



Local Agency Formation Commission
LAFCO of Napa County

1700 Second Street, Suite 268
Napa, California 94559
Telephone: (707) 259-8645
Facsimile: (707) 251-1053
<http://napa.lafco.ca.gov>

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Agenda Item No. 10b (Information)

May 26, 2009

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Correspondence from CALAFCO

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) has prepared the attached memorandum. The memorandum outlines the current activities and programs provided by CALAFCO as well as opportunities to serve on the Board of Directors. The memorandum is being circulated in anticipation of CALAFCO issuing a request for Board nominations in July.

Attachment: as stated

Juliana Inman, Vice Chair
Councilmember, City of Napa

Lewis Chilton, Commissioner
Councilmember, Town of Yountville

Joan Bennett, Alternate Commissioner
Councilmember, City of American Canyon

Bill Dodd, Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 4th District

Brad Wagenknecht, Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 1st District

Mark Luce, Alternate Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 2nd District

Brian J. Kelly, Chair
Representative of the General Public

Gregory Rodeno, Alternate Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

CALAFCO RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Board of Directors Candidate Information

Introduction:

The mission of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization is to “provide educational, information sharing and technical support for its members by serving as a resource for, and by collaborating with, the public, the legislative and executive branches of state government, and other organizations, for the purpose of discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open space and prime agricultural lands, and encouraging orderly growth and development of local agencies.”

The purpose of this presentation is to inform you of the current issues that CALAFCO is focusing on; our programs, activities and organizational structure; and opportunities for your participation as a member of the CALAFCO Board of Directors. Questions that you may have regarding information provided in this presentation should be directed to CALAFCO Executive Director Bill Chiat at wchiat@calafco.org or by phone at (916) 442-6536. Additional information can also be obtained from the CALAFCO website at www.calafco.org.

Current Issues:

To help guide the organization in its ongoing program activities for 2009/2010, the CALAFCO Board of Directors has identified the following priority issues of greatest importance to its members:

Viability of Local Government Agencies – The current severe economic recession is undermining the financial stability of a number of local agencies throughout California and highlighting the limitations on LAFCo’s ability to deal with such issues.

Ag Land and Open Space Protection - Debate continues within CALAFCO about the authority that LAFCo’s have to preserve agricultural lands and open space, and potential strategies that may be pursued by individual LAFCo’s to work toward that goal.

Water Availability – As the demand for water continues to grow to serve California’s continuing population growth, water districts face increasing challenges on how to provide reliable water supplies.

Authority of LAFCo – California continues to explore new options for governance of its expanding urban populations through regional initiatives or legislative actions in Sacramento. The role of LAFCos in new governance strategies and the impacts of special legislation on LAFCo authority are of continuing concern to CALAFCO.

Other issues of interest that CALAFCO is following include:

Housing - The provision of housing for all income levels, consistent with state law, is a factor that LAFCos may consider in evaluating cities' proposed spheres of influence (SOIs) or annexations.

Transportation – The significant relationship between transportation infrastructure, urban development patterns and related municipal service needs makes transportation plans an important factor for LAFCos to consider in SOI and annexation proceedings. The implementation of recently enacted SB 375 is a reflection of the important relationship between regional growth plans and transportation planning.

Flood Control – The vulnerability of proposed urban development areas to flooding and the adequacy of flood control measures are important factors for LAFCos to consider in SOI and annexation proceedings. The adequacy of existing flood control districts to continue to provide protection to existing urbanized areas is an important issue that needs to be addressed by LAFCos in their municipal service review process. As directed by the Map Modernization Act passed by Congress following the Katrina flooding, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is updating flood maps to reflect current flood risks. These new maps need to be considered in planning for future urban growth and related municipal services.

Programs and Activities:

CALAFCO has a range of programs and activities that are designed to both educate its members and support the effectiveness of individual LAFCos in carrying out their mandates.

Educational Forums and Professional Development Training

Annual Conferences – CALAFCO's annual conferences provide sessions on a wide variety of policy issues related to urban development, municipal services, and agricultural and open space lands protection, including important legislative initiatives that may impact LAFCos. The conferences are designed to provide opportunities for LAFCo commissioners, staff and practitioners to share information and engage in dialogue on important policy issues. The conferences also provide important

networking opportunities for attendees to establish working relationships to help increase their effectiveness.

Staff Workshops – CALAFCO holds an annual staff workshop which provides training opportunities for all LAFCo staff to learn about LAFCo processes, procedures and analytical strategies; and to establish working relationships to share information and improve their effectiveness. The Workshop includes professional development sessions for all staff, and specials sessions for clerks, executive officers, analysts, and counsel.

CALAFCO University – CALAFCO U provides courses to educate commissioners, staff and LAFCo practitioners on important and timely policy and process topics. The most recent course offered, with classes held in both southern and northern California, was on the implementation of SB 375, which integrates regional growth plan with transportation planning and infrastructure funding. Classes are designed to meet accreditation requirements for professional training certificates that recognize professional development.

Building Strong Member LAFCos – CALAFCO also promotes the development of strong and effective individual LAFCos through a number of other services that facilitate information sharing and communication among LAFCos. These include the CALAFCO website, the SPHERE newsletter, the Executive Officer, Clerks, and Counsel List Serves; and opportunities for serving on conference and workshop committees, the Association's Legislative Committee, and other ad hoc committees formed to address specific topics. CALAFCO also promotes regional meetings between LAFCos and training sessions on LAFCo practices and procedures (LAFCo 101).

Website

CALAFCO maintains an expansive website at www.calafco.org. The site contains timely information on CALAFCO activities along with an extensive library of resources and links to other valuable sites. For example, you can find a summary of all recent court decisions which affect LAFCos along with links to the full decision. There is also a complete directory of member LAFCos and contact information. The members-only section adds to the resources available. It includes an up-to-date summary of legislative issues of interest to members on the website.

Legislative Activities

A primary service of CALAFCO is to serve as a resource to the Legislature, State Agencies, peer associations and members regarding current LAFCo law and proposed legislation that may affect LAFCos. In addition, CALAFCO has an active Legislative Committee that review legislative requests, proposes legislation to advance LAFCo

principles and monitors legislation and recommends positions on bills which affect LAFCoS.

CALAFCO Organization and Board of Directors' Responsibilities:

CALAFCO is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors. Four directors shall be county commissioners or alternate commissioners; four directors shall be city commissioners or alternate commissioners; four directors shall be special district commissioners or alternate commissioners; and three directors shall be public member commissioners or alternate commissioners. Each director shall be elected for a 2-year term.

The Association is staffed by a combination of contract staff and volunteer staff officers from member LAFCoS. The Executive Director serves as the administrative director and manager of the Association. The Executive Officer and Deputy Executive Officers serve as fiscal agent for the Association and manage various services and programs of the Association under the direction of the Board and the Executive Director. Legal Counsel provides legal advice to the Board and, as needed, to the Executive Director and volunteer staff officers in the operations of the Association, interpretation of LAFCo law, and in support of member LAFCo Counsels.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, which meets quarterly in alternate locations in northern and southern California, to provide overall policy guidance and direction to the Association. This guidance and direction is described in the Association's Policies and Procedures Manual and its Strategic Plan, which is updated every two years. The Board develops and adopts an annual budget which reflects its program priorities. The Board also appoints a standing Legislative Committee annually, which is chaired by the Executive Director and has a membership of 5-6 Board members and 15 staff. The Committee meets regularly to review existing and proposed laws that may affect LAFCoS and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors Elections Process:

Prior to the annual meeting, the Board appoints a recruitment committee consisting of four directors who are not standing for re-election at that meeting. Those directors shall be consisting of one county, one city, one special district and one public member.

The committee shall submit nominations at the annual meeting for all positions on the Board, the terms of which will expire with that meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting. Only Commissioners of Member LAFCoS in good standing and whose membership dues and assessments are fully paid may be nominated to be a director. Directors shall be eligible for reelection without limitation on the number of terms they may serve.

Terms of office will expire this year at the Association's 2009 annual meeting, which is held at the annual conference in October, for two city, two county and two special district directors, and for one public director.

No later than three months prior to the Annual Conference, the Recruitment Committee Chairman will send an announcement to each member LAFCo for distribution to each commissioner and alternate. The announcement will include the following:

A statement clearly indicating which offices are subject to the election.

The date by which all nominations must be received by the Recruitment Committee. The deadline for "mail-in" nominations shall be no later than 30 days prior to the opening of the Annual Conference. Nominations received after the closing date shall be returned to the proposing LAFCo marked "Received too late for Nominations Committee action." Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

The names of the Recruitment Committee members with the Committee Chairman's LAFCo address and phone number.

A form for each LAFCo to nominate a candidate and a candidate resume form of no more than one page each to be completed for each nominee.

A copy of the Association's election procedures will be posted on the CALAFCO web site at that time.