recorded documents or refer to assessor's parcel numbers will not be accepted. Any supporting documents may be used as reference only and cannot be used as a substitution. Written geographic descriptions shall conform to the following specifications:

1. Every written geographic description (a document separate from the maps) must stand on its own without the necessity of reference to any extraneous document; a description that relies solely on the use of secondary references will not be accepted. Staff must be able to plot the boundaries from the written description alone.
2. The written description shall be of the project area only. If a complete description of the special district is filed, the project area shall be clearly identified in a separate document.
3. The geographic description shall:
  - a. State the township and range, section number(s) or rancho(s)
  - b. Have a point of beginning (POB) referenced to a known major geographic position (e.g., section corners, intersection of street centerlines, or the intersection of street centerline and an existing district boundary at the time of filing). A description will be rejected if the POB refers only to a tract map, a subdivision map or a recorded survey map. It is preferable that the POB be the point of departure from an existing district boundary (when applicable).
  - c. Be expressed as a specific parcel description in sectionalized land (e.g., "The SW 1/4 of Section 22, T1N, R1W") or by bearings and distances. When the description is by bearings and distances, all courses shall be numbered and listed individually in a consistent clockwise direction. The description shall not be written in a narrative format. All courses required to close the traverse of the project area must be stated. All curves must be described by direction of concavity. Delta, arc length, chord, and radius shall be listed, including radial bearings for all points of non-tangency.

The following are examples of unacceptable and acceptable descriptions:

Unacceptable (This description refers only to extraneous documents and does not stand alone.)

“From the point of beginning, northerly to the southwest corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 15 of Recorded Deeds, thence easterly to the southeast corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 16 of Recorded Deeds....”

Acceptable (This is the same description with the courses numbered and the bearings and distances added.)

“From the point of beginning:

Course 1. North 1° 18'56" West a distance of 150' to the southwest corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 15 of Recorded Deeds, thence,

Course 2. North 85° 7'56" West a distance of 75' to the southeast corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 16 of Recorded Deeds, thence....”

4. The written description shall state the acreage for each separate single area and a combined total acreage of the project area.

Example: “Area A containing 2.50 acres, Area B containing 1.75 acres: Total computed acreage containing 4.25 acres more or less.”

5. All information stated on the description must match with the map(s), such as the name of the short title, the point of beginning, the course numbers, all the bearings and distances, and the acreage(s).

### Map(s)

Maps submitted as part of the jurisdictional boundary change filing shall conform to the following specifications:

1. All maps shall be professionally and accurately drawn or copied. Rough sketches or pictorial drawings will not be accepted. Assessor's parcel maps will not be accepted as a substitute for the project map.
2. Original or copies of the same size project map must be submitted. Reduced maps are not acceptable and will be rejected.
3. A vicinity map shall be included. The vicinity map shall show the location of the project area in relationship to a larger geographic area that includes major streets and highways or other physical features.
4. Any portion of an existing district boundary in close proximity to the project area shall be shown and identified.
5. Every map must clearly show all existing streets, roads and highways with their current names that are within and adjacent to the project area. Additionally, every map shall indicate each township and range, section lines and numbers, or ranchos that are in proximity of the project area.

6. Every map shall bear a scale and a north arrow. The **point of beginning** shall be clearly shown and match the written geographic description.
7. The boundaries of the project area shall be distinctively delineated on each map without masking any essential geographic or political features. The boundaries of the project area must be the most predominant line on the map. Boundary lines that are delineated by a line that exceeds 1.5 millimeter in width shall be rejected. The use of graphic tape or broad tip marking pens to delineate the boundary is not acceptable.
8. All dimensions needed to plot the boundaries must be given on the map of the project area. Each map shall have **numbered courses matching the written geographic description**. Index tables may be utilized.
9. All parcels within the project area that touch the new boundary shall be clearly labeled with the assessor's parcel number. Interior parcels that do not touch the boundary need not be identified on the map.
10. If the project area has an interior island(s) of exclusion or the boundary has a peninsula of exclusion (or inclusion), that area(s) should be shown in an enlarged drawing. This drawing should be of sufficient size and scale to allow Staff to plot the boundary without difficulty.
11. When it is necessary to use more than one map sheet to show the boundaries of the project area, the sheet size should be uniform. A small key map giving the relationship of the several sheets shall be furnished. Match lines between adjoining sheets must be used. While the geography on adjoining sheets may overlap, the project boundaries must stop at the match lines.
12. *Map Size: Please note that for LAFCO purposes, the map must be on 8.5"x11" paper and legible.*