

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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October 2nd, 2008 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara CA 93101

Status Report on LAFCO-Relevant Legislation

Dear Members of the Commission

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive this status report.

DISCUSSION

This is a report on the status of LAFCO-relevant legislation.

Enrolled Legislation – The following bills have been signed into law.

- **AB 1263** (Caballero) - This CALAFCO sponsored law implements recommendations by the CALAFCO Legislative Committee to allow LAFCO to process “islands” annexations created by county boundary changes, clarifies that LAFCO fee schedules can have a deposit schedule and charge against deposits and makes non-substantive clarifications to the Government Code based on a survey of member LAFCOs.
- **AB 3047** (Assembly Local Government Committee) – This is the CALAFCO Omnibus Bill submitted annually to make non substantive wording changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, LAFCO’s enabling statute.

We reported at the last meeting that the following bills have become law.

- **AB 1458** (Senate Local Government Committee) – This comprehensive rewrite of the County Service Area (CSA) Law brings it into conformance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

- **AB 1998** (Silva) - This CALAFCO-sponsored bill moves the financial disclosure requirements of committees formed to support or oppose LAFCO-approved boundary proposals from LAFCOs to the Fair Political Practices Committee
- **AB 2484** (Caballero) - The bill specifies procedures for LAFCO review of special district proposals to increase their powers or divest their powers to provide particular functions or classes of services.

Pending Legislation – The following bills have been enacted by the Legislature and are being held before being sent to the Governor for signature.

- **AB 2686** (Nava) - This bill creates the Santa Ynez Valley Water District and dissolves the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1.
- **SB 301** (Romero) - The bill eliminates the sunset on Vehicle License Fee (VLF) subventions for incorporations and inhabited annexations to cities and specifies for VLF revenues that a city's actual population is the population residing in areas annexed after August 5, 2004.
- **SB 375** (Steinberg) - The bill makes an array of changes regarding land use planning aimed, according to the author, at bringing together legislatively for the first time “. . . issues of planning, climate change, transportation, housing, and land use.”

Designed to implement the AB 32 greenhouse gas reduction requirements the bill links the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and CEQA.

It is designed to increase community sustainability, ease development in urban footprints, link transportation and housing, reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emissions, increase the likelihood of affordable housing and increases the quality of life by reducing congestion and commutes.

The bill does basically five things:

1. Directs the Air Resources Board (ARB) to establish gas reduction targets for each region of the state. Metropolitan Planning Agencies will then prepare transportation and development plans that achieve those reductions
2. Amends the Regional Transportation Plan process to require regions to design a development pattern that reduces commutes, including a “Sustainable Communities Strategy” or “Alternative Planning Strategy” to achieve the ARB targets for gas

reductions. Future transportation funding is linked to the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

3. Reduces through the Sustainable Communities Strategy the urban footprint for growth and reduces traffic congestion by reducing vehicle trips traveled. In theory it places the same number of housing units in a smaller footprint.
4. Amends the Regional Housing Needs Assessment to align it with the RTP. They will run on the same 8-year cycle and be tied together. Both the RTP and RHNA must be internally consistent and achieve the housing, gas reduction and energy conservation goals of the state.
5. Amends CEQA to reward transportation projects for jurisdictions and development projects for builders that achieve these goals via limits on CEQA review.

The bill would require the Sustainable Communities Strategies to consider the spheres of influence and boundaries that have been adopted by LAFCOs for the region. The authority for local land use decisions remains with local jurisdictions.

As noted elsewhere on this agenda, CALAFCO is sponsoring a workshop on March 12, 2009 to study SB 375 and its relationship to LAFCOs.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have questions regarding any legislative matters.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer