

News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

September 2016



Conferences and Workshops Update

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE



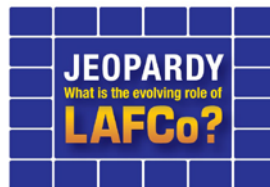
The 2016 Annual Conference is fast approaching! Get your registrations in before October 16. This year's Conference is set for October 26 - 28 in Santa Barbara at the beautiful Fess Parker DoubleTree. Our theme

this year is *Orchards to Oceans: Balancing California's Diversity*. Our host, Santa Barbara LAFCo, and the program planning committee have planned a great program. Session topics include general sessions on water, ag preservation, and state legislative overrides on LAFCo. Breakout sessions include topics such as growth & development, cutting edge LAFCo trends, AB 8, CEQA, water source alternatives, and a look at DUCs. Of course we will finish with our annual legislative update. A diverse and unique mobile workshop is planned, as well as a fun time for Wednesday night's welcome reception and Thursday night's awards banquet.

CALAFCO wishes to thank Santa Barbara LAFCo for hosting this year's conference, program committee chair David Church, conference chair Sblend Sblendorio, and all those who volunteered to plan the program. All Conference information can be found on the CALAFCO website.

2016 STAFF WORKSHOP

This year's staff workshop was hosted by LA LAFCo and held in Universal City. With the theme of *JEOPARDY: What is the Evolving Role of LAFCo?* The program was diverse and attendance was high with 111 people in attendance, representing 38 LAFCos and 6 Associate Members. Overall the Workshop rating was a 4.9 out of 6.0. The final financial report, which was available at the end of the fiscal year, showed a virtual break-even.



CALAFCO wishes to again thank LA LAFCo for hosting the workshop, Kris Berry and Marjorie Blom for assuming the lead on the program committee at various times in the planning process, and all those who volunteered to plan the program.

The 2017 Staff Workshop is set for April 5-7, 2017 at the beautiful Doubletree by Hilton in downtown Fresno. Our host for this workshop will be Fresno LAFCo.

CALAFCO U UPDATE

Mark your calendars for the next CALAFCO U sessions! December 8 we will be in southern California (exact location still being determined) and the topic will be *Enhancing Partnerships and Relationships With Affected Agencies*. The other session in Sacramento is set for May 5, 2017 with the topic being *Negotiations and Mediation: How LAFCos Have Dealt With Unique Situations*.



CALAFCO Board Actions

The Board met on July 29 in San Diego and took the following administrative actions:



The FY 2015-16 year-end budget was reviewed. The Association ended the year with a net balance of \$59,242. The Board approved an additional transfer of \$2,000 into Fund Reserves (in addition to the \$6,000 approved in the FY 2016-17 budget), bringing the total Fund Reserve balance to \$158,754. The Board also approved an additional \$7,687 moved into Contingency increasing that amount for FY 2016-17 to \$28,306.

The Board approved Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite as the site of the 2018 Annual Conference. After repeated attempts to secure a facility in Monterey, CALAFCO was unsuccessful in getting the right kind of room rates, so other options were explored.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding potential Conference Sponsors and approved the acceptance of sponsorship monies with the caveat that on all collateral material pertaining to sponsors there is a statement indicating a sponsorship does not mean CALAFCO is endorsing that particular business/agency.

The Board approved the production of a white paper and statewide mapping project of disadvantaged unincorporated communities in the coming year.

The Board held a closed session in which there was a performance review for the Executive Director.

CALAFCO/CSDA Joint Projects

The joint project of the creation of an informational guide on the formation of a special district is now complete and in the publication stage. One printed guide will be provided by CALAFCO to each LAFCo, and additional guides will be available for purchase from CSDA.

The second working group, which focused on the implementation of countywide RDA oversight boards, has also completed their planning work. Implementation of this long process will begin in the fall of this year.

CALAFCO White Papers

We are putting the final touches on the White Paper on SGMA implementation and the affects to LAFCo. Thank you to David Church (SLO LAFCo), John Marchand (CALAFCO Board Member), Mona Palacios (Alameda LAFCo) and BB&K for their work on this document.

Additionally, CALAFCO is partnering with the American Farmland Trust (AFT) on a White Paper on Ag Policies. Work on this project will begin shortly.



CALAFCO Legislative Update

This has been a very full legislative year for CALAFCO. As the legislative session winds down, we are monitoring bills of importance. This year we sponsored two bills. The first is **AB 2910**, our annual Omnibus bill. The bill was signed into law August 22.



The other bill CALAFCO sponsored is **SB 1266** (McGuire), which is the legislation that creates a direct communication link between LAFCos and JPAs. The bill requires stand-alone JPAs meeting the definition found in GC Section 56047.7 that were formed to provide municipal services and have at least one member who is a public agency to file a copy of their agreement or amendment to that agreement with the LAFCo. The bill was signed into law August 22.

Other bills CALAFCO was actively involved in include:



- ◆ **AB 2032** (Linder) **CALAFCO Support**. This bill pertains to statutes involving disincorporations. The bill was signed into law August 22.
- ◆ **SB 552** (Wolk) **CALAFCO Watch**. This bill offers several technical clean-up measures from last year's budget trailer bill SB 88. It also allows the State Water Board to appoint an administrator to a water system. The bill contains the one technical amendment requested by CALAFCO since last year and is awaiting the Governor's action.
- ◆ **SB 1262** (Pavley) **CALAFCO Watch**. This bill focuses on permitting new water systems and water supply planning. After several amendments, the bill is awaiting the Governor's action.
- ◆ **SB 1263** (Wieckowski) **CALAFCO Watch**. This bill places new requirements on the water permitting process and contains our requested amendment. The bill is awaiting the Governor's action.
- ◆ **SB 1318** (Wolk) **CALAFCO Oppose**. This bill focused on disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) and accessibility to safe drinking water and adequate wastewater services. CALAFCO expended a great deal of resources this year with this bill working with the author and sponsor on amendments. Ultimately while the author accepted our amendments the sponsor did not, so the bill died. The end product of the amendments was a requirement for all LAFCos to be in compliance with the SB 244 (2011) requirement of mapping DUCs by January 1, 2018.

Other bills for which CALAFCO has taken a position include:

- ◆ **AB 1707** (Linder) **Oppose** (bill died)
- ◆ **AB 2277** (Melendez) **Support** (bill died)
- ◆ **AB 2414** (Garcia) **Oppose** (pending Gov action)
- ◆ **AB 2470** (Gonzalez) **Watch with concerns** (signed by Gov)
- ◆ **AB 2471** (Quirk) **Oppose unless amended** (bill died)

- ◆ **SB 817** (Roth) **Support** (pending Gov action)
- ◆ **SB 971-972-973** (SGFC) **Support** (signed into law May 27)
- ◆ **SB 1292** (Stone) **Support** (bill died)

CALAFCO thanks all who serve on the Legislative Committee, and those on the Committee who volunteered to assist in subgroups for many of this year's complicated bills. A full detailed legislative tracking report can be found on the CALAFCO website in the Members Only section. We thank all of our member LAFCos who have taken the time to write position letters on these various bills. Together our voice is stronger.

Little Hoover Commission and CALAFCO

In August, at the request of the Little Hoover Commission (LHC), CALAFCO was a primary witness in an informational hearing on Special Districts. The LHC is doing follow-up work on their 2000 report on Special Districts. Also testifying were CSDA, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, the CA Assoc. of Healthcare Districts, Howard Jarvis Association and economist Michael Coleman. CALAFCO prepared a 19-page written testimony, a copy of which can be found on the CALAFCO website. It appears at this time, the LHC will focus on the effects of climate change to the delivery of services by special districts for their October hearing. Additionally, they are hosting a roundtable discussion for stakeholders on the topic of healthcare districts in November, with CALAFCO participating in that discussion.

