

# L A F C O M E M O R A N D U M

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**SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101 ♦ (805) 568-3391 ♦ Fax (805) 568-2249

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December 8, 2016

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Paul Hood **PLH**  
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Consider Report on 2016 CALAFCO Annual Conference in Santa Barbara,  
October 26-28, 2016

*This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary*

## DISCUSSION

The 2016 CALAFCO Annual Conference was held at the Fess Parker Doubletree Hotel on October 26-28, 2016. A copy of the Final Program is attached as **Exhibit A**. The CALAFCO 2016 Conference Evaluation is also attached as **Exhibit B**. Staff will review the Conference program sessions at the meeting.

The Conference theme: “**Orchards to Oceans: Balancing California’s Diversity**” set the stage for the three-day event. The Conference was a great success and many accolades were received from attendees.

Highlights of the Conference included the following:

Mobile Workshop and Special Events: The Mobile Workshop featured a tour of the Ever-Bloom Flower facility in Carpinteria. Many thanks to Eduard Van Wingerden, the owner, and Commissioner Jeff Moorhouse, for organizing the tour. This was followed by a guided tour of the Bradbury Dam. County Water Agency Manager Fray Crease and a representative of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation briefed the participants on the effects of the drought and the area’s plans for future water supply. There were over 90 conference participants on two-buses, making it the largest ever CALAFCO Mobile Workshop.

Conference Opening and Welcome: The conference welcome and opening was preceded by a Colour Guard from the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy and the Santa Barbara Sheriff Pipe and Drum Corps.

A number of CALAFCO dignitaries opened the conference, including John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCO Board of Directors, Sblend Sblendorio, Chair, CALAFCO Conference Committee, and Pamela Miller, CALAFCO Executive Director. Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider graciously welcomed us to Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara LAFCO Public Member, and past CALAFCO Board Member, Roger Welt, welcomed the group on behalf of Santa Barbara LAFCO.

Wednesday Evening Event: The event featured the traditional Beer and Wine Competition. Many LAFCOs from around the state provided samples for judging. The most prominent entries to date include Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Napa, Sacramento, Sonoma, and Mendocino, and other counties. Unfortunately, Santa Barbara LAFCO's offering only ranked third in the white wine competition.

Thursday Luncheon Keynote Speaker: The Commission sponsored the Thursday, October 27, 2016 Keynote Address by Jean-Michel Cousteau, by making a donation to his non-profit "Ocean Futures Society." This was truly a conference highlight for those who attended.

Thursday Evening Awards Banquet: The Awards Banquet was a great success with many LAFCO Commissions, Commissioners, and Staff receiving well-deserved awards to exemplary service and accomplishments.

Special Thanks: Although CALAFCO, Santa Barbara LAFCO, the Conference Program Planning Committee, and the Host Committee, are to be congratulated their efforts in making the conference a success, many thanks also go to Jacquelyne Alexander and Michael Allen for their efforts in participating in "behind the scenes" activities. The success of the conference is due in large measure to their outstanding work.

Exhibits:

Exhibit A      Conference Program  
Exhibit B      CALAFCO 2016 Conference Evaluation

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.



# Orchards to Oceans

Balancing California's Diversity

CALAFCO 2016 Conference



*The 2016*

# CALAFCO

## Annual Conference

**October 26-28, 2016**

at the Fess Parker DoubleTree

Santa Barbara, CA

*Hosted by Santa Barbara LAFCo*



**WWW.CALAFCO.ORG**



**EXHIBIT A**

# Welcome

## From the Chair of the Board

On behalf of the CALAFCo Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our Annual Conference in Santa Barbara. You are showing great leadership to work with others around the state to develop solutions for challenges that are unique to the state of California. I encourage you to take advantage of the various educational and networking opportunities that are planned over the next several days. We've come from around the state to discuss statewide and local issues critical to LAFCo, learn from speakers and consultants who are experts in their fields, and share ideas with one another.



I hope you enjoy the Conference!

**John Leopold** Commissioner, Santa Cruz LAFCo  
Chair, CALAFCo Board of Directors

## From the Conference Chair

Welcome to the 2016 CALAFCo Annual Conference! The bounty of Santa Barbara's orchards and the vistas of its ocean provide our backdrop to explore California's diversity and tackle the challenges facing us. The CALAFCo Conference Committee thanks you for your participation.



We hope that you leave Santa Barbara with new friendships, stronger bonds and beneficial ideas.

**Sblend Sblendorio**, Commissioner, Alameda LAFCo  
Member, CALAFCo Board of Directors

## From our Host LAFCo – Santa Barbara

As your host, Santa Barbara LAFCo, we are honored and delighted to welcome to the 2016 CALAFCo Annual Conference. This Conference offers a unique opportunity for LAFCos around the State to meet and discuss our roles and responsibilities as LAFCo Commissioners and Staff. This year's theme, "Oceans to Orchards; Balancing California's Diversity," is very appropriate as we continue to deal with challenges related to water and a changing environment. We are confident that you will leave the Conference with a greater knowledge of how to balance and deal with the issues facing California's diversity.



Thank you for attending the 2016 CALAFCo Conference.

## Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort Floor Plan



## 2016 Conference Schedule At-a-Glance

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 7:30 am** Mobile Workshop
- 10:00 am** LAFCo 101: Understanding and Applying the Basics
- 1:30 pm** Conference Opening: Welcoming Remarks
- 2:00 pm** General Session: The Big Picture: A Water Report From A State, Regional and Local Perspective
- 3:30 pm** Refreshment Break with Sponsors
- 3:45 pm** General Session: Back to Our Roots: Curbing Sprawl and Preserving Open Space and Agricultural Lands To Ensure Orderly Growth And Development
- 5:30 pm** Welcome Reception

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 7:00 am** Continental Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 am** Regional Caucus Meetings & Elections
- 9:00 am** CALAFCo Annual Business Meeting
- 10:15 am** Refreshment Break with Sponsors
- 10:30 am** Breakout Session – Regional, Legal and Associate Member Roundtables
- 12:00 pm** Luncheon and Keynote Speaker
- 1:45 pm** Breakout Session: Cutting Edge Trends And LAFCo: GIS, Public Policy, and Future Challenges
- 1:45 pm** Breakout Session: Is It Time to Revisit AB 8? –What It Takes to Realign Property Tax Revenues and Services.
- 1:45 pm** Breakout Session: City Incorporations In California: Case Studies And Prospects For New Cities
- 3:15 pm** Refreshment Break with Sponsors
- 3:30 pm** Breakout Session: Growth and Development By The Numbers: California's Demographic And Governance Changes Post-CKH
- 3:30 pm** Breakout Session: CEQA – What is a Responsible Agency To Do?
- 3:30 pm** Breakout Session: Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) and SB 244: How Is It Working Out?
- 6:00 pm** Banquet Reception
- 6:30 pm** Dinner and Achievement Awards Ceremony

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:30 am** Breakfast Buffet
- 7:30 am** CALAFCo Board of Directors Meeting
- 9:00 am** General Session: LAFCo And State Legislative Overrides – What's That All About Anyway?
- 10:30 am** Refreshment Break
- 10:45 am** General Session: CALAFCo Legislative Update – 2016 Legislative Impacts On LAFCos

# 2016 Conference Schedule

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

**Bus Boards at 7:15 am and departs promptly at 7:30 am**

**7:30 am – 12:30 pm**

### Mobile Workshop

#### *Gather near CALAFCO Registration*

Come along on the Mobile Workshop as we tour a greenhouse filled with flowers grown with cutting-edge technology, including robotics, in Carpinteria. The tour then winds up into the Los Padres National Forest offering breathtaking views of the Santa Barbara coastline before arriving at Lake Cachuma, a primary County water source now at 14% capacity, to learn how local water agencies are coping with extended drought. The workshop concludes with lunch at Lake Cachuma County Park before returning to the hotel.

