



Lou Ann Texeira
 Executive Officer

MEMBERS

Donald A. Blubaugh
Public Member
Federal Glover
County Member
Michael R. McGill
Special District Member

Dwight Meadows
Special District Member
Mary N. Piepho
County Member
Rob Schroder
City Member

Don Tatzin
City Member

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Candace Andersen
County Member
Sharon Burke
Public Member
Tom Butt
City Member
George H. Schmidt
Special District Member

April 9, 2014
 Agenda Item 9

April 9, 2014 (Agenda)

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
 651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Legislative Report - Update and Positions

Dear Members of the Commission:

The second year of the 2013-14 legislative session is underway. A summary of LAFCO and local government related bills tracked by CALAFCO is attached to this report (Attachment 1). The Priority 1 bills are those with the most relevance to LAFCO.

CALAFCO is requesting support from its member LAFCOs on the following three bills:

- **AB 2762 (Assembly Local Government Committee - ALGC)** - Each year, CALAFCO sponsors an omnibus bill which makes non-substantive changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act). On behalf of CALAFCO, the ALGC has introduced AB 2762 which makes technical changes, clarifications and corrections to the CKH Act (Attachment 2).
- **AB 1729 (Logue) – Williamson Act** - This bill would reinstate the Williamson Act alternative funding mechanism. (Attachment 3)
- **AB 2156 (Achadjian) - Local Agency Formation Commissions: Studies** - This bill would specifically define "joint powers agency" and "joint powers authority" for purposes of the CKH Act, and include joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities among the entities from which LAFCo is authorized to request information in order to conduct studies considered relevant by each commission, such as municipal service reviews (Attachment 4).

Attached are draft letters of support for the Commission's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION - Provide input and direction to staff.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment 1 – CALAFCO Legislative Report
Attachment 2 – Draft Letter Supporting AB 2762
Attachment 3 – Draft Letter Supporting AB 1729
Attachment 4 – Draft Letter Supporting AB 2156

CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report as of Wednesday, April 02, 2014

 1

AB 453 (Mullin D) Sustainable communities.
Current Text: Amended: 7/3/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)
Introduced: 2/19/2013

Last Amended: 7/3/2013

Status: 8/30/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/12/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

The Strategic Growth Council is required to manage and award grants and loans to a council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, regional transportation planning agency, city, county, or joint powers authority for the purpose of developing, adopting, and implementing a regional plan or other planning instrument to support the planning and development of sustainable communities. This bill would make a local agency formation commission eligible for the award of financial assistance for those planning purposes.

Attachments:
[CALAFCO Support Letter_03_12_13](#)
Position: Watch

Subject: Sustainable Community Plans

CALAFCO Comments: This would allow LAFCos to apply directly for grants that support the preparation of sustainable community strategies and other planning efforts. CALAFCO has removed its support of the bill given the nature of the amendment and the potential impact to LAFCos.

AB 678 (Gordon D) Health care districts: community health needs assessment.
Current Text: Amended: 4/15/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)
Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amended: 4/15/2013

Status: 8/30/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/13/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would require that the health care district conduct an assessment, every 5 years, of the community's health needs and provide opportunities for public input. Commencing January 1, 2019, the bill would require the annual reports to address the progress made in meeting the community's health needs in the context of the assessment. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Attachments:
[CALAFCO Letter of support April 17, 2014](#)
Position: Support

Subject: LAFCo Administration, Service Reviews/Spheres

CALAFCO Comments: This bill requires Health Care Districts that do not operate their own hospital facilities to create every 5 years, an assessment of the community health needs with public input. The bill requires LAFCos to include in a Municipal Service Review (MSR) the Health Care District's 5-year assessment.

AB 1521 (Fox D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocations: vehicle license fee adjustments.
Current Text: Introduced: 1/16/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)
Introduced: 1/16/2014

Status: 2/6/2014-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Beginning with the 2004-05 fiscal year, current law requires that each city, county, and city and county receive additional property tax revenues in the form of a vehicle license fee adjustment amount, as defined, from a vehicle license fee property tax compensation fund that exists in each county treasury. Current law requires that these additional allocations be funded from ad valorem property tax revenues otherwise required to be allocated to educational entities. This bill would modify these reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2014-15 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount calculated on the basis of changes in assessed valuation.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Support AB 1521 February 2014](#)

Position: Support

Subject: Financial Viability of Agencies, Tax Allocation

[AB 1527](#) ([Perea D](#)) **Public water systems: drinking water.**

Current Text: Amended: 3/17/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 1/17/2014

Last Amended: 3/17/2014

Status: 3/20/2014-Re-referred to Com. on RLS. pursuant to Assembly Rule 96.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would authorize an assuming water system, as defined, to voluntarily consolidate with another water system. This bill would define "assuming water system" as a water system that will obtain legal ownership of another water system or systems, and that has a permit to operate from the State Department of Public Health, and would define "subsumed water system" as the water system that will transfer legal ownership to the assuming water system.

Position: Oppose unless amended

Subject: Disadvantaged Communities, Municipal Services, Service Reviews/Spheres, Sustainable Community Plans

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, this bill attempts to relieve the liability assumed by certain water agencies when consolidating with another water agency. In its current format, the consolidation process is noted as being done by the DPH and no mention of the LAFCo process and appears to be inclusive of all water systems, public, mutual and private. Furthermore the bill seems to give permission to only the "assuming" system/agency to be agreeable to the consolidation.

[AB 1729](#) ([Logue R](#)) **Local government: agricultural land: subvention payments.**

Current Text: Amended: 3/20/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2014

Last Amended: 3/20/2014

Status: 3/24/2014-Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would appropriate \$40,000,000 to the Controller from the General Fund for the 2014-15 fiscal year to make subvention payments to counties to reimburse counties for property tax revenues not received as a result of these contracts. The bill would make legislative findings and declarations related to the preservation of agricultural land.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Letter of Support March 2014](#)

Position: Support

Subject: Ag Preservation - Williamson

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, the bill will appropriate \$40 million from the General Fund in fiscal year 2014/2015 for subvention payments to counties for Williamson Act contracts.

[AB 1961](#) ([Eggman D](#)) **Land use: planning: sustainable farmland strategy.**

Current Text: Amended: 3/25/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2014

Last Amended: 3/25/2014

Status: 3/26/2014-Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar:

4/2/2014 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 127 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ACHADJIAN, Chair

Summary:

Would require each county with significant agricultural land resources, as defined, to develop, on or before January 2, 2018, a sustainable farmland strategy. The bill would require the Sustainable Farmland Strategy to include, among other things, a map and inventory of all agriculturally zoned land within the county, a description of the goals, strategies, and related policies and ordinances, to retain agriculturally zoned land where practical and mitigate the loss of agriculturally zoned land to nonagricultural uses or zones, and a page on the county's Internet Web site with the relevant documentation for the goals, strategies, and related policies and ordinances, as specified.

Position: Watch

Subject: Ag/Open Space Protection, CKH General Procedures, LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, the bill requires counties with 4% or more of its land zoned as agricultural to create a sustainable farmland strategy (sfs) effective January 1, 2018, in consultation with cities and LAFCo, and to update the sfs as necessary. The bill also requires OPR to create best practices that support ag land retention and mitigation and recommendations on the role of LAFCo in the preservation of ag zoned lands (when considering annexations and service extensions) in the next update of the General Plan.

In addition, the bill adds the sfs as a factor for LAFCo to consider (Sec. 56668) in the review of a proposal.

AB 2156 (Achadjian R) Local agency formation commissions: studies.

