



News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

December 2016

CALAFCO Board and Staff Changes

Results of the recent CALAFCO Board of Directors elections netted no new Board members for 2017. All incumbent Board members won their election, so the Board of Directors membership stays the same.

At the October Board meeting during the Annual Conference, the appointment of **Carolyn Emery** (Orange LAFCo) was made to represent the southern region as the Deputy Executive Officer (DEO). We said farewell to **Paul Novak** who served in this role for the past two years.

CALAFCO Board 2017 Committees

At their December 9 meeting, the CALAFCO Board appointed members to the 2017 standing committees as follows:

Legislative Committee

Bill Connelly (North)
Jim Curatalo (South)
Shiva Frentzen (Central)
William Kirby (At-Large)
John Leopold (Coastal)
Mike McGill (At-Large)

Gay Jones (a) (At-Large)
Michael Kelley (a) (South)
Anita Paque (a) (Central)
Sblend Sblendorio (a) (Coastal)
Josh Susman (a) (North)

Nominations Committee

Cheryl Brothers
Shiva Frentzen
John Leopold (Chair)
Josh Susman

Awards Committee

Mike Kelley
Gerard McCallum
John Marchand
Anita Paque
Ricky Samayoa (Chair)

2017 Annual Conference

Jim Curatalo
Bill Kirby (Chair)
Sblend Sblendorio
Josh Susman

Conferences and Workshops Update

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS



A final Conference report was provided to the Board on December 9. The Conference was held October 26 - 28 in Santa Barbara at the beautiful Fess Parker DoubleTree. Our theme this year was **Orchards to Oceans: Balancing California's Diversity**, and the host was Santa Barbara LAFCo. Approximately 285 commissioners, staff, associate members, guests and speakers attended the Conference. A total of 48 LAFCos were represented.

Participant evaluations rated the overall experience a 5.2 out of 6.0 with an evaluation return rate of 25%. While the books are still being finalized, it appears that financially the Conference was a success. We had a total of \$19,500 in sponsorship revenue, with 16 total sponsors of varying levels. CALAFCO thanks all of our sponsors for your support and participation in this event.

Our program and speaker lineup was diverse, and highlighted by our luncheon keynote speaker Jean-Michel Cousteau.

CALAFCO wishes to thank our host, Santa Barbara LAFCo, for all of their work in planning the mobile workshop, lining up the luncheon keynote speaker, and tending to many of the details. In particular, we thank **Jeff Moorhouse**, **Roger Welt**, **Paul Hood**, **Michael Allen** and **Jacquelyne Alexander**. We also thank Conference Chair **Sblend Sblendorio**, Program Committee Chair **David Church**, everyone who worked to plan the program and all of you who volunteered and helped on site.

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



2017 STAFF WORKSHOP

The 2017 Staff Workshop is set for April 5-7, 2017 at the beautiful Doubletree by Hilton in downtown Fresno. Our host for this workshop will be Fresno LAFCo. The Program Planning Committee will begin their work the first week of January.

CALAFCO Congratulates the 2016 Annual Achievement Award Recipients

CALAFCO wishes to congratulate all of this year's nominees, and especially those who received the 2016 Achievement Award.

- ❖ Outstanding Commissioner – **Don Tatzin** (Contra Costa LAFCo)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFCo Clerk – **Cheryl Carter-Benjamin** (Orange LAFCo)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFCo Professional – **Steve Lucas** (Butte LAFCo)
- ❖ Distinguished Service – **Peter Brundage** (Sacramento LAFCo)
- ❖ Project of the Year – **Countywide Water Study** (Marin LAFCo)
- ❖ Government Leadership – **Southern Region of CALAFCO**
- ❖ Most Effective Commission – **San Luis Obispo LAFCo**
- ❖ Outstanding CALAFCO Member – **John Leopold** (Santa Cruz LAFCo)
- ❖ Lifetime Achievement – **Bob Braitman** (Retired EO) and **Ed Robey** (Lake LAFCo)





CALAFCO Board Actions

The Board met on October 28 and appointed the staff members of the 2017 Legislative Committee and adopted their 2017 meeting calendar.



During the Board's meeting on December 9, they took the following actions:

- ◆ Received and filed the 1st quarter financial reports
- ◆ Received and filed the Annual Conference report
- ◆ Heard a presentation from Erin Gilhuly, President of CV Strategies and agreed to consider a change in scope of work for next year's contract
- ◆ Decided on the priority topics for their January Strategic Planning Workshop
- ◆ Unanimously approved the 2017 legislative priorities.

CALAFCO White Papers and Other Publications

The White Paper on the **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and LAFcos** is being released the last week of December on the website and will be widely distributed the first week of January. The purpose of this paper is to summarize how SGMA will impact LAFcos across the state.

We are currently partnering with the American Farmland Trust (AFT) on a White Paper on **Ag Policies**. Work on this project is underway with an anticipated July completion date.

At the Annual Conference CALAFCO introduced the publications completed in collaboration with the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA). The first is a **Special District Formation Guide**. The Guide is intended as informational only and not written to promote or discourage the formation of a special district. The intent is to inform anyone considering forming a special district of the many factors involved and resources needed. The other publication distributed is the **Countywide RDA Oversight Board Special District Appointments Guide**. The Guide is an informational document on the process of appointing special district representatives to countywide oversight boards, and provides guidance on potential questions related to the process of RDA Oversight Board consolidations and the appointment of special district representatives to those Boards. Both of these Guides are on the CALAFCO website.

CALAFCO Legislative Update

This was a very full legislative year for CALAFCO. A full legislative update was provided to the membership at the Annual Conference in late October.

The new Legislature has convened and is currently in recess until January 4. It is expected to be another full year.

During their December 9 meeting, the CALAFCO Board of Directors deliberated at length about the 2017 legislative priorities. In the end, they unanimously decided to sponsor an Omnibus bill that contains only changes addressing risks and vulnerabilities for LAFcos. Further, the Association's focus in 2017 will be on those things that place our members in a vulnerable position. As a result, we will be working



on things that follow-up recommendations and opportunities identified in our written testimony to the Little Hoover Commission. We will also be working closely with CSDA and the Healthcare Districts Association in addressing issues that were identified in 2016 as a result of legislation.

CALAFCO will sponsor a bill that addresses the ongoing legal concerns of Government Code Section 56653 (previous attempts in 2015 and 2016 were unsuccessful), and co-sponsor a bill with CSDA that simplifies the process of seating special districts on LAFco (this process will remain voluntary).

We continue to be engaged with the Administration and Water Board on drinking water accessibility issues, and expect another bill similar to last year's SB 1318 (Wolk) to be introduced again.

CALAFCO has been asked to engage with OPR and the Strategic Growth Council in the creation of a Guide pertaining to Urban Growth Management.



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, the Santa Ynez CSD.

Santa Ynez Community Services District



Founded in 1971, **the Santa Ynez Community Services District** provides wastewater collection and transportation and street lighting, serving approximately 688 wastewater connections. Effluent collected by the District is treated at the City of Solvang wastewater treatment plant. For more information about the District, visit their website at www.sycsd.com, or contact the General Manager Jeff Hodge at jhodge@sycsd.com.

CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE

City of Rancho Mirage
The **City of Rancho Mirage** has been a Silver Associate Member since July 2010. With a population of just over 18,000, the **City of Rancho Mirage** is located in the County of Riverside. The City offers an abundant amount of sunshine, great climate, and related resort-style living. For more information about the City, contact the City Manager Randy Bynder at randalb@ranchomirageca.gov, or visit the website at www.ci.rancho-mirage.ca.us.

News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

December 2016

Page 3



Lamphier-Gregory

A Silver Associate Member since September 2010, **Lamphier-Gregory** provides on-call planning and environmental consultant services to various LAFCoS including Alameda and Contra Costa on long-term contracts. For more information about **Lamphier-Gregory**, visit their website at www.lamphier-gregory.com or contact Senior Planner Nathaniel Taylor at ntaylor@lamphier-gregory.com.



LAMPHIER · GREGORY

Policy Consulting Associates

A Silver Associate Member since September 2010, **Policy Consulting Associates** prepares interdisciplinary research studies for LAFCoS, COGs, counties, cities, states, elected representatives and candidates, with an emphasis on MSRs and fiscal studies. The **PCA** team's combined experience covers the spectrum of governance configurations and alternatives, and runs the gamut of services under LAFCo jurisdiction. To learn more about **PCA**, contact either Jennifer Stephenson or Oxana Wolfson at info@pccateam.com or visit their website at www.pccateam.com.

QK (formerly known as Quad Knopf)

A Silver Associate Member since September 2010, **QK** provides planning, engineering, biology, environmental and survey services to public and private clients. Their planners have previous experience working for public agencies, including serving as LAFCo Analysts. They specialize in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley regions. For more information on **QK**, visit their website at www.qkinc.com, or contact Steve Brandt at steveb@qkinc.com.



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.

Upcoming CALAFCO Conferences and Workshops

2017 STAFF WORKSHOP
April 5 – 7
DoubleTree by Hilton Fresno Convention Center
Fresno, CA
Hosted by Fresno LAFCo

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

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News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

December 2016

Page 4



CALAFCO on the Road Again... By: Pamela Miller, CALAFCO Executive Director

This past year I've had the pleasure of tooling around the state to visit various LAFcos. As part of the Association's Strategic Plan, one of the objectives is to have the Executive Director connect and visit with six LAFcos each year. The past few years I visited some really cool places, so I thought I would start an annual column on where I visit and the uniqueness of each place. Going forward, this will be an article you can find in the Annual Edition of The Sphere.

We are, undeniably, a diverse state. And it is amazing to me as a native Californian just how much of the state I have yet to see and fully experience. So I really appreciate the opportunity to visit with you, our members, to share what is happening in Sacramento and what CALAFCO is doing. But more importantly, to better understand the issues each of you is dealing with today.

Last October I visited with the Bay Area Executive Officers who were meeting in Napa. Having previously worked in Napa, I was excited to drive through the always beautiful vineyards on my way to the meeting. During my visit I answered questions about the new organizational changes being implemented and learned what was happening in each of the Bay Area LAFcos.



In January of this year I visited Fresno LAFco while doing a site visit for the 2017 Staff Workshop. With a beautiful skyline as a backdrop to a bustling city, I found myself wondering why I had not visited here before. I was surprised (although I am not sure why) to drive through



acres and acres of vineyards and learned that Fresno State has one of the state's leading Viticulture and Enology programs. It was interesting to hear Fresno LAFco staff discuss some of the challenges they were facing as they worked to obtain information from service providers to conduct their MSRs. I appreciated the cooperative nature in which they approached the conversation and the suggestions offered by their Commission. I'm looking forward to returning to Fresno in April 2017 for our Staff Workshop.

At the end of January, I was down in the heart of Los Angeles attending the annual meeting of the Southern Region (now an annual pilgrimage for me). There again I was able to share with commissioners and staff the newly implemented changes the Association had adopted and answered a number of questions the region had about our new models. It was interesting to hear their discussions regarding their own implementation of a shared service model. I also shared the legislative platform CALAFCO adopted for 2016. A short train ride back to airport that same afternoon and I was quickly on my way back home.

It was not until late September that I was able to get back out on the road, and, boy, was this a trip worth waiting for. I spent four days visiting several of our most northern LAFcos, including Del Norte, Humboldt and Shasta. They were very gracious hosts, and I owe a huge shout out to George Williamson and his team for letting me set up camp in their



office, driving me around and even offering themselves as my tour guides.

The drive was scenic and serene with the beautiful Klamath Falls River winding its way alongside the road. A pretty amazing view by itself, but add the Pacific Ocean and some Redwoods in there from time to time and WOW. Visiting Del Norte allowed me to share for the first time with this commission what is happening in Sacramento and with CALAFCO. I also fielded a



number of historical questions about CALAFCO as well as legislative questions. Before departing we visited Battery Point Lighthouse, which first lit up the night sky December 10, 1856.

From there it was a wonderful drive back to Humboldt, which I was told is not complete without an elk sighting. Well sure enough, there were plenty to see, and I thank our driver (who I think prefers to remain nameless) for stopping, making U-turns and pulling by the side of the road (all safely and fully legal - of course), so that this city slicker could get a good eyeful. We came across a number of herds, and the last one was the largest and most impressive.



The next day I tagged along with Humboldt LAFco staff to make a LAFco 101 presentation to the local APA chapter. Once done, I was very politely asked to leave so I could take in some of the sites. I gladly obliged the request and found myself hiking among the redwoods at Arcata Redwood Park. I got lost in the serenity of time and space while there.

That evening, I was treated to a very special welcome reception at the home of Humboldt commissioner Bob McPherson. He and his wife were very gracious hosts, opening up their magnificent home. I learned quite a bit about the history of the area from them and was treated to this sunset ocean view from their kitchen window.



The next morning I attended the Humboldt LAFco meeting, which was very interesting in that they discussed the dissolution of a special district that had gone inactive, as well as a proposed annexation into the City of Fortuna. It was a great opportunity for me to hear residents who lack drinking water share their story, first-hand (a story being told all around the state) and to listen to the Commission do its due diligence in the questions they asked LAFco and City staff.

Upon my departure I stopped off at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. The interesting thing about this marsh is that it integrates



News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

December 2016

Page 5



conventional wastewater treatment with the natural processes of constructed wetlands, thereby turning wastewater into a resource. It was an interesting and beautiful place.

After tooling down the highway to Redding, the next morning I had the pleasure of attending the Shasta LAFCo meeting, at which they were treated to not only a CALAFCO 101 but also a LAFCo 101 session. It was a great opportunity for me to field lots of questions and reconnect with this Commission. No visit to Redding would be complete without stopping to admire the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay. Spanning the Sacramento River, the Sundial Bridge is an environmentally-conscious structure, intentionally constructed without river footings to leave the salmon-spawning habitat undisturbed. While world-renowned and environmentally sensitive, Sundial Bridge also inspires onlookers with its "bird in flight" design, symbolizing overcoming adversity, and serves as a real sundial.



My final stop before heading into Sacramento was in Butte County to visit the offices of Butte LAFCo. It was here I was treated to a peek at the Oroville Dam. It was very interesting to note that, in the first stages of construction, under the direction of Governor Edmund G. Brown on April



24, 1963, a sackful of sand and gravel from each of the 58 counties in the state was used in the first concrete poured at the base of the dam. While the lake was low, it was a beautiful site. Thanks Steve Lucas for the tour!

My last stop of 2016 came the week after the Annual Conference visiting Santa Cruz LAFCo. It was in Scotts Valley to be exact. I learned a few interesting facts about Scotts Valley, thanks to the Keeper of LAFCo Knowledge, Pat McCormick (also the Executive Officer of Santa Cruz LAFCo). The LAFCo meeting was held in Scotts Valley City Hall, a quaint building nestled on a hill with a beautiful view of the surrounding mountains. Just below City Hall sits the Historical Scott House, built in 1853. This area is home to significant archaeological finds and contains one of the longest records of human occupation known in the Western North America. Today this historical landmark is part of a wonderful City Park.



The LAFCo meeting was another interesting one, with a proposed sphere of influence update for Scotts Valley Water District and a robust discussion about MSRs for Fire Districts. Turns out several of the Fire Districts want a more detailed MSR (they got one the first round and did nothing with the recommendations, so this round of MSRs was approached a bit differently), and after a very interesting discussion, the Commission decided to accept the MSRs as presented with the exception of three of the twelve districts, which will be looked at more closely in the future. It was interesting to observe the dialogue that occurred between the district personnel and Commission as they worked towards a common understanding of each other's' perspectives. After all the excitement was over, I made a brief CALAFCO presentation to the Commission and was able to acknowledge Commissioner John Leopold for receiving the

Outstanding CALAFCO Member award and for his time as Chair of the Board.

After over four years of being the Executive Director for this great Association, I grow prouder of who we are and what we do, and of the great things you - our membership - are doing in your respective communities. I look forward to packing up, hitting the road, and visiting more of you very soon!



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

*May 2017 bring all of us
peace and prosperity.*

*CALAFCO
Board of Directors
and Staff*