CALAFCO Associate Members' Corner



This section highlights our Associate Members. The information below is provided to CALAFCO by the Associate member upon joining the Association. All Associate member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.

We are pleased to welcome one new Gold and welcome back one Silver Associate Member to CALAFCO.

New Gold Member

CV Strategies

CV Strategies is a dedicated team helping companies



with strategic planning, communications and training. To learn more about their team and the services they offer, visit them at www.cvstrategies.com or contact Erin Gilhuly at erin@cvstrat.com.

New Silver Member

Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc.

We welcome back to the CALAFCO family Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc., or RSG.





RSG is a creatively charged counterpart to California public agencies. They work with the people responsible for vibrant places and propel them to their goals. Better Communities. Bolder futures. To learn more about them visit their website at www.webrsg.com or contact Cassandra Ravenna at cravenna@webrsg.com.

Fresno County Fire Protection District

A Silver Associate Member since September 2009, the **Fresno County Fire Protection District** provides emergency services, fire prevention, fire protection planning and code enforcement for the Fresno Fire Protection District. To learn more about them, visit their website at www.fresnocountyfire.org.

GST Consulting

GST Consulting has been a Silver Associate Member since January 2010. They provide local government consulting and management services to public agencies and private organizations desiring short and long term expertise in organizational management, municipal service delivery analysis, staff augmentation and municipal finance, with emphasis on incorporation and annexation fiscal analysis. For more information on GST Consulting, visit their website at www.GSTConsulting.us, or email Gary Thompson at GSTConsulting@cox.net.

CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlight our Associate Members in each Quarterly Report.



TRACKS Around the State

Amador LAFCo

Amador LAFCo recently dissolved a small water-providing CSD and combined it with Amador Water Agency, a county wide water wholesale and retail water provider. The reorganization was friendly, with both agencies negotiating with open minds and a priority of looking out for the best interests of all their citizens and ratepayers. The volunteer board of directors at the CSD had been having a difficult time complying with reporting requirements and state laws for water quality at a low enough cost to be competitive. System improvements benefiting the CSD residents as well as other nearby customers of Amador Water Agency will now be accomplished more easily. The CSD did a great job of outreach to its customers and there were no citizen objections to the plan. This change seems to be a win-win for both the agencies and water users.

Placer LAFCo

Placer LAFCo approved its first Island annexation this spring. The 103 acre territory of 183 lots developed with residences is completely surrounded by the City of Rocklin was approved in April, and a Reconsideration hearing in July upheld the Commission's approval. This area was previously proposed for an annexation proposal in 1983, which resulted in termination by a 78 - 0 vote.

The property owner who filed for reconsideration on this proposal challenged our conclusion that the area was not prime agricultural land; that in fact it was prime agricultural land based on evidence he was growing microgreens in trays in his garage, and had two goats on the property. LAFCo was also challenged on our use of "developed" pursuant to the CKH definition of prime agricultural lands.

Based on this experience, we suggest CALAFCO may want to think about our definition of prime agricultural lands contained in CHK and, specifically, may want to consider a definition of development.

Marin LAFCo

Marin LAFCo recently welcomed Sicla Lundy to their team. Sicla is a recent graduate of Cal State Northridge and previously worked for BioMarin. Sicla serves as Marin LAFCo's new Administrative Services Associate.

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events



- ❖ CALAFCO Annual Conference, October 26 - 28, 2016, Santa Barbara

Upcoming CALAFCO Conferences and Workshops

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 26 - 28
Fess Parker DoubleTree by Hilton
Santa Barbara, CA
Hosted by Santa Barbara LAFCo

2017 STAFF WORKSHOP
April 5 - 7
DoubleTree by Hilton Fresno Convention
Center
Fresno, CA
Hosted by Fresno LAFCo

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 25 - 27
Bahia Mission Bay
San Diego, CA
Hosted by CALAFCO