

September 7, 2021

Dear CALAFCO Membership:

We continue to live in challenging times, dealing with the myriad of disruptive changes thrust upon us and our agencies including navigating our way through the roller coaster ride of the pandemic, the drought, unprecedented heat waves, another record-setting wildfire season, and figuring out how to maintain or increase current services with less resources. We remain proud of you, our members and business partners, who continue to demonstrate courage, resilience and leadership in the face of all these challenges.

As we planned our Annual Conference in Newport Beach for October 6 – 8 this year, and time marched on, it became very clear with only five weeks until the Conference that our registration numbers were going to be at an all-time low, with less than half of our normal attendance. After hearing from many of you, we understand there is hesitancy to travel and gather in large numbers with the various strains of COVID-19 continuing to increase. We are also keenly aware that this year many of you have slashed training and travel in your budgets.

***After careful thought and consideration, CALAFCO has decided to cancel this year's in-person Annual Conference which was scheduled for October 6 – 8 in Newport Beach.***

The Board met in a special meeting on September 2, 2021 and after considering all the facts (the staff report is posted on the CALAFCO website in the Board of Directors meeting area), unanimously voted to cancel the in-person event this year. The Board of Directors and Executive Director believe CALAFCO has an ethical and corporate responsibility to our members, guests, speakers, and their families. This responsibility includes mitigating as much as possible the spread of the virus and being responsible in our decisions to aid in the containment and protect the health and safety of our members. It also means mitigating any significant financial loss CALAFCO may incur by holding the event.

In addition to our concern for your health and safety, the substantial reduction in attendance would require CALAFCO to withdraw Fund Reserves of over \$33,000 to cover the loss caused by such low registration numbers. At any time, especially in these challenging fiscal times, that is not a responsible financial practice, and we believe we must continue to practice fiscal responsibility as the trusted steward of the Association's finances.

CALAFCO's primary mission is education and providing educational opportunities for our members. The Annual Conference is our signature event and one of the best ways we do that. And, this year is CALAFCO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Not holding the event this year is another year away from you, our membership. And we miss you!

We thank those of you who registered or planned to register and attend the Conference. We thank all of you who chose to sponsor this year's Conference. We also thank all our speakers who were busy preparing and working on their presentations. As we take our mission seriously and the program being planned was a good one, we plan to bring as many of those educational and networking opportunities as possible to you in a virtual format.

### **So, what's next?**

#### **CONFERENCE 2021 & 2022**

- Staff successfully negotiated moving the 2021 event with the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport to next year with no penalty fees, and no increase in the contracted room rate from this year. We will keep the same dates as we had scheduled for 2022 which is October 19 – 21, 2022. The contract for 2022 which was with Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite was successfully moved to 2024 without penalty. Check the CALAFCO website for locations and dates for the next several years.

- We will celebrate CALAFCO's 50<sup>th</sup> + 1 next year!
- We will work with each of you to refund all registration payments made online in their entirety without any penalties.
- Any registrations received in the mail with a check will be returned (most checks were held and not cashed).
- For any registration checks received that were deposited, a full refund will be issued.
- We will also work with all our sponsors to do the same.
- **All hotel reservations at the Hyatt must be cancelled. You are responsible for cancelling your own reservations, and you are encouraged to do that ASAP to avoid any possible late cancellation fee or no-show charges because this was a detail left undone.**

#### **DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SESSIONS**

- Staff is working to schedule planned sessions (with exception of topical roundtables and legislative update) over the course of the next several months (October through January).
- A full schedule will be published as soon as we have confirmation from all our speakers on this change.

#### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – BOARD ELECTIONS – BOARD MEETING – ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES**

- **The annual business meeting will be held as planned on October 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. It will be held virtually. The announcement, agenda and packet for the business meeting will be published shortly.**
- **Board elections will be held by all electronic ballot, just as was done in 2020. Watch for details coming out this week. The election committee will meet virtually October 7, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. to count the votes and certify the election (just before the annual business meeting).**
- **The Board meeting scheduled for in person October 8 at 7:30 a.m. will be held on October 8 at 11:00 a.m. virtually. The meeting agenda and packet will be published towards the end of September.**
- **The Achievement Awards will be presented during the Annual Business meeting on October 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Regional Roundtables are being scheduled for early December (all LAFCo meeting schedules were checked in this planning). Watch for them to be included in the master program schedule.**

If you have any questions, please contact Executive Director Pamela Miller. You can reach her at [pmiller@calafco.org](mailto:pmiller@calafco.org).

On behalf of the Board, we thank you for your understanding, patience and support of the Association. We are proud to be of service to you, our members.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Kelley  
Chair of the Board



Pamela Miller  
Executive Director

CC: CALAFCO Board of Directors