

LAFCO MEMORANDUM

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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January 8, 2026

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: CALAFCO U Session LAFCO 101 on February 25, 2026

DISCUSSION

CALAFCO is launching its first CALAFCO-U webinar of 2026: LAFCO 101. This session offers a straightforward, easy-to-understand overview of LAFCO basics. It is specifically designed for newer commissioners and for new or junior staff who need a strong foundation from the start.

LAFCO 101 offers a consistent, statewide overview of why LAFCO exists, its legal foundations, the areas under LAFCO's authority, and how the LAFCO process functions in practice.

Instructors will be:

- Paula de Sousa: Partner at Best Best & Krieger LLP. Paula is a statewide authority in LAFCO law and advises multiple LAFCOs as well as CALAFCO. She is also the principal author of several CALAFCO white papers.
- Joe Serrano: Executive Officer of Santa Cruz LAFCO and Deputy Executive Officer of CALAFCO. Joe brings 17 years of practical LAFCO experience from various counties and offers a relatable teaching style.

This LAFCO 101 session will be followed by LAFCO 201 two months later, which will expand on the basics and explore more practical, real-world scenarios. Together, these sessions will offer a learning path for those new to LAFCO. Registration is now open on the CALAFCO website and will stay available until five days before the session. Participants will receive login details about two days before the webinar.

Attachments

Attachment A - CALAFCO-U LAFCO 101 Flyer Feb 25, 2026

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Join Us!

CALAFCO-U LAFCO 101 Webinar

Wednesday,
February 25, 2026
10:00-11:30 a.m.



Let us help streamline your onboarding process!

CALAFCO is launching its first CALAFCO-U session of 2026 with LAFCO 101, an accessible, practical introduction to LAFCO fundamentals. This webinar is ideal for commissioners starting their terms in January and new staff needing a solid foundation.

What Participants Will Learn

- ✓ Why LAFCO Exists
- ✓ LAFCO's Legal Foundations
- ✓ What Falls Under LAFCO Authority
- ✓ LAFCO's Planning Role
- ✓ The LAFCO Process in Plain Language
- ✓ Practical Tips

Instructors



Paula de Sousa — Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP. Paula is a statewide expert in LAFCO law, legal counsel for several LAFCOs and CALAFCO, and lead author of multiple CALAFCO white papers.



Joe Serrano — Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO & Deputy Executive Officer, CALAFCO. Joe brings 17 years of hands-on LAFCO experience across several counties.

COST

Free to CALAFCO Members*

Non-members: \$125**

Registration

Sign-up through www.calafco.org

Questions?

Contact CALAFCO at info@calafco.org

California Association of
Local Agency Formation Commissions

CALAFCO

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY GROWTH

*CALAFCO Members include staff or commissioners of dues-paying LAFCOs.

**Registration for non-members is limited to California local and state agency representatives.

ATTACHMENT A