



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

**MEMBERS**

Donald A. Blubaugh <i>Public Member</i>	Mary N. Piepho <i>County Member</i>
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Michael R. McGill <i>Special District Member</i>	Igor Skaredoff <i>Special District Member</i>
Don Tatzin <i>City Member</i>	

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Candace Andersen  
*County Member*  
 Sharon Burke  
*Public Member*  
 Tom Butt  
*City Member*  
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*Special District Member*

June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 9

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

**Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop – Final Update**

Dear Members of the Commission:

This report provides a final update on the LAFCO Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop scheduled for July 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The workshop will be held at the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development Hearing Room located at 30 Muir Road in Martinez. We will ask participants to RSVP; and light refreshments will be provided.

In March, 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:

- ❖ synopsis of the LAFCO statutes pertaining to agricultural and open space land preservation;
- ❖ 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
- ❖ draft outline for the workshop.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Policies & Procedures Committee met to finalize the workshop program (attached). All speakers are now confirmed. The program represents a range of interests including agriculture, farming and range/grazing, parks & open space, housing/building industry, and economic development/sustainable communities.

We thank those Commissioners who have volunteered to moderate/facilitate sessions. The Committee has taken the liberty of suggesting other Commissioners to facilitate the remaining sessions, and welcomes Commissioner feedback.

In order to accommodate the speaker lineup and allow for questions at the end of the session, we propose the following guidelines to help facilitate the day:

- In order to foster a “conversational” forum, and due to time constraints, we will ask that speakers forego PowerPoint presentations. Handouts are welcome. LAFCO staff will make copies of handouts provided in advance and make them available at the workshop and on the LAFCO website.
- Session facilitators/moderators will be asked to introduce each speaker by name/agency only; a handout of speaker bios will be provided at the workshop.
- In order to allow time for discussion/questions following the speakers’ forum, we will provide “question cards” for use by participants to pose questions to the speakers.

The July 8<sup>th</sup> workshop will be taped by Contra Costa TV and aired on the local government channel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** - Receive the report and provide input.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Attachment** – Workshop Outline

**Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) - Agricultural & Open Space Preservation Workshop**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2015 (1:00 – 5:00 pm)**

**Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development Hearing Room - 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.

<b>Time Allotment</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Moderator(s)</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
1:00 – 1:10	Welcome/Introductions		LAFCO Chair Schroder
1:10 – 1:30	<i>What is LAFCO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal framework/statutory mandate/definitions</li> <li>• LAFCO’s conditioning authority</li> <li>• Case studies – other LAFCO Policies</li> </ul>	LAFCO Executive Officer	Commissioners Burke & Tatzin
1:30 – 2:10	<i>Why should we care about ag and open space land</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State, regional, local efforts to preserve ag &amp; open space land</li> <li>• Which areas in the County (incorporated and unincorporated) are identified as important ag and open space land and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs)</li> </ul>	Commissioner Blubaugh	-Serena Unger, American Farmland Trust -Kathryn Lyddan, BALT -Bob Doyle, EBRPD -John Kopchik, Director, DCD
2:10 – 2:50	<i>Agriculture in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How ag land has evolved in the County</li> <li>• What are ag uses in the County (including urban ag) and how much (e.g., crop types, grazing, etc.)</li> <li>• Biggest challenges facing the agricultural community</li> </ul>	Commissioner Piepho (suggested)	-Chad Godoy, Contra Costa County Ag Commissioner -Al Courchesne, Farmer -Nancy Shaefer or Board Member, California Rangeland Trust -Barbara Cecchini, Farm Bureau
2:50 – 3:00	<i>BREAK</i>		
3:00 – 3:30	<i>Open Space in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of open space in Contra Costa County</li> <li>• Biggest challenges to preserving open space</li> </ul>	Commissioner Skaredoff (suggested)	-Joel Devalcourt, Greenbelt Alliance -Seth Adams/Ron Brown, Save Mt. Diablo -Dick Schneider, Sierra Club
3:30 – 4:00	<i>Collaboration and Smart Growth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Communities Strategy</li> <li>• Economic and development challenges</li> </ul>	Commissioner McGill (suggested)	-Kristin Connelly, East Bay Leadership Council/Contra Costa Economic Partnership -Heather Schiffman, Contra Costa Association of Realtors -Lisa Vorderbrueggen, BIA
4:00 – 4:45	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most significant challenges to ag &amp; open space preservation in Contra Costa County</li> <li>• How can LAFCO help?</li> </ul>	Commissioner Burke	-All
4:45 – 4:55	NEXT STEPS	Commissioner	Commissioner Tatzin
4:55 – 5:00	THANK YOU/CLOSING COMMENTS		Chair Schroder