



# News from the Board of Directors CALAFCO QUARTERLY

December 2018

## CALAFCO Board and Staff Changes

Results of the recent CALAFCO Board of Directors elections netted several new Board members for 2019. One northern representative elected to fill the City seat lost a local election, so there is now a 2-year vacancy being filled by the Board. Current Board members include:

**Northern:** *Bill Connelly* (Butte), *Debra Lake* (Humboldt) and *Josh Susman* (Nevada).

**Southern:** *Cheryl Brothers* (Orange), *Mike Kelley* (Imperial), *Jo MacKenzie* (San Diego) and *David West* (Imperial).

**Coastal:** *Mike McGill* (Contra Costa), *Margie Mohler* (Napa), *Jane Parker* (Monterey) and *Susan Vicklund Wilson* (Santa Clara).

**Central:** *Shiva Frentzen* (El Dorado), *Gay Jones* (Sacramento), *Anita Paque* (Calaveras) and *Daniel Parra* (Fresno – filling a 1-year term).

In October the Board said goodbye to *John Leopold* (Santa Cruz), *Gerard McCallum* (Los Angeles) and *Ricky Samayoa* (Yuba), and earlier this year *Bill Kirby* (Placer) left the CALAFCO Board. We thank all of them for their service and many contributions to CALAFCO.

Additionally, a new Southern region DEO was appointed. We welcome *Keene Simonds* (San Diego) to the team, and thank outgoing DEO *Carolyn Emery* (Orange) for her service.

## CALAFCO Board 2019 Officers and Committees

At their December 7 meeting, the CALAFCO Board elected their officers for 2019 as follows:

- Chair – *Josh Susman* (Nevada – northern)
- Vice Chair – *Mike McGill* (Contra Costa - coastal)
- Secretary – *Mike Kelley* (Imperial - southern)
- Treasurer – *Shiva Frentzen* (El Dorado - central)

They also appointed members to the 2019 standing committees as follows:

### Legislative Committee

- Bill Connelly (North)
- Shiva Frentzen (Central)
- Jo MacKenzie (South)
- Susan Vicklund Wilson (Coastal)
- Mike McGill (At-Large)
- Gay Jones (a) (At-Large)
- Michael Kelley (a) (South)
- Margie Mohler (a) (Coastal)
- Anita Paque (a) (Central)
- Josh Susman (a) (North)

### Elections Committee

- Cheryl Brothers
- Shiva Frentzen (Chair)
- Jane Parker
- Josh Susman

### Awards Committee

- Cheryl Brothers
- Mike Kelley (Chair)
- Debra Lake
- Margie Mohler
- Daniel Parra

### 2019 Annual Conference

- Debra Lake
- Anita Paque (Chair)
- Jane Parker
- Daniel Parra
- Josh Susman
- David West

## Conferences and Workshops Update

### 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

A final Conference program report was provided to the Board on December 7 (financial report will be provided once the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financials are closed). The Conference was held October 3-5 in Yosemite at the beautiful



Tenaya Lodge. Approximately 294 commissioners, staff, associate members, guests and speakers attended the Conference. A total of 47 LAFcos were represented. Participant evaluations rated the overall experience a 5.5 out of 6.0 (the highest since we have been tracking). This year we had a total of \$25,750 in sponsorship revenue, with 15 total sponsors of varying levels. CALAFCO thanks all of our sponsors for your support and participation in this event.

We also thank Conference Chair *Anita Paque*, Program Committee Co-Chairs *Carolyn Emery* and *Christine Crawford*, everyone who worked to plan the program and all of you who volunteered and helped on site. A very special thank you goes out to Madera County Supervisor (and Madera LAFco Commissioner) *Tom Wheeler* and his Chief of Staff *Brittany Dyer* for planning and delivering such an outstanding Mobile Workshop and Thursday luncheon keynote on tree mortality. The Mobile Workshop ratings were a perfect 6.0.

All program presentations were placed on the CALAFCO website the week before the Conference.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: October 30 – November 1 in Sacramento** at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

### 2019 STAFF WORKSHOP

The 2019 Staff Workshop is set for April 10-12 at the Holiday Inn in San Jose. Our host for this workshop will be *Santa Clara LAFco*. The Program Planning Committee is working hard and already has a *hot* line-up of sessions you will not want to miss! Keep an eye open for registration details coming in January.

