



News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

June 2020

A
message
from the
Executive
Director

So much has changed in our world since the last Quarterly Report in February of this year. Each of us have dealt personally with changes and health matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic; we've professionally dealt with

keeping LAFCo business going while striving to keep ourselves, each other and our communities healthy and safe; and been faced with understanding and responding to the fiscal fallout of the pandemic and the recent calls for racial and social justice...it can all overwhelm us if we let it.

This Quarterly Report will begin differently. We are highlighting the good news in our CALAFCO family first, followed by Association updates. Happy reading!

Welcome New LAFCo Family Members

We welcome two new babies to the CALAFCO family!

San Mateo LAFCo Mgmt. Analyst Rob Bartoli and his wife Michelle welcomed (10 days early) **Luca Robert Bartoli** on March 30, 2020. Luca weighed in at 7 lbs., 11 oz. The family is all well, healthy and enjoying the comforts of home.



Not to be outdone, Napa LAFCo Executive Officer Brendon Freeman and family welcomed **Noah Campos Freeman** into the world on April 6, 2020. Noah tipped the scales at 8 lbs., 11 oz. upon his release from quarantine. Mom Isabel, Noah and Dad are all doing fine. Although neither set of parents are getting much sleep right now!

Congratulations to the Freemans and Bartoli's on bringing two future LAFCo EOs into the world!

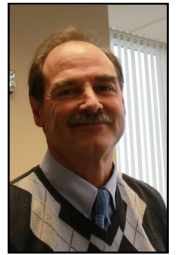
Congratulations on Upcoming Retirements

We want to congratulate two long-time LAFCo leaders on their upcoming retirements. Their contributions to CALAFCO and to LAFCos statewide are far too numerous to list here. Needless to say, they both leave huge shoes to fill and will be greatly missed. We wish them both all the best in their retirement!

After a distinguished near 20-year career with Sonoma LAFCo, Asst. EO **Carole Cooper** is retiring at the end of June. Carole spent 12 years on the CALAFCO Legislative Committee and was the recipient of the CALAFCO Project of the Year Award as part of the team that revised the definition section of CKH, and received the Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award.



San Luis Obispo LAFCo EO **David Church** is also calling it time to retire. David has been with his LAFCo for almost 19 years and will be retiring in July. David also spent a number of years contributing to CALAFCO on the Legislative Committee and as the Deputy EO representing the coastal region for four years. David received several CALAFCO Achievement Awards including the Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award and the Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award.



LAFCos in the News

Tuolumne LAFCo Adds Special Districts

For the first time since 2012, special districts have been added to a LAFCo! CALAFCO acknowledges the hard work of **Tuolumne LAFCo** and congratulates them on adding special districts to their LAFCo. This is no easy feat and their process was a long one. We will learn more about it from EO **Quincy Yaley** in our next edition of *The Sphere*. As of today, 31 of the 58 LAFCos have special district representation. Way to go Tuolumne LAFCo!

Santa Clara LAFCo Receives Award for Communication and Outreach Plan

Earlier this month, **Santa Clara LAFCo** received the American Planning Association - California Northern Chapter's "Award of Excellence - Communication Initiative" for their communication and outreach plan. The APA highlighted the plan as one of the outstanding winners for its "fresh ideas that are transferable to other communities and represent guidebooks toward a more inclusive, accessible and equitable planning future."

Los Angeles LAFCo Receives Award of Excellence

In May, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded its "Award of Excellence: Hard Won Victories" for "Rescuing the Sativa Water System" to **LA LAFCo**, the County of Los Angeles, and the SWRCB for their collaborative work on the Agency.

CALAFCO congratulates **Tuolumne, Santa Clara** and **Los Angeles** LAFCos on their achievements!

Congratulations!

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CALAFCO BOARD UPDATE

The CALAFCO Board met February 21 and May 1. Here is a summary of the actions taken by the Board at these respective meetings.



February 21

As a follow up to the December 2019 meeting, the Board continued the discussion of transitioning the two primary contractors to employees to comply with AB 5. In executive session, the Board accepted the retirement announcement of Executive Director Pamela Miller, developed a recruitment plan and timeline and discussed the transition.

The Board considered the Tulare LAFCo proposed dues structure. After much discussion, they unanimously approved the convening of an ad hoc committee sometime in the summer to once again look at the dues structure that was adopted by the membership in October 2019. It is likely that this ad hoc committee will also include several member LAFCos outside of the Board.

