



Nominations are now open for the 2023 CALAFCO Achievement Awards

Recognizing those who have gone above and beyond this last year to advance the principles and goals of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act

NOMINATION CATEGORIES:

- Outstanding CALAFCO Volunteer
- Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member
- Outstanding Commissioner
- Outstanding LAFCo Professional
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Legislator Of The Year



Mike Gotch Excellence In Public Service Award

AWARD CATEGORIES:



Protection of agricultural and open space lands and prevention of sprawl



Innovation, collaboration, outreach and effective support of the evolution and viability of local agencies, promotion of efficient and effective delivery of municipal services

For nomination and selection criteria and the nomination form, please visit bit.ly/23AAwards. For questions, please contact Steve Lucas at slucas@buttecounty.net.

Nomination deadline: Friday, August 18, 2023 · 5 p.m.

For most categories, nominations may be made by any individual, LAFCo, CALAFCO Associate Member, or any other organization. The Lifetime Achievement Award may only be nominated by a member LAFCo or an Associate Member in good standing with the Association.

Winners will be announced at the CALAFCO Awards Banquet to be held during the Annual Conference on October 19, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey, California.

Date: May 9, 2023

To: CALAFCO Members
LAFCo Commissioners and Staff
Other Interested Organizations

From: Anita Paque, Committee Chair
CALAFCO Achievement Awards Committee
CALAFCO Board of Directors



Subject: 2023 CALAFCO Achievement Award Nominations Period Open

Deadline: 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2023

On behalf of the Association, I am pleased to announce that the nomination period for the 2023 CALAFCO Achievement Awards is now open!

Each year, CALAFCO is honored to recognize outstanding achievements by dedicated and committed individuals and/or organizations from throughout the state at its Annual Conference Achievement Awards Ceremony. This year's ceremony will be held on October 19 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey, during the awards banquet.

Recognizing individual and organizational achievements is an important responsibility. It provides visible recognition and support to those who have gone *above and beyond* over the last year to advance the principles and goals of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. We invite you to use this opportunity to nominate the individuals and organizations you feel deserve this important recognition based on the criteria outlined.

Before submitting a nomination, *please carefully review the nomination instructions and the criteria for each award as incomplete nominations, and nominations that do not adhere to the submission guidelines, will not be considered by the Committee.*

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

1. Nominations may be made by an individual, a LAFCo, a CALAFCO Associate Member, or any other organization.
2. Each nomination must meet the specific award category criteria for consideration. The Committee will not consider any nomination for an award for any category other than the one for which it was submitted. Duplicate nominations *will not be considered by the Committee.*
3. Nominations *must be submitted with a completed nomination form.* Please use a separate form for each nomination. The form is your opportunity to highlight the most important points of your nomination.
4. Nomination *Executive Summaries* must be *limited to no more than 250 words in length.* Nomination *Summaries* must be *limited to no more than 1,000 words or 2 pages in length maximum.* You are encouraged to write them in a clear, concise and understandable manner. If the Awards Committee members require additional information, you will be contacted with that request. Any nomination received that exceeds this amount *will not be considered by the Committee.*

5. All supporting information (e.g. reports, news articles, etc.) must be submitted with the nomination. **Limit supporting documentation to no more than 3 pages.** If the Awards Committee members require additional information, you will be contacted with that request. Any nomination received that exceeds this amount **will not be considered by the Committee.**
6. All nomination materials must be submitted at one time and must be received by the deadline. No late nominations will be accepted – no exceptions. Electronic submittals are required and must be submitted as pdf document, using the fillable pdf document provided.
7. **Nominations and supporting materials must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2023.** Send nominations via e-mail to:

Stephen Lucas, CALAFCO Executive Officer
slucas@buttecounty.net

You may contact Steve Lucas, CALAFCO Executive Officer, at slucas@buttecounty.net or (530) 538-7784 with any questions.

Members of the 2023 CALAFCO Board of Directors Awards Committee

Board Members:

<i>Anita Paque</i> , Committee Chair (Calaveras LAFCo, Central Region)	apaque@calafco.org
<i>Michael Kelley</i> (Imperial LAFCo, Southern Region)	mkelley@calafco.org
<i>Debra Lake</i> (Humboldt LAFCo, Northern Region)	dlake@calafco.org
<i>Margie Mohler</i> (Napa LAFCo, Coastal Region)	mmohler@calafco.org
<i>Shane Stark</i> (Santa Barbara LAFCo, Coastal Region)	sstark@calafco.org

Regional Officer Members:

<i>Steve Lucas</i> , CALAFCO Executive Officer (Northern Region)	slucas@buttecounty.net
<i>José Henriquez</i> , CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer (Central Region)	henriquezj@saccounty.net
<i>Dawn Longoria</i> , CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer (Coastal Region)	dlongoria@napa.lafco.ca.gov
<i>Gary Thompson</i> , CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer (Southern Region)	gthompson@lafco.org

Attachments:

- 2023 Achievement Award nomination form
- Achievement Award categories, nomination and selection criteria
- Listing of prior Achievement Award recipients





CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CATEGORIES, NOMINATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

CALAFCO recognizes excellence within the LAFCo community and the full membership by presenting the *Achievement Awards* at the CALAFCO Annual Conference. Nominations are now open and being accepted until **5:00 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2023** in the following categories:

OUTSTANDING CALAFCO VOLUNTEER

Award Summary:

Recognizes a CALAFCO volunteer who has provided exemplary service during the past year. Exemplary service is service which clearly goes above and beyond that which is asked or expected in the charge of their responsibilities. This category may include a CALAFCO Board member, regional officer, program volunteer, or any other requested volunteer.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nominee must have volunteered for the Association during the year in which the nomination is being made.
2. Nominee does not have to be a CALAFCO member.
3. Volunteer efforts must have demonstrated the individual going above and beyond what was asked/expected with positive and effective results.
4. Nominee can be a CALAFCO Board member, regional officer, program volunteer or any other volunteer.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Equal consideration shall be given to each nominee, regardless of their position or role as a volunteer. Only the contributions and outcomes shall be considered, not the individual's position.
3. The extent of the volunteerism and the overall impact to the statewide Association and membership based on that volunteerism shall be considered.
4. Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award and meet all the required criteria.

OUTSTANDING CALAFCO ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Award Summary:

Presented to an active CALAFCO Associate Member (person or agency) that has advanced or promoted the cause of LAFCos by consistently producing distinguished work that upholds the mission and goals of LAFCos and has helped elevate the role and mission of LAFCos through its work. Recipient consistently demonstrates a collaborative approach to LAFCo stakeholder engagement. Further, the individual or firm has a proven commitment to the Association membership through volunteering time and resources to further the cause of LAFCo and CALAFCO.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nominee must be a CALAFCO Associate Member in good standing with the Association.
2. Nominee shall be an Associate Member for the full year in which the nomination is being made.
3. The Associate Member nominated shall have been an Associate Member in good standing with the Association for at least one year prior to the year for which the nomination is being made.
4. As an Associate Member, the nominee may be an individual, firm or agency.
5. The nominee may be an individual within an Associate Member firm or agency.
6. Nominee shall demonstrate that through their work as an Associate Member, the role and mission of LAFCo has been upheld and furthered.
7. Nominee must have proven cooperative and collaborative approaches to situations and

solutions that affect LAFCo statewide as an Associate Member.

8. Proven commitment to the Association's membership as an Associate Member by volunteering resources to the Association during the year in which the nomination is made.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees that meet the nominating criteria.
3. The level of volunteering time and resources to the Association shall be a consideration with all other nomination criteria.

OUTSTANDING COMMISSIONER

Award Summary:

Presented to an individual Commissioner for extraordinary service to his or her Commission. Extraordinary service is considered actions above and beyond those required in the course of fulfilling their statutory responsibilities as a Commissioner. It requires consistently demonstrating independent judgment on behalf of the interest of the entire county, developing innovative and collaborative solutions to local issues, and leading the commission and community by example.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nominee must be a Commissioner of a LAFCo in good standing with the Association.
2. Nominee shall be a Commissioner for the full year in which the nomination is being made.
3. Proven demonstration of consistently exercising independent judgment for the greater good of the County is required.
4. Proven leadership of the commission and the community through collaborative, innovative and creative solutions to local issues is required.
5. Proven effective results and outcomes shall be demonstrated in the nomination.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees that meet the nominating criteria.
3. Representation type (city-county-district-public) shall not be a consideration nor shall be the size or geographic area of the LAFCo on which the Commissioner serves.
4. The overall impact of the leadership of the Commissioner shall be considered.
5. Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award and meet all the required criteria.

OUTSTANDING LAFCo PROFESSIONAL

Award Summary:

Recognizes an Executive Officer, Staff Analyst, Clerk, Legal Counsel or any other LAFCo staff person for exemplary service during the past year. Exemplary service is considered actions which clearly go above and beyond that which is asked, expected, or required in the charge of their LAFCo responsibilities.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nominee must be a staff person of a LAFCo in good standing with the Association.
2. Nominee shall be a staff person for the full year in which the nomination is being made.
3. As a staff person, the nominee can be either an employee of the LAFCo or a contractor providing employee-type services to the LAFCo.
4. Efforts must be demonstrated that the individual has consistently gone above and beyond or outside the scope of their role or job responsibilities, with proven results that otherwise would not have occurred.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees that meet the nominating criteria.
3. Position within a LAFCo shall not be a consideration, nor shall be the size or geographic area of the LAFCo.

4. The overall impact of the LAFCo professional to their LAFCo and the greater community shall be considered.
5. Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award and meet all the required criteria.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award Summary:

Recognizes any individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the statewide LAFCo community in terms of longevity of service, exemplary advocacy of LAFCo-related legislation, proven leadership in approaching a particular issue or issues, and demonstrated support in developing and implementing innovative and creative ways to support the goals of LAFCos throughout California. At a minimum, the individual should be involved in the LAFCo community for at least twenty (20) years.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nomination must be received from a member LAFCo or Associate Member in good standing with the Association.
2. A minimum of 20 years direct involvement with the LAFCo community is required for consideration.
3. During that time, nominee shall have a proven positive impact and effect on the support and evolution of LAFCos statewide.
4. This includes advocacy of LAFCos statewide through legislation, developing creative and innovative solutions to LAFCo issues that serve beyond their LAFCo to the greater good, and collaborative stakeholder approaches to issues and opportunities to further the cause and mission of LAFCo.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Preference may be given to nominees who also have proven experience volunteering for CALAFCO through a regional officer role, serving on committees, serving on the CALAFCO Board, or any other method of volunteering for the Association that serves to promote and support the mission and work of LAFCos throughout the state.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Award Summary:

Presented to a member of the California State Senate or Assembly in recognition of leadership and valued contributions in support of LAFCo goals that have a statewide effect. The recipient shall have demonstrated clear support and effort to further the cause and ability of LAFCos to fulfill their statutory mission. Selected by CALAFCO Board by super majority.

Nomination criteria:

1. Nominee shall be a California State legislator during the full year in which the nomination was made.
2. Nominee must have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the Legislature on behalf of LAFCos statewide, with efforts resulting in a positive impact for all LAFCos.

Selection criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. All Legislator of the Year nominations shall be forwarded by the Achievement Awards Committee to the Board for consideration.
3. Selection of the recipient of this award shall be done with a super majority approval of the Board (present at the time of the vote).

