

After California's voters passed Proposition 13 in 1978, local governments saw property tax revenues shrink at the same time their population growth boosted demands for facilities and services. Counties, cities, and special districts had trouble financing courtrooms, city halls, jails, and other public facilities.

The Legislature responded by passing the Marks-Roos Local Bond Pooling Act (SB 17, Marks, 1985), which allowed local agencies to form JPAs that can sell one large bond and then loan the money to local agencies. This practice, known as bond pooling, saves money on interest rates and finance charges.

[fn1] Government Code §6500, et seq. To see a copy of the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, visit a county law library or go to: www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Statutory Authority of JPAs

ImageFilename only: [in re WestEd is a JPA] 2007 CitznGuide to JPAs p11 - Mark-Roos Local Bond Pooling Act, 1985(Screen Shot 2017-04-09 at 10.55AM.png)

Governments get their authority to work together from a state law called the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.¹ JPAs can exercise only those powers that are common to their member agencies. For