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

### LAFCO 101: Understanding and Applying the Basics

#### *Sierra Madre*

**Approved  
for 2.0  
AICP CM  
Credits**

This informative presentation is intended to assist elected officials and staff members of counties, cities, and special districts who may be new to the LAFCo process. Panelists will discuss the basics: the LAFCo review process; required Spheres of Influence and Municipal Service Reviews; and requirements for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities. They will also review Legal Counsel and Commissioner perspectives on what makes an effective Commission.

**Speakers:** John Leopold, Commissioner, Santa Cruz LAFCo  
Patrick McCormick, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCo  
Nancy Miller, Attorney, Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai

**Moderator:** Kate McKenna, Executive Officer, Monterey LAFCo

**1:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

### Conference Opening: Welcoming Remarks

#### *Santa Ynez/San Rafael*

John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCO Board  
Sblend Sblendorio, Director, CALAFCO Board; Chair, CALAFCO Conference Committee  
Dr. Roger Welt, Commissioner, Santa Barbara LAFCo  
Helene Schneider, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara  
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

### The Big Picture: A Water Report From a State, Regional and Local Perspective

#### *GENERAL SESSION – Santa Ynez/San Rafael*

**Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits**

This session explores the status of California's water resources from a variety of viewpoints, including implementation of the new groundwater management law known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the continuing drought, infrastructure challenges, legal challenges, climate change, impacts from population changes, conservation efforts, and more. We will explore where we are today and what the future holds. A panel of experts will explore where California is with water and where LAFCos fit into the discussion.

**Speakers:** Michael Colantuono, Attorney, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley PC  
Mark Cowin, Director, CA Dep. of Water Resources  
Kelley Dyer, Water Supply Manager, City of Santa Barbara  
Ron Greenwood, Director, Carmichael Water District; Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo

**Moderator:** Gay Jones, Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo

# 2016 Conference Schedule

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 *(Continued)*

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

**Refreshment Break with Sponsors:** *Grand Foyer*

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

**Back To Our Roots: Curbing Sprawl and Preserving Open Space and Agricultural Lands to Ensure Orderly Growth and Development**

### **GENERAL SESSION – Santa Ynez/San Rafael**

**Approved  
for 1.25  
AICP CM  
Credits**

By 2050, California's population will reach 50 million. In the age of climate change, the question is how best to accommodate this growth in a sustainable manner while preserving our precious farmlands and open space and enhancing our quality of life. As agencies charged with curbing urban sprawl, preserving open space and agricultural lands, and promoting the efficient delivery of services, LAFCo's can play a major role in addressing this question. Learn about urban planning and agricultural preservation trends/practices and the analysis and consideration used by one LAFCo to evaluate a controversial city expansion proposal.

**Speakers:** Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCo  
Serena Unger, Sr. Planner/Policy Assoc., American Farmland Trust  
Susan Vicklund Wilson, Commissioner, Santa Clara LAFCo  
Randall Winston, Executive Director, CA Strategic Growth Council

**Moderator:** Sblend Sblendorio, Alameda LAFCo

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Welcome Reception:** *Reagan Room*

**CALAFCO 10th Annual Beer & Wine Competition**

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:00 am – 9:00 am

**Continental Breakfast Buffet:** *Reagan Room*

8:00 am – 8:45 am

**Regional Caucus Meetings & Elections**

**Northern Region** – San Miguel  
**Coastal Region** - Sierra Madre North

**Southern Region** – Santa Cruz  
**Central Region** – Santa Rosa

9:00 am – 10:15 am

**CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting**

### **Santa Ynez/San Rafael**

John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCO Board  
Jim Curatalo, Vice-Chair, CALAFCO Board  
Gay Jones, Secretary, CALAFCO Board  
Josh Susman, Treasurer, CALAFCO Board  
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO  
Steve Lucas, Executive Officer, CALAFCO

