

September 24, 2015 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission  
2301 Technology Parkway  
Hollister CA 95023

**Staff Report on CALAFCO Annual Conference**

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

Receive this informational report.

DISCUSSION

The CALAFCO Annual Conference was in Sacramento this year, between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. I attended all three days of sessions.

Wednesday afternoon

Following welcoming remarks at 1:30 pm, the first session was titled the “Confluence of Agriculture, Planning and Resources.” The speakers were State Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird, State Secretary of Food & Agriculture Karen Ross and Director of State Planning & Research Ken Alex.

We heard about the role each of these State agencies has in the alignment of land use plans but due to the current drought conditions and recent legislation mandating integrated regional water management, most of the time was devoted to that subject.

The second afternoon session followed on with a further discussion of water, specifically the Groundwater Sustainability Act. Speakers were State Director of Water Resources Mark Cowin, Zone 7 Water Agency (Livermore CA) General Manager Jill Duerig, and California Water Agencies Board Member Matt Hurley, who manages four water or reclamation districts.

Clearly, the limited water supply and drought situation in California continues to occupy a great time of concern and attention. The topic was “LAFCO and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Where do LAFCOs fit?”

Thursday morning

The day started with regional meetings to elect members to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. San Benito LAFCO is part of the Coastal Region with 14 other LAFCOs from San Diego to Sonoma. Following are the election results in the Coastal Region:

- Public Member Sblend Sblendorio, Alameda, replaced Roger Welt, Santa Barbara
- City Member John Marchand, also Alameda, replaced Juliana Inman of Napa

After regional elections and a short CALAFCO business meeting, there were discussions about what is occurring of interest to LAFCOs in each county. I mentioned during the Coastal Region discussion the current situation regarding the Pacheco Pass Water District that extends into both San Benito and Santa Clara Counties.

Thursday noon

The luncheon speaker was retired city manager Ted Gaebler, who coauthored the book “Reinventing Government” which talks about transforming governments from outdated, bureaucratic organizations to flexible, consumer focused organizations.

He noted, among other things, that since LAFCOs were created in 1963 to encourage orderly growth and development essential to social, fiscal and economic well-being, the population of California has more than doubled from 17,530,000 to 38,715,000 in 2015, a growth of more than 21,000,000 residents. He made a number of comments about the changes and challenges facing California’s governmental institutions.

Thursday afternoon

Immediately following lunch there were three concurrent sessions; I attended portions of two of them. One dealt with California’s changing culture and how LAFCOs may be affected. These changes include demographics, material standards and expectations of residents and how that may affect LAFCO’s implementation of the statute.

The second session concerned finding financial option to correctly fund municipal services and infrastructure. This is certainly an ongoing discussion among governments.

There were also three concurrent sessions in second part of the afternoon. I attended the one regarding LAFCO’s role in planning for climate change. It dealt with trends underlying climate change on a statewide level as well as policies and priorities for the Governor’s office and possible impacts on local governments.

Friday morning

The first session was presented by Bill Chiat, previous Executive Director of CALAFCO who is now Dean and Manager of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Institute. His topic was "Leadership in a World of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity" and he discussed what leadership is needed in the complex 21<sup>st</sup> century, what it takes to be successful in doing the public good and taking the opportunity to reflect on practices of leadership.

The concluding session was the CALAFCO Legislative Update. Speakers included Misa Lennox who is a consultant to the Assembly Local Government Committee and LAFCO staff who are leaders on the CALAFCO legislative committee.

In my opinion this was a worthwhile statewide gathering of LAFCOs that addressed many of the evolving issues in California local governments. Please let me know if you have questions about the conference.

The 2016 Conference is scheduled for October 26 -28 in Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,



BOB BRAITMAN  
Executive Officer

September 10, 2015

San Benito LAFCo  
8277 Cheshire Street  
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Dear Chair and Commission:

On behalf of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), I would like to thank your commission for allowing some of your members and/or staff the opportunity to attend the CALAFCO 2015 annual conference in Sacramento.

We know how lean budgets and resources are and understand that prioritizing expenditures can be difficult. Ensuring you and your staff have access to ongoing professional development and specialized educational opportunities, allows all of you the opportunity to better serve your commission and fulfill the mission of LAFCo. The sharing of information and resources among the LAFCo commissioners and staff statewide serves to strengthen the LAFCo network and creates opportunities for rich and value-added learning that is applied within each LAFCo.

Thank you again for your participation in the CALAFCO 2015 annual conference, I hope you found it a valuable experience. We truly appreciate your membership and value your involvement in CALAFCO.

Yours sincerely,



Pamela Miller  
Executive Director

