



CALAFCO Board Adopts Association's 2017-18 Strategic Plan

During their May 5 meeting, the CALAFCO Board of Directors considered the Association's two-year strategic plan for 2017-18. The draft strategic plan was presented to the Board for consideration as a follow up to their day-long strategic planning retreat session in January. The discussion, both in January and in May focused on current and emerging LAFCo and CALAFCO issues, what puts our members and the Association at risk and current CALAFCO commitments. The Board also carefully considered available resources to fulfill objectives and deliver the highest quality support to our members.



Ultimately the Board approved three strategic areas: (1) Serve as an educational resource to member LAFCo Commissioners, LAFCo staff, Associate members and stakeholders; (2) Focus efforts on Association member development and communication; and (3) Serve as an information resource to all Association members, work as a legislative and policy advocate for LAFCo issues and provide information to the Legislature and other stakeholders. Within those three areas are objectives that address the identified needs of creating value-added educational and networking opportunities, building stronger member LAFCos and a resilient Association, generating ourselves in new ways as an information resource, and continuing our work as a legislative resource.

The 2017-18 Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted by the CALAFCO Board during their May 5 meeting. The adopted plan has been distributed to the membership and can be found on the CALAFCO website.

Additional CALAFCO Board Actions

During the May 5 meeting the Board addressed several administrative issues and took a number of other actions:

- ◆ Reviewed and adopted the Association's FY 2017-18 annual budget.
- ◆ Received and filed the quarterly financial reports. The budget is on track for the year with no changes anticipated.
- ◆ Received a full legislative update.
- ◆ Received other status updates from CALAFCO staff.
- ◆ Directed staff to plan for an in-depth discussion at their August Board meeting on the long-term financial state of the Association.



Conferences and Workshops Update

2017 STAFF WORKSHOP

The 2017 Staff Workshop was held *April 5-7* at the Doubletree by Hilton in downtown Fresno. Our host for this workshop was *Fresno LAFCo*. The Program Planning Committee did a great job in planning a diverse program of topics and interesting speaker line up. The Workshop received a rating of 5.3 out of 6.0 and was a financial success with all revenues and expenses meeting budget expectations. CALAFCO wishes to thank our host, *Fresno LAFCo*, and in particular Executive Officer *David Fey*. Thanks also to the Program Planning Committee Chair, *Kris Berry*, and all who worked to plan another great Workshop.

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Annual Conference on *October 25-27*. We will be in Mission Bay, San Diego at the Bahia Hotel. Registration is open so make your hotel reservations early and be sure to send in your Conference registration and payment before August 31 to receive the early bird registration rate. A very special mobile workshop is being planned that will include a tour of the Claude "Bud" Lewis desalination plant, the largest in the nation. We will also be touring the adjacent Encina Power Station. The Program Planning Committee, under the leadership of *Carolyn Emery* (Orange), is busy putting together a fabulous program. For details, visit the CALAFCO website.

CALAFCO White Papers and Other Publications

In partnership with the American Farmland Trust (AFT), we are currently working on a White Paper on *Ag Policies*. Work on this project is anticipated to be completed by the end of summer. A huge thank you to Serena Unger of the AFT, and to Executive Officers *Christine Crawford* (Yolo), *Neelima Palacherla* (Santa Clara), *David Fey* (Fresno), and Associate Member *Elliot Mulberg* for their work on the paper.



CALAFCO Legislative Update

A busy legislative year to be sure. CALAFCO is sponsoring three bills, tracking 20 bills and has formal positions on 13 bills. A full legislative update including the bills CALAFCO is tracking can be found on the CALAFCO website. The report is updated daily via Capitol Track.





Sponsored bills this year include:

- ◆ **AB 464** (Gallagher) which makes changes addressing the issue of annexations of areas receiving services via an out of area service agreement. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on July 10.
- ◆ **AB 979** (Lackey) (co-sponsored with CSDA) which streamlines the process of seating special districts on LAFCo. The bill passed Assembly and is now on the Senate floor for passage.
- ◆ **AB 1725** (Omnibus) contains several technical, non-substantive changes to CKH. The bill is on the Senate floor awaiting passage.

Other bills of notice include:

- ◆ **AB 1361** (E. Garcia) CALAFCO Oppose – This bill was recently gut and amended. As amended, it allows water districts to provide service to an Indian tribe's lands that are not within the district boundaries without going through the current statutory process of approval by LAFCo. Amendments were taken by the author during the SG&FC hearing July 19 that include LAFCo's ability to apply certain terms and conditions to the application by the water agency and limits the land to be served to lands in trust. However, CALAFCO still has a number of concerns and will continue to work with the author and sponsor.
- ◆ **SB 448 (Wieckowski)** – CALAFCO Support - The bill requires the State Controller to: (1) identify independent special districts separately on their website (from the other thousands of districts); (2) notify LAFCo when a special district becomes inactive (based on the new criteria in statute); and (3) remove the district from the inactive list if it is deemed active or upon dissolution. The bill requires LAFCo to: (1) initiate dissolution within 90 days of notification by the Controller; (2) hold a noticed public hearing for dissolution within 90 days of initiating the process; and (3) determine if the district meets the inactive criteria (and if so then order the dissolution) and if not, notify the Controller. The dissolution process requires only one noticed public hearing and no protest process, special study or MSR. Finally the bill requires a special district to file their audits with the LAFCo at the same time they file with the Controller. CALAFCO has been working extensively with the author and other stakeholders over many months on obtaining a host of amendments.

Little Hoover Commission Update

The LHC held their final roundtable discussion on LAFCos and special districts on June 22. A host of draft recommendations were discussed in detail by the Commission and stakeholders. The next hearing on this

topic, at which they are scheduled to adopt the final recommendations, is set for August 24.



Around the State

San Diego LAFCo

Submitted by Escondido Mayor Sam Abed, Chairman of the San Diego LAFCo

On May 1, 2017, long time San Diego LAFCo Executive Officer Mike Ott announced his retirement, effective August 31, 2017. Some of Mike's good friends and co-workers have also announced their retirement from the San Diego LAFCo. Joining him in retirement this summer will be Chief Local Governmental Analyst Ingrid Hansen, who has been working part-time as a retired worker for the past ten years. She originally started with the San Diego LAFCo in 1981. And Harry Ehrlich, who serves as Legislative Director, also announced that he will be retiring to spend more time with his wife and family. Harry was recently elected to the Borrego Water District and will be able to devote more of his time to this desert water agency in north eastern San Diego County, plus his consulting firm.

Over the past 25 years, Mike was at the helm of the San Diego LAFCo during a time of tremendous change. Among the more difficult projects he oversaw were seven different incorporations – not all of which were successful; one failed special reorganization proposal (La Jolla Secession); one unsuccessful disincorporation attempt (Imperial Beach); and an effort that he discouraged that would have resulted in the formation of a municipal utility district to replace the San Diego Gas and Electric Company. Perhaps, most important were his government streamlining efforts. He was responsible for streamlining government services in a diverse county of over 3.2 million people occupying 4,500 square miles through consolidating 90 special districts. Of particular note is the agency's work with fire agencies. Over one million acres of unincorporated San Diego County are now within a structural fire protection and emergency medical service provider. This has improved life safety for San Diego County residents and millions of tourists that visit the County each year.

The San Diego LAFCo has been honored with sixteen statewide awards for its professional excellence and innovation during the past 25 years that Mike Ott led LAFCo. The agency was recognized by CALAFCO in 1998, 2002 and 2004 as the "Most Effective Commission" in the



State. Mike previously served as the first Deputy Executive Officer of CALAFCO and wrote the groundbreaking 1989 report that resulted in the reorganization of CALAFCO. During his time with the San Diego LAFCo, Mike also completed the first ever LAFCo-initiated district consolidation in California. He served on the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Incorporation Task Force and Municipal Service Review Working Group between 1999 and 2001. Mike, Ingrid, and Harry Ehrlich are all previous recipients of CALAFCO's Outstanding LAFCo Professional award.