10:15 am – 10:30 am

**Refreshment Break with Sponsors:** *Grand Foyer*

10:30 am – 11:45 am

**Regional, Legal and Associate Member Roundtables**

### **BREAKOUT SESSION**

**Northern Region** – San Miguel  
**Coastal Region** - Sierra Madre North  
**Legal Counsel** – Vineyard

**Southern Region** – Santa Cruz  
**Central Region** – Santa Rosa  
**Associates** – Lounge

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

**Luncheon and Keynote Speaker:** *San Miguel/Santa Rosa*



Jean-Michel Cousteau, Explorer, Environmentalist, Educator and Film Producer

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

## Cutting Edge Trends And LAFCo: GIS, Public Policy, and Future Challenges

### BREAKOUT SESSION – *San Miguel/Santa Rosa*

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

New Laws. New Tools. New Beginnings. From the latest features in mapping software to recently-adopted Commission policies, this session will showcase how the hottest trends in local government are assisting with the ever-growing role of LAFCo. Join us as we explore the current and future challenges affecting LAFCos and learn how you can utilize in-house tools already implemented around the State.

**Speakers:** Samuel Martinez, Asst. Executive Officer, San Bernardino LAFCo  
Mike Ott, Executive Officer, San Diego LAFCo  
Andy Vanderlaan, Commissioner, San Diego LAFCo

**Moderator:** Joe Serrano, Analyst, San Diego LAFCo

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

## Is It Time to Revisit AB 8? What It Takes to Realign Property Tax Revenues and Services

### BREAKOUT SESSION – *Sierra Madre North/South*

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

Passed in the early 1980s as a means to implement Proposition 13, AB 8 sets the basic parameters for both the allocation of the property dollar and the means by which that formula may be changed. Thirty years after AB 8, California has a local government funding problem. The discussion will focus on whether it makes public policy sense to re-visit who gets a portion of property taxes and/or the means by which the formula is set.

**Speakers:** Carolyn Chu, Sr. Fiscal and Policy Analyst for the Legislative Analyst's Office  
Michael Latner, Assoc. Professor of Political Science/Director Masters in Public Policy

**Moderator:** Allen Settle, Commissioner, San Luis Obispo LAFCo

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

## City Incorporations In California: Case Studies and Prospects For New Cities

### BREAKOUT SESSION – *Reagan Room*

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

Recent changes to state law impacted the prospects for city incorporations. Four experts describe the city incorporation process and provide details of two unsuccessful proposals (Olympic Valley in Placer County and East Los Angeles in Los Angeles County) and one successful proposal (City of Jurupa Valley in Riverside County).

**Speakers:** Kris Berry, AICP, Executive Officer, Placer LAFCo  
Jim Simon, Principal/President, Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc.  
Gary Thompson, City Manager, City of Jurupa Valley

**Moderator:** Paul Novak, AICP, Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCo

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

**Refreshment Break with Sponsors:** *Grand Foyer*

# 2016 Conference Schedule

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27 *(Continued)*

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

### Growth and Development By The Numbers: California's Demographic and Governance Changes Post-CKH

#### BREAKOUT SESSION – Reagan Room

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

For those who like the quantitative side of LAFCo, this session tracks and discusses key demographic and governance changes underlying growth and development in California since the enactment of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. We will explore changes in population, household, and economic indicators across the state and within regions as well as corresponding trends in LAFCo activities such as agency formations, boundary changes, and outside service extensions.

**Speakers:** Julie Allen, Commissioner, Tulare LAFCo  
Dr. David Lopez Carr, Professor of Geography, UCSB

**Moderator:** Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, Marin LAFCo

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

### CEQA – What is a Responsible Agency To Do?

#### BREAKOUT SESSION – San Miguel/Santa Rosa

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

LAFCos, which typically serve as responsible agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), have few options when it comes to dealing with inadequate environmental documents prepared by lead agencies. Can we refuse to accept the document? Doubtful. Can we challenge the document in court? Maybe. Can we prepare our own CEQA document? Perhaps. Can we deny the proposal? Yes. Join us to hear about how three LAFCos used different approaches to address the inadequacy of CEQA documents prepared by lead agencies.

**Speakers:** Scott Browne, Attorney, P. Scott Browne, Esq.  
Malathy Subramanian, Attorney, Best Best & Krieger  
Michael Walker, Chief Asst. County Counsel, Ventura County

**Moderator:** Susan Vicklund Wilson, Commissioner, Santa Clara LAFCo

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

### Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) and SB 244: How Is It Working Out?

#### BREAKOUT SESSION – Sierra Madre North/South

Approved  
for 1.5  
AICP CM  
Credits

LAFCo staff will provide a recap of some of the Central Valley LAFCos' programmatic efforts to identify and evaluate Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs), including "lessons learned" following the 2012 implementation of SB 244. We will hear about Census data regarding American Community Survey 1-year estimates and 5-year average estimates and their applicability for identification/mapping of DUCs within different population levels; and, we will discuss the (failed) SB 1318 effort to require inclusion of DUCs in Special District annexations and what to expect for the concept's anticipated return next legislative session.

**Speakers:** David Fey, Executive Officer, Fresno LAFCo  
Steve Lucas, Executive Officer, Butte LAFCo  
Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer, Merced and San Benito LAFCos

**Moderator:** Robert Barry, AICP, Chief Analyst, San Diego LAFCo

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm

### Banquet Reception: Santa Ynez/San Rafael

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### Dinner and Achievement Awards Ceremony: Santa Ynez/San Rafael



# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

7:30 am – 9:00 am

**Breakfast Buffet:** *Reagan Room*

7:30 am – 8:45 am

**CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting:** *San Miguel/Santa Rosa*

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**LAFCo And State Legislative Overrides – What’s That All About Anyway?**

## **GENERAL SESSION – Santa Ynez/San Rafael**

**Approved  
for 1.25  
AICP CM  
Credits and  
1.5 LAW  
Credits**

This informative and highly interactive session will focus on recent trends of legislation impeding LAFCo authority. We will hear from a very diverse and experienced panel on potential reasons for the trends and how these “one-off” bills are chipping away at the foundation of CKH. We will also learn about the perception of LAFCos and CALAFCO in Sacramento from Capitol insiders and how that may be improved. Small group discussions will allow your feedback on what is and can be done locally by your LAFCo and what can be done by CALAFCO in Sacramento to strengthen our legislative position for the future.

**Speakers:** Harry Ehrlich, Director, Legislative Research, San Diego LAFCo  
Anton Favorini-Csorba, Consultant, Senate Governance & Finance Committee  
Paula de Sousa Mills, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

**Moderator:** Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO

10:30 am – 10:45 am

**Refreshment Break:** *Grand Foyer*

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

**CALAFCO Legislative Update – 2016 Legislative Impacts On LAFCos**

## **GENERAL SESSION – Santa Ynez/San Rafael**

**Approved  
for 1.25  
AICP CM  
Credits**

It has been a robust and interesting legislative year! Join us as we recap the 2016 legislative impacts on LAFCos. We will hear from members of the CALAFCO Legislative Committee as well as a Consultant for the Senate Governance and Finance Committee. We will also provide a sneak peek at future legislative issues facing LAFCo and potential legislation on which CALAFCO is focusing for 2017.

**Speakers:** Anton Favorini-Csorba, Consultant, Senate Governance & Finance Committee  
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO  
Paul Novak, AICP, Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCo  
Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, Marin LAFCo





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**Pamela Miller**, *Executive Director*  
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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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EXHIBIT A

# COMMUNICATE LIKE YOU MEAN IT.



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Leveraging  
Messages that  
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## Erin Gilhuly President & Founder

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**NEXT CONFERENCE IS  
OCTOBER 25 - 27, 2017**

**IN SAN DIEGO AT THE BAHIA MISSION BAY**

**WWW.CALAFCO.ORG**

**EXHIBIT A**

# CALAFCO 2016 Conference EVALUATION

## Results



**Thank you for attending the 2016 CALAFCO Conference.** The planning committee, staff, and the Board appreciate your feedback on this conference. It will help us continue to improve!

Please check the appropriate box to describe yourself:

**28** - Commissioner   **32** - LAFCo Staff   **0** - Assoc. Member/Sponsor   **0** - Other Agency staff   **0** - Guest   **5** - Not Specified

Please use a scale of 1-6, with **6 = Outstanding** and **1 = Poor**, to respond to the following:

- |                             |     |                              |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Meeting Facilities       | 5.3 | 4. Preconference Information | 5.2 |
| 2. Location (Santa Barbara) | 5.5 | 5. Networking Opportunities  | 5.5 |
| 3. Food Quality             | 4.7 | 6. Conference Materials      | 4.9 |

Please tell us about the speakers and content of the sessions you attended, using the same 1-6 scale.

	SPEAKERS	CONTENT
7. <i>Pre Session:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mobile Workshop</i>	5.2	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>LAFCo 101 (if attended)</i>	5.1	4.8
8. <i>General Session: The Big Picture: A Water Report (Wed.)</i>	4.8	4.7
9. <i>General Session: Back to our Roots (Wed.)</i>	4.8	4.7
10. <i>Opening Network Reception (Wed.)</i>	5.4	5.5
11. <i>CALAFCO Regional Caucuses and Annual Meeting (Thur.)</i>	5.2	5.1
12. <i>Regional Roundtable Discussion (Thur.) (Please indicate which roundtable)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern	6.0	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Southern	5.4	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Central	5.0	4.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal	5.5	5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Counsel	5.5	5.5
13. <i>Luncheon &amp; Speaker: Jean-Michel Cousteau (Thur.)</i>	5.6	5.4
14. <i>Concurrent Session</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cutting Edge Trends &amp; LAFCo</i>	4.1	3.9
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Is it Time to Revisit AB 8?</i>	5.3	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>City Incorporations</i>	5.3	5.1
15. <i>Concurrent Session</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Growth &amp; Development by the Numbers</i>	5.1	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> CEQA	5.7	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> DUCS & SB 244	5.2	5.1
16. <i>Pre-dinner Reception and Achievement Awards Banquet (Thur.)</i>	4.9	4.9
17. <i>General Session: LAFCo &amp; State Legislative Overrides (Fri.)</i>	5.4	5.3
18. <i>General Session: Legislative Update (Fri.)</i>	5.6	5.6

Overall Rating of the Conference: (1-6) 5.2 Was this time well-spent for you? **56** - YES   **2** - NO

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## Two things that worked really well:

**Commissioners:** CEQA session was very good; case studies that were presented at sessions are very informative; mobile workshop; food/dinner, lunch & snacks, more health w/salads & fresh fruit; easy to find time & location; everything on time; mobile workshop; roundtable; networking; wine/beer reception; great sessions overall; great location; stayed on time; all-inclusive location; I love the mobile workshop; case studies of other LAFcos – so helpful; the regional set up really works well; nearness of hotel restaurants; location/hotel; organization/well-paced daily schedule; speaker selection was great; good location, though unable to fly to Santa Barbara; opening general session; Jean Michel Cousteau; dinner was just right, time wise; welcome reception was great; organization; CEQA discussion/panel was great; location, set-up & organization; subjects; quality of speakers; the gang & the site; networking & location; content; location; mobile workshop.