### CALAFCO Congratulates the 2018 Annual Achievement Award Recipients

CALAFCO wishes to congratulate all of this year's nominees, and especially those who received the 2018 Achievement Award.



- ❖ Outstanding Commissioner – *Margie Mohler* (Napa LAFco)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFco Clerk – *Elizabeth Valdez* (Riverside LAFco)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFco Professional – *George Williamson* (Del Norte and Shasta LAFcos)
- ❖ Distinguished Service – *John Withers* (formerly of Orange LAFco)
- ❖ Outstanding Associate Member – *Best Best & Krieger*
- ❖ Project of the Year – *Lake LAFco* (Cobb Fire)
- ❖ Government Leadership – *County of Tulare, City of Porterville, CA Dept. of Water Resources, CA State Water Resources Control Board, Governor's Office of Emergency*



### **Services, Self-Help Enterprises and Community Water Center** (East Porterville water supply project)

- ❖ Most Effective Commission – **Santa Clara LAFCo**
- ❖ Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation – **Mike Ott** (formerly of San Diego LAFCo)
- ❖ Lifetime Achievement – **Pat McCormick** (Santa Cruz LAFCo) and **George Spiliotis** (Riverside LAFCo)
- ❖ Legislator of the Year – **Assemblymember Anna Caballero**

### **CALAFCO Board Actions**

The Board met on October 5 and appointed the staff members of the 2019 Legislative and Advisory Committees. They also adopted their 2019 annual meeting calendar which includes the biennial strategic planning retreat on February 28, 2019 in Irvine.



During the Board's meeting on December 7, they took the following actions:

- ◆ Received and filed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial reports
- ◆ Received and filed the Annual Conference report
- ◆ Decided on the priority topics for their February Strategic Planning Workshop
- ◆ Unanimously approved the 2019 legislative priorities
- ◆ Adopted the CALAFCO 2019 Legislative Policies

### **CALAFCO White Papers and Other Publications**

We are pleased to report several projects completed in the latter part of the year.

#### **DUC Mapping Project Complete**

The long awaited disadvantaged unincorporated community (DUC) mapping statewide project is complete and on the CALAFCO website. This map is not intended to supersede any individual LAFCo DUC map but rather to fulfill requirements in SB 244 (Wolk, 2011) of LAFCos statewide needing to map DUCs. CALAFCO wishes to thank **Joe Serrano** (Monterey) for his assistance in this mapping project. The map can be found on the CALAFCO website in the Resources section.

#### **White Paper Published**

In partnership with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), CALAFCO published a White Paper titled, **Creating Sustainable Communities and Landscapes**. The paper is intended to be a guide for LAFCos, Counties, Cities and other local entities with respect to urban growth boundaries. We wish to thank the authors of the paper including **Ena Lupine**, SGC; **Emily Tibbott**, SGC; **Michael McCormick**, OPR; and **Jessie Hudson**, OPR. The Advisory Working Group included: **Pamela Miller**, CALAFCO; **Neelima Palacherla**, Santa Clara LAFCo; **Michael McCormick**, OPR; **Emily Tibbott**, SGC; **Randall Winston**, SGC; and **Louise Bedsworth**, SGC. Special thanks to **Mark Bramfitt** (Sonoma), **Kai Luoma** (Ventura), **Sara Lytle-Piney** (Stanislaus) and **Neelima Palacherla** (Santa Clara) for their help in developing case studies for each of the four counties.

Each LAFCo received a special bound hard copy of the white paper and it is available on the CALAFCO website.

### **CALAFCO Legislative Update**

The new Legislature will convene January 7. With a new Administration, a super majority and a number of new legislators, 2019 is expected to be unpredictable (more so than usual).



During their December 7 meeting, the CALAFCO Board of Directors deliberated at length about the 2019 legislative priorities. In the end, they unanimously decided to sponsor an Omnibus bill, try one more time for LAFCo grant funding (a follow up to AB 2258, Caballero from last year) and begin a two-year project on evaluating and possibly amending the protest provisions. The latter two priorities were recommendations in the 2017 Little Hoover Commission report.

CALAFCO has been asked to participate in DWR's County Drought Advisory Group. Our representatives are **Mike McGill** (Contract Costa), **Josh Susman** (Nevada) and **Pamela Miller** (CALAFCO).



### **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.

We are pleased to welcome a new Silver Associate Member to CALAFCO, **Pacific Gold Agriculture LLC**.

#### **Pacific Gold Agriculture, LLC**



**Pacific Gold Agriculture** is focused on sustainable agricultural practices and overall sustainability. They desire to work with LAFCos to ensure sustainability in agricultural communities. For more information, visit their website at [www.pacgoldag.com](http://www.pacgoldag.com) or contact Chief Executive Officer **Ben King** at [bking@pacgoldag.com](mailto:bking@pacgoldag.com) or call 530-723-3119.

Congratulations to the 2018 CALAFCO Outstanding Associate Member of the Year, **Best Best & Krieger**.



In meeting the needs of public and private sector clients, BB&K offers unique experiences in handling complex, multi-disciplinary issues and providing solutions of common interest to leaders of both business and government, including LAFCo law. **BB&K** has been CALAFCO's legal counsel since 1982.

*CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlight our Associate Members in each Quarterly Report.*



### TRACKS Around the State

#### Monterey LAFCo

CALAFCO was pleased to attend the **Monterey LAFCo** meeting on December 3 to bid farewell to Commissioner **Simón Salinas** after serving 22 years on the Monterey LAFCo, in honor of his leadership in the CA State Assembly and his contributions to the CALAFCO Board. His countless contributions to LAFCos throughout the state as a result of his many years of public service are greatly appreciated and we wish him well in his retirement.



#### Riverside LAFCo



It was with mixed emotions we visited **Riverside LAFCo** on December 6 to honor Executive Officer George Spiliotis at his last meeting after serving 29 years with his LAFCo and his countless contributions to CALAFCO. The day before there was a celebration in his honor and sporting one of his more conservative shirt and tie combos, George celebrated with a host of friends and colleagues. We wish George all the best in his retirement.



#### Contra Costa LAFCo

Contra Costa LAFCo is processing its fourth district dissolution in the last 13 months. Three of the dissolutions were initiated by LAFCo, two of which were/are inactive districts.

#### El Dorado LAFCo

The staff at El Dorado LAFCo congratulates LAFCo Chair **Shiva Frentzen** on her election as Treasurer to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. We also welcome **Riley Nork**, who started on September 17 as our new Assistant Policy Analyst. Finally, in 2018, LAFCo has held two study sessions on the state of fire protection districts. We thank San Diego LAFCo for lending the expertise of **John Traylor**, who provided valuable insight to this Commission. The next study session will be at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting where the Commission will be examining various alternative governing models.

#### Merced LAFCo

After serving as both a city and a county appointed Commissioner for the past 35 years, Supervisor **Jerald (Jerry) O'Banion** is retiring as a Supervisor and therefore as a Merced LAFCo Commissioner. During this unprecedented span he participated in the adoption of the initial sphere of influence reports and all municipal service reviews. Jerry is a believer in control and in agencies answerable to their constituents, firm urban boundaries and agricultural preservation. The Merced LAFCo family wishes him a relaxing well-deserved retirement.

#### Napa LAFCo

Napa LAFCo is hiring a new Analyst, Dawn Mittleman Longoria, who previously served as Marin LAFCo EO from 1989 to 1998. Dawn also served as a Commissioner for Sonoma LAFCo and was Legislative

Chair for CALAFCO at one time. Dawn worked in her consulting capacity with Pat McCormick recently as the project manager for Santa Cruz LAFCo's Mid-County Fire Agencies Consolidation Feasibility Study and Service Review. Dawn's first day on the job is January 14, 2019.

#### San Diego LAFCo

San Diego LAFCo is pleased to announce the addition of two new employees. Dieu Ngu started in November 2018 as our new fulltime GIS Analyst. Dieu most recently worked for GIS Surveyors, Inc. and earned a graduate degree in GIS from the University of Redlands. Alex Vidal is scheduled to start in January 2019 as a fulltime Analyst I. Alex recently finished an internship with the City of Louisville and earned a graduate degree in environmental planning from the University of Georgia.