Current Text: Amended: 3/24/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2014

Last Amended: 3/24/2014

Status: 3/25/2014-Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar:

4/2/2014 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 127 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ACHADJIAN, Chair

Summary:

Would include joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities among the entities from which a local agency formation commission is authorized to request land use information, studies, and plans, for purposes of conducting the studies described above, and also would include joint powers agreements in the list of items the commission may request in conducting those studies. The bill would specifically define "joint powers agency" and "joint powers authority" for purposes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Letter of Support March 2014](#)

Position: Support

Subject: CKH General Procedures, LAFCo Administration, Municipal Services, Service Reviews/Spheres

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, the bill will specifically define "joint powers agency" and "joint powers authority" for purposes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (C-K-H), and include joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities (JPAs) among the entities from which a local agency formation commission (LAFCo) is authorized to request information in order to conduct required studies.

AB 2762 (Committee on Local Government) Local government.

Current Text: Introduced: 3/24/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 3/24/2014

Status: 3/25/2014-From printer. May be heard in committee April 24.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 does not apply to pending proceedings for a change or organization or reorganization for which the application was accepted for filing prior to January 1, 2001, as specified. The act authorizes these pending proceedings to be continued and completed under, and in accordance with, the law under which the proceedings were commenced. This bill would repeal those provisions relating to pending proceedings for a change or organization or reorganization for which an application was accepted for filing prior to January 1, 2001, and make other conforming changes.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Letter of Support_March 2014](#)

Position: Sponsor

Subject: CKH General Procedures

SB 56 (Roth D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.

Current Text: Amended: 6/11/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 1/7/2013

Last Amended: 6/11/2013

Status: 2/3/2014-Returned to Secretary of Senate pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Beginning with the 2004-05 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, existing law requires that each city, county, and city and county receive additional property tax revenues in the form of a vehicle license fee adjustment amount, as defined, from a Vehicle License Fee Property Tax Compensation Fund that exists in each county treasury. Current law requires that these additional allocations be funded from ad valorem property tax revenues otherwise required to be allocated to educational entities. This bill would modify these reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2013-14 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount calculated on the basis of changes in assessed valuation. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Letter of support April 10, 2013](#)

Position: Support

Subject: Financial Viability of Agencies, Tax Allocation

CALAFCO Comments: This bill reinstates revenues through ERAF (backfilled by the state general Fund) for cities incorporating after 2005 and annexations of inhabited territories.

SB 69 (Roth D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.

Current Text: Amended: 9/12/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 1/10/2013

Last Amended: 9/12/2013

Status: 9/13/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was RLS. on 9/12/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would modify specified reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2013-14 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount calculated on the basis of changes in assessed valuation. This bill would also modify these reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2013-14 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount for certain cities incorporating after a specified date, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Support_SB 69_Feb 2014](#)

Position: Support

Subject: Tax Allocation

SB 1001 (Knight R) Local government.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/13/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2014

Status: 2/27/2014-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Current law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, makes certain findings and declarations relating to local government organizations, including, among other things, the encouragement of orderly growth and development, and logical formation and modification of the boundaries of local agencies, as specified. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these findings and declarations.

Position: Watch

Subject: CKH General Procedures

AB 543 (Campos D) California Environmental Quality Act: translation.

Current Text: Amended: 5/24/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2013

Last Amended: 5/24/2013

Status: 7/12/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10)(SEN). (Last location was E.O. on 6/13/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would require a lead agency to translate, as specified, certain notices required by the California Environmental Quality Act and a summary of any negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report when a group of non-English-speaking people, as defined, comprises at least 25% of the population within the lead agency's jurisdiction and the project is proposed to be located at or near an area where the group of non-English-speaking people comprises at least 25% of the residents of that area. By requiring a lead agency to translate these notices and documents, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position: Watch

Subject: CEQA

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, requires a lead agency to translate certain notices, summary of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report when the implicated community has 25% or more non-English speaking people affected by the project. The requirement is to translate these notices and summaries in the native language of those impacted. This is an unfunded mandate. While LAFCo is not typically the lead agency, there may be an occasion when they are, and this could have significant resource implications.

AB 642 (Rendon D) Publication: newspaper of general circulation: Internet Web site.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/20/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2013

Status: 1/24/2014-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(2). (Last location was JUD. on 3/11/2013)

Desk	Dead	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Current law requires that various types of notices are provided in a newspaper of general circulation. Current law requires a newspaper of general circulation to meet certain criteria, including, among others, that it be published and have a substantial distribution to paid subscribers in the city, district, or judicial district in which it is seeking adjudication. This bill would provide that a newspaper that is available on an Internet Web site may also qualify as a newspaper of general circulation, provided that newspaper meets certain criteria.

Position: Watch

Subject: LAFCo Administration

CALAFCO Comments: Allows for posting of agendas and meeting material on newspaper websites.

[AB 677](#) (Fox D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.

Current Text: Amended: 1/6/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amended: 1/6/2014

Status: 1/17/2014-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(1). (Last location was L. GOV. on 1/7/2014)

Desk	Dead	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would modify specified reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2013-14 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount calculated on the basis of changes in assessed valuation. This bill would also modify these reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2013-14 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount for certain cities incorporating after a specified date, as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position: Watch

Subject: Financial Viability of Agencies, Tax Allocation

[AB 1593](#) (Dahle R) Public cemetery districts: Auburn Public Cemetery District.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/3/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/3/2014

Status: 3/17/2014-In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would authorize the Auburn Public Cemetery District in Placer County to use their cemeteries for up to a total of 400 interments each, not to exceed 40 interments each per calendar year, to inter nonresidents and nonproperty taxpayers, if specified conditions are met. This bill contains other related provisions.

Position: Watch

Subject: Other

[AB 2455](#) (Williams D) The Santa Rita Hills Community Services District.

Current Text: Amended: 3/10/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2014

Last Amended: 3/10/2014

Status: 3/11/2014-Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar:

4/9/2014 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ACHADJIAN, Chair

Summary:

The Community Services District Law specifies the procedures for district formation, procedures for the selection of district governing board members, the powers and duties of the board, and the procedures for changing those powers and duties. Current law requires the board of directors of each district to consist of 5 members. This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2035, the board of directors of the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District to consist of 3 members. This bill contains other related provisions.

Position: Watch

Subject: Special District Principle Acts

CALAFCO Comments: This bill as amended reduces the size of the governing Board of this district from five to three members.

[AB 2480](#) (Yamada D) Local government finance: cities: annexations.

Current Text: Amended: 3/28/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2014

Last Amended: 3/28/2014

Status: 4/1/2014-Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would, beginning on January 10, 2015, and on the 10th of each month thereafter, require the Controller to pay to each city that incorporated before August 5, 2004, an amount equal to an amount determined by a specified formula. This bill would continuously appropriate to the Controller an amount sufficient to make those payments from the General Fund.

Position: Watch

Subject: Financial Viability of Agencies, Tax Allocation

[SB 633](#) (Pavley D) CEQA.

Current Text: Amended: 8/6/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 8/6/2013

Status: 8/30/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. on 8/6/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would, for purposes of the new information exception to the prohibition on requiring a subsequent or supplemental EIR, specify that the exception applies if new information that becomes available was not known and could not have been known by the lead agency or any responsible agency at the time the EIR was certified as complete. The bill would authorize the office, by July 1, 2015, to draft and transmit to the secretary revisions to the guidelines to include as a categorical exemption projects involving minor temporary uses of land and public gatherings that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position: Watch

Subject: CEQA

[SB 731](#) (Steinberg D) Environment: California Environmental Quality Act.

Current Text: Amended: 9/9/2013 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 9/9/2013

Status: 9/13/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(14). (Last location was L. GOV. on 9/11/2013)

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would provide that aesthetic and parking impacts of a residential, mixed-use residential, or employment center project, as defined, on an infill site, as defined, within a transit priority area, as defined, shall not be considered significant impacts on the environment. The bill would require the Office of Planning and Research to prepare and submit to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, and the secretary to certify and adopt, revisions to the guidelines for the implementation of CEQA establishing thresholds of significance for noise and transportation impacts of projects within transit priority areas. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Position: Watch

Subject: CEQA

[SB 772](#) (Roth D) Drinking water: County Water Company of Riverside water system: liability.

Current Text: Amended: 1/6/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 1/6/2014

Status: 2/3/2014-Returned to Secretary of Senate pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

Dead	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary:

Would exempt the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District from liability for claims by past or existing County Water Company of Riverside customers or those consuming water provided through the County Water Company of Riverside water system concerning the operation and supply of water from the County Water Company of Riverside water system during the interim operation period, as specified, for any good faith, reasonable effort using ordinary care to assume possession of, and to operate and supply water to , the County Water Company of Riverside water system. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Attachments:

[CALAFCO Letter Removing Opposition September 9, 2013](#)

[CALAFCO Letter of Opposition April 10, 2013](#)

Position: Watch

Subject: Water

CALAFCO Comments: As amended, this bill would exempt the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District from liability for injuries or damages arising out of the delivery of water to County Water Company of Riverside customers, as specified. As amended this bill no longer references Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCo) to take on the responsibility of monitoring private water companies. As a result of removing any and all references to LAFCo, CALAFCO has removed its opposition to the bill and now has a Watch position.

SB 1122 (Pavley D) Sustainable communities: Strategic Growth Council.

Current Text: Amended: 3/24/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2014

Last Amended: 3/24/2014

Status: 3/24/2014-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on E.Q.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar:

4/2/2014 9:30 a.m. - Room 3191 SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, HILL, Chair

Summary:

Would authorize the Strategic Growth Council to develop and implement regional grant programs to support the implementation of sustainable communities strategies, alternative transportation plans, or other regional greenhouse gas emission reduction plans within a developed area. The bill would require the council, in consultation with specified public agencies, to establish standards for integrated modeling systems and measurement methods, and standards for the use of moneys awarded.

Position: Watch

Subject: Sustainable Community Plans

Total Measures: 21

Total Tracking Forms: 21

4/2/2014 8:13:19 AM



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

MEMBERS

Donald A. Blubaugh
Public Member

Federal Glover
County Member

Michael R. McGill
Special District Member

Don Tatzin
City Member

Dwight Meadows
Special District Member

Mary N. Piepho
County Member

Rob Schroder
City Member

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Candace Andersen
County Member

Sharon Burke
Public Member

Tom Butt
City Member

George H. Schmidt
Special District Member

April 9, 2014

Honorable Katcho Achadjian, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4098
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of AB 2762: Local Government Committee Omnibus Bill

Dear Assembly Member Achadjian:

The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is pleased to support AB 2762, the Assembly Local Government Committee bill which makes non-substantive changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act). The bill is also supported by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO).

This annual bill includes technical changes to the CKH Act which governs the work of LAFCOs. These changes are necessary as commissions implement the CKH Act, during which small inconsistencies are discovered, or clarifications are needed to make the law as unambiguous as possible. AB 2762 makes several minor technical changes, corrects obsolete and incorrect code references, and makes minor updates to outdated sections.

We are grateful to your Committee staff and counsel, all of whom worked diligently on this language to ensure there is no substantive change, yet increases the clarity of the CKH Act for all stakeholders.

This legislation helps insure that the CKH Act remains a vital and practical law that is consistently applied around the State. We appreciate your Committee's authorship and support of this bill, and your support of the mission of LAFCOs.

Sincerely,

Dwight Meadows
Chair, Contra Costa LAFCO

c: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Misa Yokoi-Shelton, Associate Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor • Martinez, CA 94553-1229

e-mail: LTexte@lafco.cccounty.us

(925) 335-1094 • (925) 335-1031 FAX



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

MEMBERS

Donald A. Blubaugh
Public Member

Federal Glover
County Member

Michael R. McGill
Special District Member

Don Tatzin
City Member

Dwight Meadows
Special District Member

Mary N. Piepho
County Member

Rob Schroder
City Member

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Candace Andersen
County Member

Sharon Burke
Public Member

Tom Butt
City Member

George H. Schmidt
Special District Member

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Rm 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1729 (Logue) – Williamson Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gatto:

On behalf of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), we write to express our support for AB 1729, as amended, by Assembly Member Logue. This bill would reinstate the Williamson Act alternative funding mechanism.

The Williamson Act was intended to be a partnership between the State, counties and landowners to preserve agricultural resources. Counties, in exchange for implementing the State goal of farm and ranch land preservation, were to receive a partial replacement of their foregone property tax from the land enrolled in the program. State subventions have not been paid since 2009, and counties are struggling to meet their responsibilities under the Williamson Act and as a result, farmland protection continues to be at risk.

AB 1729 would reinstate the program, providing counties subvention funding from the State. Since 1963, LAFCOs have worked within each county to meet their legislative mandate of balancing growth and development with discouraging sprawl and protecting California's important agricultural lands. The Williamson Act, and its role in LAFCO law, has proven an effective tool for many LAFCOs to reduce sprawl and protect prime agricultural lands. The ramifications of eliminating State subventions without an alternative funding mechanism causes us great concern.

Contra Costa County has been implementing the Williamson Act since 1968 when the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance authorizing the creation of Agricultural Preserves and the execution of Land Conservation Contracts pursuant to State law. At present, Contra Costa County has 417 parcels of agricultural land with Land Conservation Contracts, covering approximately 48,000 acres.

Without financial incentives to maintain these contracts, the ability of LAFCOs to meet its Legislative intent to preserve agricultural and open-space lands, is compromised.

For these reasons, Contra Costa LAFCO respectfully urges your Committee's support of the Williamson Act and requests an "Aye" vote on AB 1729 when it is heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

Dwight Meadows
Chair, Contra Costa LAFCO

cc: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Misa Yokoi-Shelton, Associate Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Honorable Dan Logue, California State Assembly

CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor • Martinez, CA 94553-1229

e-mail: LTexte@lafco.cccounty.us

(925) 335-1094 • (925) 335-1031 FAX



Lou Ann Texeira
Executive Officer

MEMBERS

Donald A. Blubaugh
Public Member

Federal Glover
County Member

Michael R. McGill
Special District Member

Don Tatzin
City Member

Dwight Meadows
Special District Member

Mary N. Piepho
County Member

Rob Schroder
City Member

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Candace Andersen
County Member

Sharon Burke
Public Member

Tom Butt
City Member

George H. Schmidt
Special District Member

April 9, 2014

Honorable Katcho Achadjian, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4098
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT of AB 2156: Local Agency Formation Commissions: Studies

Dear Assembly Member Achadjian:

The Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is pleased to support AB 2156, as amended and authored by you. This bill would specifically define "joint powers agency" and "joint powers authority" for purposes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 ("CKH Act"), and include joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities (JPAs) among the entities from which LAFCO is authorized to request information in order to conduct studies considered relevant by each commission.

Pursuant to the CKH Act, LAFCOs are charged with evaluating the provision of municipal services and conducting studies of existing governmental agencies including their service area and service capacities. As many local agencies across the State provide municipal services through JPAs, having access to the information that outlines service areas and specific services being delivered by these entities is critical to conducting comprehensive studies that support LAFCOs core missions of encouraging the efficient delivery of local services and evaluating local agency boundaries.

AB 2156 is substantively informed by, and consistent with, the earlier work of California Forward and the Legislative Analyst Office Report of October 2011, the latter of which specifically addresses the relationship between LAFCO and JPAs.

We support the California Association of Local Agency Formations Commissions (CALAFCO) efforts to work on this legislation that creates an even stronger association between JPAs and LAFCOs. Many LAFCOs are seeing JPAs being formed as a way to extend services without oversight thus circumventing the LAFCO review and approval process. Such actions inhibit the ability of LAFCO to fulfill the part of our mission that relates to assuring adequate, efficient and accountable government services.

AB 2156 is consistent with LAFCo's mission to promote the efficient and sustainable delivery of local services to meet current and future needs, and is an important first step in the development of the relationship between LAFCos and JPAs. For these reasons, Contra Costa LAFCO supports AB 2156 as amended, and we thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Dwight Meadows
Chair, Contra Costa LAFCO

cc: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Misa Yokoi-Shelton, Associate Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus