

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Terms of Office of Public Members and Alternate Public Members

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission consider amending the Commissioner Handbook to provide for the regular rotation of public members.

DISCUSSION

The Public Member position on LAFCO is one of the few opportunities in local government for individuals to serve equally with County Supervisors, City Councilmembers and Special District Directors without being an elected official.

During consideration of the appointment of the current public member, attention was given to the idea of a procedure to “rotate” the public member position among interested, qualified members of the community.

One concept that was discussed would elevate the alternate public member to be the regular public member after serving four years as the alternate. At that time the Commission would recruit for and appoint a new alternate public member.

If the City, County and Special District members wish to establish such a procedure regarding the regular rotation and appointment of public members, a change should be made in the “LAFCO Membership” section of the Commissioner Handbook. Attached is a suggested change; proposed new wording is underlined; deleted language is ~~crossed through~~:

This change is facilitated by Assembly Bill 1744 (Chapter 244) that states “Notwithstanding any other law, the current term of office of the alternate public member of the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission is hereby extended to March 1, 2009.”

This legislative change is important. For reasons known only to history the terms of office for the public and alternate public members did not coincide. They were one year off from the other, making it more difficult to elevate the alternate member to the regular member position. Now the terms of office are for the same four-year period.

Should the Commission adopt this change in the Commissioner Handbook, the staff requests the City, County and Special District members to indicate when the change should take effect.

One option is to implement the change at the conclusion of the current public member term of office on March 1, 2009. However, since Commissioner Mariscal was appointed on June 7, 2007 to complete the unexpired term of Commissioner Bernie Stableford his service as public member would be for only two years.

A second option is to implement the change at the end of a four-year term of office, assuming that the Commission appoints him to a full term of office and he accepts the appointment.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions about this matter.

Very truly yours,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer