



Lou Ann Teixeira
 Executive Officer

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April 8, 2015
 Agenda Item 8

April 8, 2015 (Agenda)

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

Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop

Dear Members of the Commission:

This report provides an update on the LAFCO Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop. Last month, the Policies & Procedures Committee presented a report summarizing its work to date on developing an agricultural and open space preservation policy, which included the following:

- ❖ prepared a synopsis of the LAFCO statutes pertaining to agricultural and open space land preservation;
- ❖ prepared a summary of agricultural & open space preservation policies of other LAFCOs throughout the State; various policy options for the Commission to consider as it contemplates its own local agricultural and open space preservation policy (i.e., base policy, expanded policy options, various terms & conditions such as land replacement measures, protective easements, buffers, etc.); and
- ❖ prepared a draft outline for the workshop (see attached).

Plans for the July 8th workshop are moving forward. To date, LAFCO staff has secured the meeting location (30 Muir Road in Martinez), and confirmed most of the speakers.

At this time, we seek Commission input, particularly on specific issues you would like the panelist to address.

RECOMMENDATIONS - Receive the report and provide input on workshop outline.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment – Workshop Outline

**Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
Agricultural and Open Space Preservation Workshop
Wednesday, July 8, 2015 (1:00 – 4:00 pm)
30 Muir Road, Martinez**

Purpose of Workshop: To engage a range of stakeholders in the development of a local agricultural and open space preservation policy to be used by LAFCO to help guide its decisions when considering a proposal that would impact agricultural and/or open space lands.

Time Allotment	Topic	Moderator(s)	Presenter(s)
1:00 – 1:10	Welcome/Introductions		LAFCO Chair
1:10 – 1:30	<i>What is LAFCO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework/statutory mandate/definitions • LAFCO’s conditioning authority 		LAFCO staff
1:30 – 2:00	<i>Why should we care about ag and open space land</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State, regional and local efforts to preserve ag and open space land • Which areas in the County (incorporated and unincorporated) are identified as important ag and open space land and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) 	LAFCO Commissioner	-American Farmland Trust - Kathryn Lyddan, BALT(C) - Bob Doyle, EBRPD (C) - Lisa Vorderbrueggen, BIA (C)
2:00 – 2:30	<i>Agriculture in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ag land has evolved in the County • What are ag uses in the County (including urban ag) and how much (e.g., crop types, grazing, etc.) • Biggest challenges facing ag community 	LAFCO Commissioner	- Chad Godoy, Contra Costa County Ag Commissioner (C) - John Kopchik, Director, DCD (C) -Al Courchesne, Farmer (I) - Nancy Shaefer or Board Member, California Rangeland Trust (C)
2:30 – 2:40	<i>BREAK</i>		
2:40 – 3:00	<i>Open Space in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of open space in Contra Costa County • Biggest challenges to preserving open space 	LAFCO Commissioner	- Joel Devalcourt, Greenbelt Alliance (C) - Seth Adams/Ron Brown, Save Mt. Diablo (C) - Dick Schneider, Sierra Club (C)
3:00 – 3:15	<i>Case Studies –Other LAFCO Policies</i>		Commissioners Burke & Tatzin
3:15 – 3:55	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most significant challenges to ag & open space preservation in Contra Costa County • How can LAFCO help? 	LAFCO Commissioner	-All
3:55 – 4:00	NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS	LAFCO Commissioner	

(C) – Confirmed (I) - Invited