

News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

February 2015



CALAFCO Board and Staff Meet in Biennial Strategic Planning Retreat

On January 29, 2015, the CALAFCO Board held their biennial strategic planning retreat in Irvine. During the day-long retreat they reviewed Association accomplishments for 2013 and 2014, reaffirmed CALAFCO's mission, and worked extensively in the review of the current strategic plan priority areas. The Board reaffirmed the Association's legislative priorities and reviewed several potential legislative hot spots such as groundwater management and mutual water companies.



The group also spent time exploring what is on the horizon for CALAFCO in terms of increasing value for the membership, including what it may look like to enhance the annual conference experience. The Board appointed a subcommittee to work with the Executive Director to explore various conference models and



report back to the full Board in May with options for consideration. In addition, the Board discussed the election policy trial in which an absentee ballot could be used in the case of a runoff election. This trial period was in effect for the past two years, and neither election afforded the opportunity to test it so the Board decided to end the trial period.

All of the work done during that retreat will be presented back to the Board in the form of a 2-year strategic plan for consideration and adoption at their May 8 meeting.

2015 Staff Workshop Update

After the Gold Rush



Work is in full stride with the planning for the 2015 Staff Workshop. Scheduled for April 15-17 (Wed - Fri), the planning teams are putting the final touches on the program and special events. The workshop will be held in Grass Valley at the Holiday Inn Express and Grass Valley Courtyard Suites. This year

our host is Nevada LAFCo and the theme is *After the Gold Rush...Forging the Future and Preserving the Past*. The program has a solid mix of technical sessions and personal leadership development topics. A great Mobile Workshop is also planned exploring the history of water, power and gold in the Sierra. There is a very special Thursday evening dinner planned at the beautiful historic Miner's Foundry in Nevada City. Registration and sponsorship information is available on the CALAFCO website.

2015 Annual Conference Update

Planning for this year's annual conference is underway. Mark your calendars for September 2 - 4, 2015 and join our host, Sacramento LAFCo. This year's theme is *Confluence...LAFCo, Merging Ideas with Solutions*. The Call for Presentations period has closed and the program planning team will review presentations in March. Look for registration information coming soon. For now, save the dates!



CALAFCO Board Actions

Following their strategic planning retreat, the Board met in a regular Board meeting on January 30. During the meeting the Board addressed several administrative issues including:

- ◆ The quarterly financial reports were reviewed. The budget is on track for the year with no changes anticipated. Contingency fund usage is aligned with previous Board approval. All financial reports are located on the website.
- ◆ The Board considered the 2015-16 dues. CALAFCO Bylaws call for the dues to automatically increase annually by the state CPI, unless the Board takes action otherwise. As costs to provide member services continue to increase and member dues still do not cover the operational budget, the Board did not take action. As a result, the dues for FY 2015-16 will increase by the CPI, which is 2.0%.
- ◆ The Board received an extensive legislative update including a full presentation from the Disincorporations and JPA working groups. After hearing from Kathy Rollings-McDonald (San Bernardino LAFCo) on the work being done on cleaning up the Disincorporations statutes, the Board followed the Legislative Committee's recommendation of sponsoring legislation in 2015. The Board directed CALAFCO staff to secure an author for the 2015 legislative year and begin stakeholder outreach. Furthermore the Board approved the technical support of Kathy Rollings-McDonald and authorized travel expenses not to exceed \$1000 for that support.
- ◆ The Board also heard from Keene Simonds (Marin LAFCo) who leads the JPA working group. After considering the Legislative Committee's recommendation to move forward with this legislation, the Board amended the proposed language to narrow the focus to only those JPAs whose membership consists of a public agency.



With this amendment, the Board approved the recommendation to Sponsor this legislation and directed CALAFCO staff to secure an author for either the 2015 (preferably) or 2016 year and begin stakeholder outreach. The legislation is proposed to amend GC §6503.6 and add §6503.8 to have those JPAs that include a public agency file their agreements with LAFCo.

- ◆ The Board also received an update that the working group focusing on amending the Protest Provisions was in the process of seeking their second round of feedback from Executive Officers and LAFCo Legal Counsel and that the full proposal will be brought to the Board in May for consideration.

CALAFCO Legislative Update

The CALAFCO Legislative Committee began meeting regularly in November 2014 for the 2015 legislative year. In addition to the Board prescribed priorities noted above, the Committee is working on CALAFCO's annual Omnibus bill. This year there is an unprecedented number of legislators with two years or less of state-level experience (it is estimated that 72 of the 120 fall into this category) due to term limits. A new Speaker of the House and Senate President pro Tem translated into a bevy of committee assignment shake-ups. The two committees that CALAFCO works closest with both have new Chairs and Vice Chairs as follows: Assembly Local Government Committee (ALGC) Chair is Brian Maienschein (R) and Vice Chair is Lorena Gonzalez (D), and the Senate Governance & Finance (SG&FC) Committee Chair is Robert Hertzberg (D) and Vice Chair is Janet Nguyen (R) – all four of whom represent the southern part of the state.



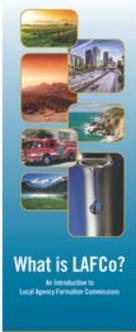
The last day to introduce bills was February 27. To date, 2,411 bills have been introduced. CALAFCO's Executive Director (Pamela Miller) and Board Chair (John Leopold) spent two days in late January meeting with various legislators and/or their key staff including Senators Nguyen, Monning, Pavley, and Bates, and Assemblymembers Maienschein, Baker, Dodd, and Gonzalez. Since that time, CALAFCO's Executive Director has continued to meet with various legislators on both the ALGC and SG&FC.

