



News from the Board of Directors

CALAFCO QUARTERLY

May 2021



A message from the Executive Director

Greetings from your CALAFCO Board of Directors and Executive Director. Spring is in the air and things seem to be shifting. Spring is a time of renewal and re-awakening and that is exactly what it feels like this year - in so many ways.

This Second Quarterly Report of 2021 will begin by highlighting the good news in our CALAFCO family first, followed by Association updates. Happy reading!

LAFCoS in the News

Alameda LAFCo Awarded Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant

In our last Quarterly Report we announced SALC grants for San Bernardino and San Diego LAFCos. CALAFCO inadvertently omitted Alameda LAFCos grant award and apologize for the oversight. We are pleased to announce their grant award.

Alameda LAFCo, in partnership with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, was awarded a SALC planning grant for \$250,000. The planning grant project is aimed at collaborative stakeholder planning in Alameda County to ensure the identification and preservation of agricultural and working lands, an infill development focus on healthy and resilient communities for disadvantaged and low-income populations, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) added LAFCos to the list of eligible entities to apply for SALC grants in January 2019 after many years of CALAFCO trying to get LAFCos eligible for state-level grant funding. We are pleased that to date, three of our member LAFCos have received these grants.

Los Angeles LAFCo Executive Officer Receives State Appointment

On January 4, 2021, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon appointed **Los Angeles LAFCo Executive Officer Paul Novak** to the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. The Board regulates the practices of engineering (civil, electrical, structural, geotechnical/soils), land surveying, geology, and geophysics in the State of California to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public. The Board licenses qualified individuals, based on experience and successfully passing examinations; establishes regulations and promotes professional conduct; enforces laws and regulations; and provides information to the public on using professional engineering and land surveying services. Paul's term runs to June 30, 2023.

Marin LAFCo Holds Shared Services Workshop For Agencies

Marin LAFCo held a Shared Services Workshop on April 29, 2021. Partners for the workshop included Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, Marin County Special Districts Association, and Marin County Office of Education. The workshop had 2 panels, one on successful shared services in Marin, and another exploring how to successfully implement shared services. Marin LAFCo reports the workshop was a success with 78 people attending, including elected officials and staff throughout the County, as well as staff from 2 other LAFCos. If you are curious about this event, a recording is posted on their website at www.marinlafco.org. Marin LAFCo thanks CALAFCO for offering their Zoom account, noting the webinar function played a large role in the success of this workshop.

Orange LAFCo Welcomes New Assistant EO

Orange LAFCo is pleased to welcome a new member to the Orange LAFCo team. **Raymond Barragan** will serve as Orange LAFCo's Assistant Executive Officer and brings extensive experience in local government to his new role. Before joining Orange LAFCo, he served as the Acting Director of Community Development with the City of Gardena where he was employed since 2012. Raymond holds a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning and is a master's candidate in Community and Economic Development at Penn State.

San Luis Obispo Announces New Hire and Promotion

San Luis Obispo LAFCo is excited to announce **Robert "Rob" Fitzroy** as its new Executive Officer. Most recently he was the Director of the Community Development Department for the City of Arroyo Grande. Prior to that, Rob was the Asst. Director for the County Planning & Building Department. Rob graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree and has a master's of Natural Resource Management, Environmental Planning & Public Policy. He begins his new role on May 24, 2021.

Imelda Marquez, **San Luis Obispo LAFCo** Clerk, was promoted to Analyst late last year. Imelda has been with SLO LAFCo for about 19 months. Her broad range of skills and analytical abilities are numerous. She is a proud Fresno St. Bulldog with a Geography degree and according to Interim EO David Church, "is an absolute delight to work with".



Congratulations!



Welcome to Our Newest Associate Members

CALAFCO is pleased to welcome two new Silver Associate Members.

We welcome the return of **SWALE, Inc.** SWALE's consulting services focus on LAFCo's critical issues including MSRs, SOIs, CEQA compliance, strategic planning, workshops and mapping with GIS. Their northern California office is expanding to bring you the best of consulting services. To learn more about the services provided by SWALE, contact **Kateri Harrison** at harrison@swaleinc.com, or visit their website at www.swaleinc.com.

We also welcome **DTA**. DTA is a national public finance and urban economics consulting firm specializing in infrastructure and public service finance. Their financing programs have utilized a variety of public financing mechanisms such as Ads, CFDs, LLDs and various types of fee programs. To learn more about DTA, contact **Nathan Perez** at Nate@FinanceDTA.com, or visit their website at www.FinanceDTA.com.

CALAFCO Educational Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING CALAFCO EDUCATIONAL EVENTS!

CALAFCO 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us **October 6-8** at the **Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport** for the 2021 Annual Conference. It's been so long since we've gathered in person and the time is finally here! The program planning committee is forming and CALAFCO staff is working with the facility on details to keep all of our attendees safe. Watch for Conference registration and hotel reservations to be open soon. Conference registration rates will be at the 2019 rates. We look forward to seeing you in Newport Beach later this year.

CALAFCO UNIVERSITY

We are pleased to continue offering webinars at no cost to our membership and are preparing several great sessions for you. Registration is now open for our **June 7** session: **Financial Health Indicators for Cities and Districts**. Registration is open until June 2. You will find all the details on the CALAFCO website at www.calafco.org.

We are also working on a very unique 4-part series on **Fire & EMS** services and a session on **Forming a CSD**. Watch for details and registration for these offerings coming soon.



CALAFCO Board of Directors

CALAFCO BOARD ACTIONS

The Board met virtually on April 30 with a full agenda. Under the leadership of **Chair Mike Kelley**, the Board took a number of important actions.



- ✓ **The FY 2021-22 budget was adopted.** For the first time, the Board considered a rolling 2-year budget. The FY 21-22 budget reflects a decrease of 2.1% over the current FY operating budget. The adopted budget can be found on the CALAFCO website.
- ✓ **The 2021-22 Strategic Plan was adopted.** The three primary strategies for the Association are: (1) Serve as an educational resource to member LAFCo Commissioners, LAFCo staff, Associate Members, and stakeholders; (2) Focus efforts on Association member relations, development, recognition and communication. Continue development of a strong and sustainable Association; and (3) Serve as an information resource to all Association members, work as a legislative and policy advocate for LAFCo issues and provide information to the Legislature and other stakeholders. The adopted Strategic Plan can be found on the CALAFCO website.
- ✓ **Updated Policies for Sections I and II of the current CALAFCO Policies were adopted.** One of the goals for 2021 is to conduct a comprehensive review of CALAFCO Policies, considering two sections per quarter. This is the first of a three-phase update process. The updated policies can be found on the CALAFCO website.
- ✓ **The new Annual Achievement Awards program was approved.** As the membership is aware, last year the Board approved consideration of an update to the Achievement Awards program. CALAFCO staff and Regional Officers worked for many months in crafting two options for the Achievement Awards Committee to consider. The Committee unanimously approved one of the options and recommended adoption of that option to the Board, which was unanimously approved. Watch for an announcement on the new program and the opening of the nomination period coming soon!
- ✓ **The Board ratified approval of filing an amicus letter in support of San Luis Obispo (SLO) LAFCo's appeal to the State Supreme Court.** As a follow up to the Superior Court decision in favor of the City of Pismo Beach, and at the request of SLO LAFCo, CALAFCO filed an amicus letter requesting the court review the case. The Court of Appeal opinion in *San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission v. City of Pismo Beach*



threatens to change operations across of LAFCos throughout the state.

By limiting the ability of LAFCos to require indemnification agreements from annexation applicants, the opinion conflicts with a number of decisions on which LAFCos reasonably relied to require indemnification as part of their implied powers. We thank **BBK** for their work on this amicus letter (which was preceded by an amicus brief). CALAFCO will keep our members posted on the appeal process.

- ✓ **The Board received the 3rd quarter financial reports and the projected FY 20-21 year-end fiscal report.**
- ✓ **The Board received several verbal updates from staff.**

All Board meeting documents are on the CALAFCO website.

CALAFCO Administrative Update

The 2021-22 CALAFCO Membership Directory is out! Each LAFCo received their requested number of hard copy directories and each Associate Member also received a copy. There is an electronic version of the Membership Directory on the CALAFCO website.



CALAFCO Legislative Update



What an interesting and busy legislative year this is turning out to be! CALAFCO is sponsoring the 2021 Assembly Local Government Committee (ALGC) **Omnibus bill, AB 1581**. This year's Omnibus contains a record number of items, totaling 13. Six of the items came from member LAFCos and seven from the protest provisions rewrite working group (deleting obsolete provisions). CALAFCO is currently tracking 32 bills, has a formal position on 9, and has been actively engaged on amendment negotiations for 10 bills.

This year there seems to be a number of bills addressing the same issue by several different authors, who, at the beginning of the year, did not appear to be talking with each other. The primary topics include COVID relief, wildfire prevention, climate resilience, homelessness and affordable housing, bridging the equity divide and transparency and public participation.

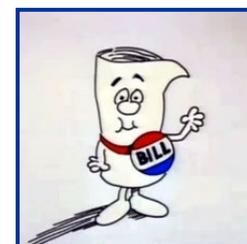
To complicate matters, the Legislature is still meeting under COVID restrictions with the majority of their staff working remotely. There are only a handful of meeting rooms in the Capitol that allow for social distancing, so the number of committee meetings have been reduced and the timeframe condensed.

Here are a few of the bills of importance we are tracking or working on:

- ✓ **AB 339 (Lee) CALAFCO Watch** - Open meetings. Requirements recently drastically amended and narrowed the scope to now apply only to cities and counties with a population over 250,000 with a sunset of 12-31-23 (requirements no longer applies to LAFCo).
- ✓ **AB 1195 (C. Garcia) CALAFCO Watch With Concerns** - Drinking water. Creates the So LA County Human Rights to Water Collaboration Act and gives the Water Board authority to appoint a Commissioner to oversee the Central Basin Municipal Water District.
- ✓ **SB 403 (Gonzalez) CALAFCO Oppose Unless Amended** - Drinking water consolidation. Authorizes the Water Board to order consolidation where a water system serving a disadvantaged community is an at-risk water system, as defined, or where a disadvantaged community is substantially reliant on at-risk domestic wells, as defined. Two of our three requested amendments have been taken (define "at risk" and put a cap on the number of users to be added to the subsuming system). The third request to add GSAs to the list of entities the Board must consult with has not yet been taken.

The last day for all policy committees to pass bills originating in their house was May 14. With one additional week for fiscal committees to pass bills to the respective floors, the Legislature will spend the last several weeks of May focusing on passing bills to the other house and the first part of June negotiating last minute budget deals for the June 15 budget passage deadline.

All bills being tracked by CALAFCO can be found on the CALAFCO website inside the Legislation section of the site (log in with your member id first to access this section). CALAFCO's position on all bills is reflected there, and any letters issued by CALAFCO are posted. The CALAFCO Legislative Committee meets regularly and all meeting materials are located in the Legislation section of the CALAFCO website.





CALAFCO Associate Members' Corner



This section is dedicated to highlighting 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.

Cucamonga Valley Water District

The **Cucamonga Valley Water District** has been a Silver Associate Member since 2014.

Formed in 1995, the district provides water and wastewater service to 200,000 customers in a 47 square mile area. The district has a mission of providing high quality, reliable water and wastewater service while practicing good stewardship of natural and financial resources. CVWD's water supply is comprised of two main sources: groundwater and imported water. Supplemented by surface water, recycled water and water conservation, the district's average daily demand is 43 million gallons. For more information on the district, contact **Cindy Cisneros** at cindyc@cvwdwater.com or visit their website at www.cvwdwater.com.



P. Scott Browne

Scott Browne has been a Silver Associate member since 2007. Scott provides legal services and staff support to various LAFcos throughout the state. He has served as a member of the CALAFCO Legislative Committee for a number of years. To learn more about the services he provides or to contact him, email him at scott@scottbrowne.com or visit his website at www.scottbrowne.com.

E Mulberg & Associates

E Mulberg & Associates has been a Silver Associate Member since 2011. Services offered include Municipal Service Reviews, Sphere of Influence updates, changes in organization, staff reports, CEQA analysis, and assistance with applications to LAFco. For more information, contact **Elliot Mulberg** at elliott@emulberg.com or visit their website at www.emulberg.com.

Policy Consulting Associates

A Silver Associate member since 2010, **Policy Consulting Associates** (PCA) prepares interdisciplinary research studies for LAFcos, councils of government, counties, cities, states, elected representatives and candidates, with an emphasis on MSRs and fiscal studies. The PCA team's combined experience covers the spectrum of governance configurations and alternatives, and runs the gamut of services under LAFco jurisdiction. For more information on PCA, contact **Jennifer Stephenson** or **Oxana Wolfson** at info@pcateam.com, or visit their website at www.pcateam.com.

CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlighting you in future Quarterly Reports.

Did You Know??

Meeting Documents Online

Did you know that all **CALAFCO Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting documents are online?** Visit the Boards & Committees pages in the Members Section of the site. Board documents cover 2008 to present and Legislative Committee documents span 2007 to present.



CALAFCO Webinars & Courses Archived

Did you know that all **CALAFCO Webinar recordings are archived on the CALAFCO website and available at no cost for on-demand viewing?** Visit the CALAFCO website in the CALAFCO Webinars section (log in as a member first).

Certificate of Recognition Program

Did you know that CALAFCO has a **Certificate of Recognition Program** and offers it at no cost to our members (both LAFco and Associate members)? The program has been in place several years and while a few of you utilize this service, most of you do not. For details, visit the CALAFCO website in the Member Services Section and upload the program packet or contact the CALAFCO Executive Director.



Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee virtual meeting – 6/18
- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee virtual meeting – 7/23
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors virtual meeting – 7/30



The **CALAFCO 2021 Calendar of Events** can be found on the CALAFCO website.