

SAN MATEO



# LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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**To:** LAFCo Commissioners  
**From:** Rob Bartoli, Interim Executive Officer  
**Subject:** Update on recent CALAFCO University Webinars

## Summary

Throughout 2021 and now into 2022, CALAFCO has held several informative webinars on LAFCo related topics. The following is a summary of these CALAFCO University Webinars from June 2021 to January 2022.

### *Fiscal Health Indicators for Cities & Districts – June 2021*

Discussion of financial analysis of cities and districts and best practices to present financial data in a way that best informs a Municipal Service Review's audience. The webinar highlighted the types of fiscal documents that are produced by cities and districts (budget, audits, financial statements) and how to utilize the data from them. There was also an overview of indicators for the fiscal health of an agency such as a balanced budget, fund balance and reserves, and pension and OPEB liability.

### *Fire & EMS Service Basics, Challenges and LAFCos' Role & Responsibility – August 2021*

This four-part series covered LAFCo's role and responsibility regarding fire and emergency medical services in light of record setting wildfires in California. Session 1 presented an overview of fire department services and staffing models (volunteer, combination, or fully paid/career; city, county, state, and district departments). Session 2 provided best practices for LAFCos to evaluate fire departments and districts' fiscal abilities, services, and needs. In Session 3, the presentation focused on Municipal Service Reviews for fire districts and cities, fire contracts, and other LAFCo laws and their impact on the fire service. The final session, Session 4, provided case studies for LAFCo reviews and actions regarding fire services in urban, suburban, and rural counties.

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*Forming a Community Services District: Not Your Ordinary Formation – September 2021*

Overview of the formation process for a Community Services District, applicable state law, and best practices for LAFCo when processing this type of formation.

*The New Era: State of the State in terms of extreme weather, water & fire issues and what it means for LAFCOs – November 2021*

A review of extreme weather patterns in California, focusing on wildfires and droughts. The webinar had presentations on state-level policies and trends related to the drought and water issues and the impacts to communities, impacts on state-wide and local fire services, best practices in the areas of land use and resource planning, potential ways to collaborate to address these issues, and specific LAFCo actions in the face of these climate changes.

*Throw out the historic water framework: What do LAFCOs do now? – December 2021*

This webinar highlighted the drought situation in California and the impacts it has had on communities and water providers. The presentation also covered recently passed groundwater laws, including Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and their impact on water providers in the central valley. A case study on community water system in drought crisis from Humboldt County and Humboldt LAFCo was also discussed.

*The Property Tax Elements of Jurisdictional Changes and Fiscal Reviews – January 2021*

The presentation focused on property tax basics, property tax exchange agreements and budget forecast tools. A case study for a complex property tax exchange in Los Angeles County was presented to underscore best practices and potential pit falls.

Each of the presentations are available to review at [Calafco.org](http://Calafco.org). Registration for any future CALAFCO webinar is also free for all CALAFCO members.

**Recommended Commission Action**

Receive the update.