CALAFCO is tracking a number of bills and to date has taken a position on one bill. A summary of the primary bills being tracked follows. A full detailed legislative tracking report can be found on the CALAFCO website in the Members Only section.

CALAFCO Top Tracked Bills:

- ◆ **AB 402** (Dodd) Service Extensions. (*CALAFCO Watch*) As written, this bill makes changes to GC §56133 relating to expanding LAFCo's existing authority to approve new and extended services beyond agencies' spheres of influence inclusive of public health and safety threats, only if LAFCo can make certain findings. CALAFCO previously considered (over an extensive period of time) amending GC §56133, and twice (in 2012 and again in 2014) the CALAFCO Board of Directors ultimately decided not to pursue those amendments. This is not a CALAFCO sponsored bill. Assembly member Dodd is a former Napa LAFCo Commissioner. The Leg Committee will consider a position at the March 20 meeting.
- ◆ **AB 448** (Brown) VLF. (*CALAFCO Watch*) This bill is identical to AB 1521 (Fox) from 2014 which passed the legislature unanimously but was vetoed by the Governor. The Leg Committee will consider a position at the March 20 meeting.
- ◆ **AB 851** (Mayes) Disincorporations. (*CALAFCO Sponsor*) This bill cleans up various provisions that have to do with the disincorporation process.
- ◆ **SB 25** (Roth) VLF. (*CALAFCO Support*) This bill is identical to SB 69 (Roth, 2014) that was passed unanimously by the legislature and vetoed by the Governor.
- ◆ **SB 239** (Hertzberg) Service Extensions. (*CALAFCO Watch*) This was introduced as a spot bill relating to GC §56133. Not much is known about the author's intent for this bill. However, we do know that the sponsor is the California Professional Firefighter's Association. CALAFCO is watching the bill very closely and waiting to hear from the author's office. The Leg Committee will consider a position at the March 20 meeting should the bill be amended by then.
- ◆ **AB 3** (Williams) Isla Vista CSD. (*CALAFCO Watch*) As introduced, this bill gives legislative authority for the creation of the Isla Vista CSD. This authority would completely bypass the LAFCo process in the creation of this special district. CALAFCO sent a letter of concern to the author in December.
- ◆ **SB 272** (Hertzberg) Public Records Act, local agencies inventory. (*CALAFCO Watch*) As written, this bill requires all local agencies (including LAFCo) to conduct an inventory of all data gathered by the agency that includes (1) what the data is; (2) who collects it; and (3) the frequency with which it is collected. This bill is an unfunded mandate on public agencies. The Leg Committee will consider a position at the March 20 meeting.





Updated "What is LAFCo?" Brochure Now Available

The new and improved "What is LAFCo?" brochure is now here and ready for ordering! This is a handy tool to help your community understand the role, responsibilities and history of LAFCo. Visit the CALAFCO website to download the order form and get your copies today!



CALAFCO U Update

Staff will be announcing the two 2015 CALAFCO U sessions very soon. Watch the website and your email for details!

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.



BEST BEST & KRIEGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Best Best & Krieger

In meeting the needs of public and private sector clients, **BB&K** offers unique experience in handling complex, multi-disciplinary issues and providing solutions of common interest to leaders of both business and government, including LAFCo law. **BB&K** has been a Gold Associate member since the dawn of time, and Clark Alsop of **BB&K** has been CALAFCO's legal counsel since 1982. Learn more about **BB&K** and their services at www.bbklaw.com.

Economic & Planning Systems

EPS is an urban economics consulting firm specializing in governance analysis; LAFCo special studies and service reviews; tax sharing; annexation; incorporation, and reorganization feasibility; fiscal analysis; public finance; demographic and regional forecasting. **EPS** has been a Gold Associate member since June 2005. Learn more about **EPS** and their services at www.epsys.com.



Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

Michael **Colantuono** served on the Commission on Local Governance in the 21st Century and helped rewrite the CKH Act. He is General Counsel to Calaveras and Yuba LAFCos and conflict counsel for Nevada, Orange, San Diego and Yolo LAFCos. Holly **Whatley** was lead litigator in a challenge to San Diego LAFCo's denial of an annexation for Home Depot and Michael and Holly are defending San Luis Obispo LAFCo in a developer's challenge to the denial of an annexation to the City of Pismo Beach. David Ruderman serves as Assistant General Counsel to the Calaveras and Yuba LAFCos and is also working on the San Luis Obispo case. Michael was counsel to the Hacienda Heights incorporation effort in Los Angeles County in 2006. Michael **Colantuono** has been a Gold Associate member since July 2008. Learn more about **Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC** at www.chwlaw.us.

Colantuono
Highsmith &
Whatley, PC

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.

Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting - March 20, 2015 in Ontario
- ❖ CALAFCO Staff Workshop - April 15 - 17, 2015 in Grass Valley
- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting - May 1, 2015 in Sacramento
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting - May 8, 2015 in Sacramento
- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee meeting - June 26, 2015 via conference call

The full CALAFCO 2015 Calendar of Events can be found on the CALAFCO website.