MIKE GOTCH EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Award Summary:

Awarded to an individual, group or agency for actions that rise above expected or common functions or

actions that are LAFCo-related; *and* reduce or eliminate common institutional roadblocks; *and* result in a truly extraordinary public service outcome. Individuals, a LAFCo, or collaborative effort among multiple LAFCos or a LAFCo with other entities are eligible. Other entities shall be decision-making bodies at the local, regional or state level. This award has two distinct categories, each focusing on a specific area:

1. *Protection of agricultural and open space lands and prevention of sprawl*
2. *Innovation, collaboration, outreach and effective support of the evolution and viability of local agencies, promotion of efficient and effective delivery of municipal services*

Award categories:

• **Protection of agricultural and open space lands and prevention of sprawl**

Includes the development and implementation of programs or other actions associated with agriculture, water, flood control, parks and recreation, habitat conservation plans and public lands. Demonstrates the recipient has identified, encouraged and ensured the preservation of agricultural and open space lands. Proven actions that encourage cities, counties and special districts to direct development away from all types of agricultural lands, including prime agricultural lands and open space lands. Includes demonstrated consideration given in decisions to Regional Transportation Plans, including sustainable communities strategies and other growth plans to ensure reliable services, orderly growth, and sustainable communities.

• **Innovation, collaboration, outreach and effective support of the evolution and viability of local agencies, promotion of efficient and effective delivery of municipal services**

Includes the development and implementation of innovate support and systems within internal LAFCo operations in the support of local agencies. Actions produce systemic and sustainable improvements and innovation of local government. Proven facilitation of constructive discussions with local and regional agencies and proactive outreach to local and regional agencies as well as local stakeholders and communities to identify issues and solutions and demonstrated action as a coordinating agency in offering and supporting unique local solutions to meet local challenges. Successful demonstration of development of capacities and abilities of local agencies. Provide tools and resources to local agencies to address aging infrastructure, fiscal challenges and the maintenance of existing services. Demonstrated action to streamline the provision of local services with proven results that services are consistent or have been improved as a result, with little to no increased cost to the consumer. Focused efforts and proven results to ensure delivery of services to all communities, especially disadvantaged communities.

Nomination criteria:

1. Clear demonstration that the actions rise above expected or common functions or actions.
2. The actions reduced or eliminated common institutional roadblocks.
3. The actions clearly proven a truly extraordinary public service outcome that is systemic and sustainable.
4. Identified unique circumstances and factors leading to the solution/project.
5. The innovative steps taken by the LAFCo or entity/entities/individual to solve the problem, overcome the situation, or to take action.
6. Clear description of the results/outcomes of the work and the short- and long-term effects.
7. How this work can be promoted as a LAFCo best practice.
8. Clear demonstration how this nomination meets all criteria.

Selection Criteria:

1. Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
2. Equal consideration shall be given to each nominee within each category. The size or geographic area of the LAFCo within a given category shall not be a consideration.
3. The overall impact of the actions and outcomes to the greater community being served shall be considered.
4. The level of impact based on the required nomination criteria shall be considered.



PREVIOUS CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

2022

Outstanding Commissioner	Don Saylor , Yolo LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional	Carolyn Emery , Orange LAFCo
Mike Gotch Award - Innovation, Collaboration, And Outreach	Two-Way Tie: Yolo LAFCo , and El Dorado LAFCo & South Fork Consulting, LLC

2020 – 2021 (2 year period due to the pandemic)

Outstanding Associate Member	Planwest Partners
Outstanding Commissioner	Olin Woods , Yolo LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional	Crystal Craig , Riverside LAFCo
Mike Gotch Protection of Ag and Open Space Lands & Prevention of Urban Sprawl	Napa LAFCo
Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	Yolo LAFCo
Lifetime Achievement Award	Jerry Glabach , Los Angeles LAFCo

2019

Distinguished Service Award	Charley Wilson , Orange LAFCo
Most Effective Commission	Contra Costa LAFCo
Outstanding Commissioner	Jim DeMartini , Stanislaus LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional	David Church , San Luis Obispo LAFCo
Project of the Year	Orange LAFCo , for <i>San Juan Capistrano Utilities MSR</i>
Government Leadership Award	CA State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles County and Los Angeles LAFCo , for <i>Sativa Water District Butte LAFCo</i>
Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	
Legislator of the Year	Assembly Member Mike Gipson
Lifetime Achievement Award	John Benoit , various LAFCos, Jurg Heuberger , Imperial LAFCo

2018

Distinguished Service Award	John Withers , Orange LAFCo
Most Effective Commission	Santa Clara LAFCo
Outstanding Commissioner	Margie Mohler , Napa LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional	George Williamson , Del Norte LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Clerk	Elizabeth Valdez , Riverside LAFCo
Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member	Best Best & Krieger
Project of the Year	Lake LAFCo , water services consolidation
Government Leadership Award	City of Porterville, County of Tulare, Dept. of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board,

<p>Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award</p> <p>Legislator of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award</p>	<p>Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Self Help Enterprises, Community Water Center for East Porterville water supply project</p> <p>Mike Ott, San Diego LAFCo</p> <p>Assembly Member Anna Caballero</p> <p>Pat McCormick, Santa Cruz LAFCo, George Spiliotis, Riverside LAFCo</p>
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2017

<p>Most Effective Commission</p> <p>Outstanding CALAFCo Member</p> <p>Outstanding Commissioner</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Professional</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Clerk</p> <p>Outstanding CALAFCo Associate Member Project of the Year</p> <p>Government Leadership Award Lifetime Achievement Award</p>	<p>Los Angeles LAFCo</p> <p>Sblend Sblendorio, Alameda LAFCo</p> <p>John Marchand, Alameda LAFCo</p> <p>Paul Novak, Los Angeles LAFCo</p> <p>Richelle Beltran, Ventura LAFCo</p> <p>Policy Consulting Associates County Services MSR, Butte LAFCo, and Santa Rosa Annexation, Sonoma LAFCo</p> <p>San Luis Obispo County Public Works Dept. Kathy Rollings McDonald (San Bernardino)</p>
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2016

<p>Distinguished Service Award</p> <p>Most Effective Commission</p> <p>Outstanding CALAFCo Member</p> <p>Outstanding Commissioner</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Professional</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Clerk</p> <p>Project of the Year</p> <p>Government Leadership Award Lifetime Achievement Award</p>	<p>Peter Brundage, Sacramento LAFCo</p> <p>San Luis Obispo LAFCo</p> <p>John Leopold, Santa Cruz LAFCo</p> <p>Don Tatzin, Contra Costa LAFCo</p> <p>Steve Lucas, Butte LAFCo</p> <p>Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Orange LAFCo</p> <p>Countywide Water Study, (Marin LAFCo)</p> <p>Southern Region of CALAFCo</p> <p>Bob Braitman (retired Executive Officer)</p>
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2015

<p>Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award</p> <p>Distinguished Service Award</p> <p>Most Effective Commission</p> <p>Outstanding CALAFCo Member</p> <p>Outstanding Commissioner</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Professional</p> <p>Outstanding LAFCo Clerk</p> <p>Project of the Year</p>	<p>Yuba County Water Agency</p> <p>Mary Jane Griego, Yuba LAFCo</p> <p>Butte LAFCo</p> <p>Marjorie Blom, formerly of Stanislaus LAFCo</p> <p>Matthew Beekman, formerly of Stanislaus LAFCo</p> <p>Sam Martinez, San Bernardino LAFCo</p> <p>Terri Tuck, Yolo LAFCo</p> <p>Formation of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 38 (Ventura LAFCo) and 2015 San Diego County Health Care Services five-year sphere of influence and service review report (San Diego LAFCo)</p>
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