Other actions the Board took at this meeting included:

- ✓ Reconfirmed no CPI increase (pursuant to Bylaws) for the FY 2020-21 LAFCo dues;
- ✓ Approved a request from Contra Costa LAFCo to prepare and file an amicus brief
- ✓ Conducted the annual dashboard review of the 2019 Strategic Plan objectives; and
- ✓ Accepted a series of reports including the 2020 conflict of interest filings, quarterly financial and investment reports, and the legislative report.

May 1

After careful consideration, the Board adopted a balanced budget for FY 2020-21. There are several notable differences in this budget as compared to past budgets, including:

- The Annual Conference revenue and expenses were adjusted for a smaller attendance and for a break-even model due to the pandemic;
- We are now budgeting for employer expenses such as employer's insurance, payroll services and payroll taxes, workers' compensation and overtime for the Administrator which is a non-exempt position; and
- For the first time, the operational costs of the Association are covered by member LAFCo dues, so there is no budget deficit. This is a result of the membership approving the new dues structure at the October 31, 2019 annual business meeting.

The Board also received a report from the Executive Director (ED) Recruitment Committee on the progress of the recruitment. During this report current ED Pamela Miller shared that given the uncertain times we are currently in and will be facing for the unforeseen future, she did not see

this is not a good time for a change in leadership for the Association and offered to stay on as the ED. The Recruitment Committee then took this under advisement.

Other actions taken by the Board at the May 1 meeting included:

- ✓ Received and filed the quarterly financial and investment reports;
- ✓ Received and filed the Legislative Committee report; and
- ✓ Received a verbal update on the Annual Conference from the Conference Chair and Program Chair.

All Board meeting packets are posted on the CALAFCO website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAMELA MILLER STAYING WITH CALAFCO

As was announced in early June, Pamela Miller will be staying with the Association as Executive Director. To comply with the requirements of AB 5, both Pamela and Jeni Tickler, CALAFCO's Administrator, will be transitioning to employee status effective September 1. Both will remain as part-time employees.

2020 STAFF WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Staff Workshop

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CALAFCO's Staff Workshop was cancelled. The workshop was scheduled for March 25-27 in Newport Beach. As it turned out, this was the right call, and done ahead of the March 19 stay-at-home order issued by the Governor.

CALAFCO staff was able to negotiate a revision in the facility contract to avoid a cancellation fee of over \$36,000. The workshop for 2020 has been booked at the same facility with only a slight increase in the food and beverage minimum and room rates. Further, all deposits (hotel, bus, boat, and caterer for the mobile workshop) were successfully moved forward to next year without penalty.

We wish to thank our Workshop hosts, *Imperial* and *Orange LAFCos* and their staff who worked so hard to prepare a fabulous workshop, and Program Chair *Gary Thompson*. His team did such an outstanding job that the program as planned will be moved forward to the 2021 Workshop.

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is currently scheduled for October 21-23 in Monterey at the Hyatt Regency. Due to the ongoing restrictions on gatherings because of COVID-19, and due to shrinking local agency budgets, CALAFCO staff is currently exploring viable options for the Conference. The Program Planning Committee is already hard at work and planning session topics that are extremely relevant for the times. Details about the Conference will be announced as soon as a decision is made. We want to thank Conference Chair

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Jane Parker and Program Chair *Christine Crawford*, as well as the entire program planning team for their work thus far.

Your Board's top priority is ensuring the health and safety of all of you, our Association members, your families, and those at the hotel facility. Our decision will be based with that in mind as priority #1.

CALAFCO UNIVERSITY

Under the leadership of *Martha Poyatos*, the format of the CALAFCO University is being revised. For the remainder of the year, we will be offering all CALAFCO U sessions virtually. We are currently planning a series of short online sessions including LAFCo 101 for staff, Clerk 101 (to include Public Records Requests and BOE info), and a LAFCo Primer for Commissioners. This series will be offered at no cost to all member LAFCo staff and commissioners, and will be recorded and placed online for on-demand access to our members. A number of other courses are also being planned, so keep an eye open for announcements coming soon.



CALAFCO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This has been a legislative year like no other given the pandemic. As we have been reporting, the Legislature went into recess to comply with the Governor's stay at home orders and was out for several months without bills moving. Upon return, both houses adopted revised calendars and cut

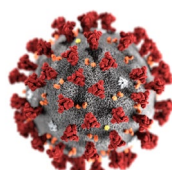
back their bill count significantly.

As you are all aware, the state is now grappling with a \$54 billion deficit and Legislators are having to make difficult decisions on how to close that deficit gap. One thing is certain – even if there is federal funding assistance, local governments throughout the state will be operating in fiscal crisis for several years to come.

As a result, the CALAFCO legislative priorities for the year have all but vanished. The LAFCo funding bill not be moving forward and our work with the Protest Provisions Rewrite Working Group has been put on pause. Staff hopes to reconvene that working group in late summer.

CALAFCO'S COVID-19 RESPONSE AND MEMBER SUPPORT

As all of you were forced to quickly pivot and revise the way you conduct business in March, so was CALAFCO staff. We have been working remotely since mid-March and monitor the office mail and voicemails. Both Pamela and Jeni continue to do everything as usual, just from home.



Seeing a need to support LAFCo staff as they navigated the difficult waters of caring for themselves, their commissions, and the public so that business would be seamless, CALAFCO began hosting weekly meetings for Executive Officers and another for Clerks. These meetings create a space in which LAFCo staff can discuss the unusual issues they are dealing with, share ideas and collectively develop solutions. Over three months later, the meetings are now transitioning to bi-weekly.

CALAFCO staff also issued a number of special bulletins to the full membership over the past several months, sharing critical information and resources as appropriate. In addition, we are sharing a variety of resources and educational opportunities from other resources on things like conducting virtual meetings, fiscal impacts of COVID, etc.

Seeing a need for remote meeting resources for our member LAFCos, CALAFCO offered our toll free conference calling system for you to conduct your meetings and in May purchased several Zoom licenses, one specifically for use by our member LAFCos to conduct your meetings virtually at no cost to you.

We hope you have found these resources useful and we will continue to work in providing you the support you need.

CALAFCO ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

We successfully migrated to a new email server at the end of February and are happy to report the transition was seamless and has resolved all of CALAFCO staff's email issues.



The CALAFCO website is being updated to enhance the library archives and member forms sections. So far over the past several months the following updates have occurred:

- ✓ CALAFCO University session archives are fully updated with all prior CALAFCO U session materials online
- ✓ Attorney General Opinions section is fully updated with all AG Opinions posted
- ✓ CALAFCO Directories have all been indexed, reorganized and updated
- ✓ In CALAFCO Publications, The Sphere section has been fully updated with a more usable indexing
- ✓ In the Resources section, all of the Useful Weblinks have been updated.

Future updates (some currently in progress) include a full update and re-indexing of the Forms Library and updating of the LAFCo litigation section.



CALAFCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION PERIOD OPEN

The nomination period for the 2020 CALAFCO Board of Directors election is open. Nominations are being accepted through 5:00 p.m. September 22, 2020. Nomination packets were emailed to all LAFCo EOs, are placed on the CALAFCO website, and hard copies will be mailed to each LAFCo office.



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.

Our last edition featured our Gold Associate Members. In our next several editions we will highlight our Silver Associate Members.

Berkson Associates **Berkson Associates**

provides clear, concise analysis for preparation of governance studies including district formation, consolidation and dissolutions. Extensive experience completing incorporation studies. Expertise also includes market analysis, public agency budget forecasting and demographic/housing analysis in support of MSRs. For more information, contact **Richard Berkson** at richard@berksonassociates.com. You can also visit their website at www.berksonassociates.com.



Santa Ynez Community Services District



SANTA YNEZ
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Founded in 1971, **the Santa Ynez Community Services District** provides wastewater collection and transportation and street lighting, serving approximately 688 wastewater connections. Effluent collected by the District is treated at the City of Solvang wastewater treatment plant. For more information about the District, visit their website at www.sycsd.com, or contact the Secretary/Treasurer **Wendy Berry** at wendy@sycsd.com.

Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc.

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 **Jim Simon** at jsimon@webrsg.com.



City of Fontana



City of Fontana is responsible for managing the City's annexation program, which includes coordinating annexation meetings, meeting with landowners and developers concerning the benefits of annexation, preparing Plans for Services, overseeing preparation of environmental documents pertaining to rezoning and annexation, and presenting them to the Planning Commission, City Council and LAFCo for review and consideration. In addition, oversee the preparation of out-of-agency service agreements for sewer and other municipal services. Visit them at www.fontana.org.

CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to continue highlighting you in future Quarterly Reports.

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting – July 17, 2020 via conference call
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting – July 24, 2020 – Location TBD



The full revised CALAFCO 2020 Calendar of Events can be found on the CALAFCO website. It is being updated regularly as events and meetings are cancelled or changed.

All CALAFCO Board and Legislative Committee meeting packets are available online at www.calafco.org.

Your CALAFCO Board and Staff wish all of you a safe and healthy summer. We continue to face both known and unknown challenges. As we do, keeping ourselves, our families, our work teams, and our communities healthy and safe remains a priority. Please, be well.