In 2018, the San Diego LAFCo will begin a major update to its Spheres of Influence, Municipal Service Reviews, Disadvantaged Community Program, and launching an Unincorporated Island Program. These programs will affect 18 municipalities and 80 special districts. The San Diego LAFCo is accordingly seeking a talented and experienced leader to manage these programs after Mike Ott retires. The Commission will also be recruiting for several new analysts in the upcoming months.

According to Mike, "Having headed the San Diego LAFCo for twenty-five years, I can say unequivocally it is an excellent organization and this is an exceptional career opportunity for an experienced and creative leader interested in helping to shape the future of San Diego County. San Diego LAFCo is fortunate that it will continue to be staffed by brilliant LAFCo attorney, Mike Colantuono and a talented workforce consisting of Robert Barry, Joe Serrano, Tammy Luckett, Ruth Arellano, Erica Blom, and Dieu Ngu, plus an incredible group of experienced consultants."

Los Angeles LAFCo

LA LAFCo is pleased to announce the hiring of Adriana Romo as Deputy Executive Officer, who recently assumed the office. Adriana recently served as Local Government Analyst III with Riverside LAFCo, where she worked since 2002.

Vector Control Services in LA County:

Given the public health challenges associated with preventing the spread of diseases (chikungunya, dengue, encephalitis, West Nile virus, yellow fever, and Zika), LA LAFCo continues its proactive efforts to annex a handful of unincorporated areas and cities into existing vector control districts. The Commission annexed unincorporated La Crescenta-Montrose and the City of La Cañada Flintridge into the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District (GLAVCD) in 2015. Tentatively scheduled for the Commission's July 12th meeting is the proposed annexation of the cities of Baldwin Park and Pasadena into the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. Within the next few months, the GLAVCD intends to file an out-of-agency service extension request to serve the City of

Vernon on an interim basis (ideally leading to a future annexation). With the exception of the City of Long Beach (which has its own robust in-house vector control program), the City of Vernon is the sole remaining city in Los Angeles County not served by a vector control district. In the face of increasing health risks, the proactive collaboration amongst several parties (LA LAFCo, vector control districts, the County of Los Angeles, and the involved cities) are yielding positive results for the benefit of the public.

Sonoma LAFCo

Sonoma LAFCo is pleased to report the receipt of an application from the City of Santa Rosa for annexation of five unincorporated islands, including the community of Roseland in south west Santa Rosa. The Commission will adjudicate the proposal at its August meeting. Assuming approval and eventual ratification of the application, the annexation will resolve a decades-long exclusion of a large community of approximately 6,500 residents from the City.

Solano LAFCo

Solano LAFCo announces the hiring of a new Executive Officer, Richard J. Seithel, who will begin on August 9, 2017. Richard is a resident of Antioch and currently serves as the Chief of Annexations and Economic Stimulus Programs for Contra Costa County. He has served Contra Costa County in the County Administrator's Office for the past nineteen years as a deputy county administrator. Richard will be a permanent full-time employee of the commission. Since 2013, the Solano LAFCo Executive Officer position has been filled by contractors working only part time. The move to a permanent full-time executive officer will ensure greater availability and service to the county, cities, districts and the public.



The CALAFCO Board of Directors and Staff wish all of you a wonderful summer!



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.



CALAFCO is pleased to welcome our newest Silver Associate Member, **Peckham & McKenney**. **Peckham & McKenney, Inc.** provides executive search services to local government agencies throughout the Western United States and is headquartered in Roseville, California. The firm was established as a partnership in 2004 by Bobbi Peckham and Phil McKenney, who serve as the firm's Recruiters and bring over 50 years' combined experience in local government and executive search. To learn more about them, visit them at www.peckhamandmckenney.com, or call them at 866-912-1919.



Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ◆ CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting, August 18, San Diego
- ◆ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting, August 25, conference call

Upcoming CALAFCO Conferences and Workshops

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 25 – 27
Bahia Mission Bay
San Diego, CA
Hosted by CALAFCO

2018 STAFF WORKSHOP

April 11 – 13
Four Points Sheraton
San Rafael, CA
Hosted by Marin LAFCo

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 3-5
Tenaya Lodge
Yosemite, CA
Hosted by CALAFCO