#### San Luis Obispo LAFCo

San Luis Obispo LAFCo has been very busy with a variety of typical and unique CKH work. These are some of the things keeping the SLO life interesting:

- ◆ Completed the annexation of a 131 acre parcel with 109 acres of prime agricultural land that was surrounded by the City of SLO. This annexation provided conditions requiring that at least 56 acres (amount proposed for conversion) of prime agricultural land (onsite and offsite) be placed in a conservation easement prior to submitting the annexation to the Board of Equalization. The City of San Luis Obispo was great to work with and Mike Prater, Deputy Executive Officer, did a wonderful job of coordinating the pieces to the puzzle.
- ◆ Working with the County and District, SLO LAFCo completed the dissolution of the Cayucos Fire Protection District and the activation of fire authority for CSA 10. A changing of the guard ceremony from the Fire District crew to the CAL FIRE/County Fire crew was conducted on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Station in Cayucos.

A huge thanks to Donna Bloyd, Commission Clerk, for her dedication to herding all the cats associated with all this good work and being the glue that holds things together. So appreciate her willingness to laugh in the face of it all. Also a warm welcome to Brian Pierik, Burke, Williams and Sorensen, as our new legal counsel!

#### San Mateo LAFCo

San Mateo LAFCo welcomes Alternate Special District Member Kati Martin and Alternate Public Member James O'Neill. San Mateo LAFCo has also filled the newly created position of Management Analyst and welcomes Rob Bartoli who brings valuable planning and environmental review expertise.

#### Sierra LAFCo

Sierra LAFCo is seeing activity pick up. They recently approved a large fire district annexation and has another pending with Plumas County for a hospital district.

On the fire district proposal, over one third of the county (east side) was proposed to be annexed into an existing fire protection district based out of Sierraville. This included border communities shared with Washoe County, Nevada (state)



(Verdi and Long Valley) and included new assessments under the County Service Area laws as well as agreements between the district annexing the territory and the fire protection service agency operating out of Washoe County, Nevada (Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District) since this agency already provided professional fire services to its portion of the "border communities" in Nevada. This proceeding removed the County from any fire protection responsibility, included a detailed property tax transfer, and gave structural fire protection and EMS services to several population centers that had no formal fire protection (not within any district). The uniqueness of this "border" issue coupled with the mere size of the annexation stands out.

The second proceeding was the old Sierra Valley Hospital District (a district entirely within the boundary of Sierra County) that formerly operated a hospital in Loyalton. The Hospital and adjacent clinic buildings were sold to Eastern Plumas Health Care District (a district entirely within the boundary of Plumas County) years ago and the hospital was later converted to a skilled nursing facility, operated by EPHC. The Sierra Valley Hospital District continued to collect taxes, pay off bonds that are due to expire in 2023, provide insurance (even though offering no services) and paying for an annual audit (again even though providing no services) and of course, the Board of Supervisors had one heck of a time finding people to serve on the Hospital District Board. EPHC received special legislation to allow out-of-service-area exemption for a period of time while EPHC contemplated annexation of the property located within Sierra County-the Sierra Valley Hospital District. So Plumas LAFCo as principal County and through agreement with Sierra LAFCo is now processing what is best described as a dissolution of the Sierra Valley Hospital District and an annexation of a majority of the former Sierra Valley Hospital District lands into the EPHC district.

### Did You Know??

#### Certificate of Recognition Program

Did you know that CALAFCO has a **Certificate of Recognition Program** and offers it at no

cost to our members (both LAFCo and Associate members)? The program has been in place several years and while a few of you utilize this service, most of you do not. For details, visit the

CALAFCO website in the Member Services Section and upload the program packet or contact the CALAFCO Executive Director.



#### DUC Map

Did you know that if your LAFCo has not mapped DUCs in accordance with SB 244 (2011) that the **DUC map** on the CALAFCO website can be used by your LAFCo?  
[https://calafco.org/calafco\\_duc/](https://calafco.org/calafco_duc/)

#### Meeting Documents Online

Did you know that all **CALAFCO Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting documents are online**? Visit the Boards & Committees pages in the Members Section of the site. Board documents date back to 2008 and Legislative Committee documents back to 2007.



*Happy Holidays  
to all of  
our Members  
and your families.*

*May 2019 bring all of  
us peace and  
prosperity.*

**CALAFCO**  
*Board of Directors  
and Staff*