**LAFCo Staff:** sessions were on time; good balance of content; my commissioners found it very welcoming; interactive sessions; feedback to CALAFco during Leg Override session; opportunity for networking – receptions & dinner; concurrent session topics, had to choose; provided topics entire state can relate to; hotel great; fantastic keynote speaker; Leg Override session generated great ideas, thought provoking; great speakers; good overall coverage of relevant topics; registration well organized; meeting room locations (easy to find); diversity and quality of breakout sessions; excellent general & breakouts; adequate time to network; good hotel/food; good social/networking events – Wednesday reception & Thursday dinner; sessions were ok; CEQA session; Cousteau lunch; loved interactive session on legislation; appreciated “non-LAFCo” lunch speaker, a nice break; Pamela Miller & Jeni Tickler – these ladies rock; first time badge; CEQA session; regional roundtable; Jean-Michel Cousteau; keynote speaker; Everbloom tour; facilities/food; location/hotel; location/hotel; facilities/food.

**Not Specified:** mobile workshop; welcome luncheon; the topics for the breakouts and general sessions; tables for breakouts and general sessions; CEQA session – keep doing this; the meals & hotel staff were wonderful, also Carolyn Chu.

## Two things you'd like to see changed:

**Commissioners:** Wed: what...no WiFi in the meeting room, its 2016; no more discussions on water/drought; have work sessions on Wednesday less general sessions; networking; better WiFi; small item: please sort the conference roster by County LAFcos instead of alpha order by individual participant; perhaps consider having printed version of PPT available to members for sessions that are full of data/details; big problem reading detailed PPTs; egress/ingress; no changes – good job; better food, especially during breaks; more take home materials; just the food – very disappointing, however, the serving staff in the evening was very good & friendly; small window for healthy snacks (fruits & nuts); physical activity; hotel; disappointed in Cutting Edge session, should have had outside speakers not so many LAFCo speakers; air conditioning too cold – I was miserable in every session; WiFi in the conference; paper handouts/PPTs available online in advance; air condition lowered; not more than 3 people on a panel; perhaps presenters could have copies of PPTs for handouts; nothing really, formula works well.



**LAFCo Staff:** hotel layout too spread out; PPTs/handouts available prior to sessions, either at session or online before; no roundtables; handouts in breakouts; shorter award descriptions; more substantive content; add WiFi to all meeting rooms; more structure in roundtable session; shorten to 2 full days; shorten roundtable to 1 hour; another facility; better food; easier to travel to; reception – hate having to stand up; print commissioner categories on nametags (i.e. County Member); more roundtable time on current issues/applications; have an EO reception – just for EOs to meet; more robust concurrent sessions; increased opportunity to share best practices during concurrent session; food; accessibility for disabled; food; fresher topics, seems similar to last year; full breakfast everyday (Th/Fri).

**Not Specified:** awards need to be vetted; Thursday dinner doors locked; pre dinner reception; some session seemed disjointed, panel was all over the board/not coordinated-more advanced planning; for me the distance between the rooms and venue was hard.

### **General Comments:**

**Commissioners:** Get the contract for the Internet...it's not an "option" and pass it through of course to users - it would have cost < \$10/day for this conference?...no WiFi = GRIM said another attendee to me; y your presenters could use it 1) CAO officials wanted to show their website 2) LAFCo has scribes writing on white pad = old school (at leg session) could be typing on a computer & showing to everyone on a screen; would like much more info about LAFCo & its mission, goals, authority; I like the ribbon for 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees, it would be even better if the color was distinct & easily recognized w/o being right next to the person; sponsorship increase is good, glad to see table sponsors; thank you to the conference committee, job well done; PPT – available as a takeaway; access to speakers, one-on-one immediately after sessions. Cousteau was interesting but not relating to LAFCo; lifetime achievement award to Bob Braitman was well deserved; start Friday meeting earlier for those having to drive; handouts would have been helpful for all sessions; would have preferred Cousteau talk about one of his adventures rather than "protect the ocean"; accessibility for flights in & out to better attend all sessions; Back to Our Roots: mostly good, I think the AFT speaker needed to be more connected to real world experiences, not all farming saves water, is local and/or is sustainable; Cutting Edge Trends: Martinez spoke on this topic the other two seemed to be stand-ins for no shows – totally not on topic of tech & cutting edge trends; I see from the dates of next year's conference it's one day shorter – what will you give up...can't see how that will work; good job to everyone involved; congratulations on a successful conference, stand up and take a bow; excellent food at Fess Parker location; is there a way to formalize networking so we don't hang with our own LAFCo so much; give everyone a different sticker or something; have coffee service in big meeting rooms so don't miss meeting to get coffee; consider having conference Tue-Wed-Thu so people don't leave early on Friday, people leave early to avoid Friday traffic; great conference overall, it shows that a lot of work was put in to putting this together; thank you; great; outstanding; great conference.

**LAFCo Staff:** from my viewpoint it seemed to go seamlessly; fun & informative event; Cousteau was excellent & motivating – keep up efforts to get top idealistic speakers; would really like handouts of materials w/ PPTs – especially for the Leg Update and substantial legal topics; provide bottled or filtered water – couldn't drink the local water; several very weak sessions; more of a social gathering – an expense

social gathering; DUCS: Robert Barry was great, a well-focused session; Friday AM: room set-up was counterproductive for small group discussions; my first conference as LAFCo Counsel, I wished I had received the materials for the roundtable in advance with advice to read them in advance of the legal roundtable; I'm sure the awards were well deserved, but winners were overwhelmingly white & male, not good optics for our organization; the Counsel roundtable has exceeded the room size for 3 straight years – we need a bigger room and more chairs; CALAFCO should pay and pass though the cost of WiFi; a big thank you to whoever upgraded the breakfast on Friday; fantastic location truly enjoyed the breakout session on Growth & Development; keynote speaker was outstanding; wonderful program and a real treat to have Mr. Cousteau as a guest speaker; need WiFi in meeting rooms, otherwise hotel was fantastic; overall is was a very well-run conference; luncheon speaker was outstanding; would suggest ending Wednesday reception at 6:30 to allow groups to go to dinner earlier; hotel staff was outstanding, only inconvenience w/ location is not near an airport; room costs could be less; the AB 8 session title gave the participants an impression that there is something being done or that could be done – the truth is the LOA's report is over 16 years old and the solutions are all a zero-sum game – someone has to lose for someone to get more, I think the title was misleading; small groups for Override session could be better designed – should have had round tables and we usually sit together, so should have us mix so the teams are diverse; since check out is at noon, the last session should not run until noon, you could have combined the last two sessions – take out the small group discussions and end at 11, giving people time to pack & check out; Back to our Roots: Sblend & Neelima were terrific however, the speakers from AFT & SGC were not compelling from a LAFCo perspective, too general, not practical – session missed the opportunity to address water issues – critical for agriculture, this was especially striking since the previous session had focused on water/drought; wonderful conference, my compliments to Pamela, Jeni, Paul Hood, David Church and the entire committee; LAFCo 101 was excellent; beautiful location for the conference; thank you Pamela, Jeni and entire team; I think it would be beneficial to have a round table for small LAFCo budget, staffing, legal counsel concerns/solutions; it would be nice to have a “first time” reception; why should we have Special District seats on our LAFCo; location was pretty, but I would rather be in walking distance for shopping/food; thank you to CALAFCO & Santa Barbara LAFCo for organizing another successful conference; Pamela Miller and Jeni Tickler did an excellent job running the conference; CALAFCO staff are superb (Pamela Miller & Jeni Tickler); sessions competing on Thursday PM was a bit frustrating; thank you; great job; we would benefit from focusing on improving/modernizing presentation skills & content...the panel/moderator approach is a little stale, let's mix it up...stand up = energy; at awards ceremony, need to shorten award winner bios by 50%, also might be nice to list all the nominees.

**Not Specified:** Excellent conference; Santa Barbara LAFCo should be complimented; promote participation by outside stakeholders such as county or city staff, we work closely with LAFCo - helps us be a partner; hotel needs an upgrade – distance from meeting rooms to food/rooms; good networking opportunities; our LAFCo, Mendocino, planned and held several training session with the help of the Special District organization that was very successful next year we would like to share that with our small rural LAFCos.