



**NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING**

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 1:30 PM

PLACE: Board of Supervisors Chambers  
651 Pine Street, Martinez, CA 94553

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commission will hear and consider oral or written testimony presented by any affected agency or any interested person who wishes to appear. Proponents and opponents, or their representatives, are expected to attend the hearings. From time to time, the Chair may announce time limits and direct the focus of public comment for any given proposal.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by LAFCO to a majority of the members of the Commission less than 72 hours prior to that meeting will be available for public inspection in the office at 651 Pine Street, Six Floor, Martinez, CA, during normal business hours as well as at the LAFCO meeting.

All matters listed under CONSENT ITEMS are considered by the Commission to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a member of the Commission or a member of the public prior to the time the Commission votes on the motion to adopt.

For agenda items not requiring a formal public hearing, the Chair will ask for public comments. For formal public hearings the Chair will announce the opening and closing of the public hearing.

If you wish to speak, please complete a speaker's card and approach the podium; speak clearly into the microphone, start by stating your name and address for the record.

**Campaign Contribution Disclosure**

If you are an applicant or an agent of an applicant on a matter to be heard by the Commission, and if you have made campaign contributions totaling \$250 or more to any Commissioner in the past 12 months, Government Code Section 84308 requires that you disclose the fact, either orally or in writing, for the official record of the proceedings.

**Notice of Intent to Waive Protest Proceedings**

In the case of a change of organization consisting of an annexation or detachment, or a reorganization consisting solely of annexations or detachments, or both, or the formation of a county service area, it is the intent of the Commission to waive subsequent protest and election proceedings provided that appropriate mailed notice has been given to landowners and registered voters within the affected territory pursuant to Gov. Code sections 56157 and 56663, and no written opposition from affected landowner or voters to the proposal is received before the conclusion of the commission proceedings on the proposal.

**American Disabilities Act Compliance**

LAFCO will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend meetings who contact the LAFCO office at least 24 hours before the meeting, at 925-335-1094. An assistive listening device is available upon advance request.

**As a courtesy, please silence your cell phones during the meeting.**

## June 10, 2015 CONTRA COSTA LAFCO AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Public Comment Period (please observe a three-minute time limit):  
Members of the public are invited to address the Commission regarding any item that is not scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. No action will be taken by the Commission at this meeting as a result of items presented at this time.
5. Approval of Minutes for the May 13, 2015 regular LAFCO meeting
6. ***Informational Presentation– East Bay Municipal Utility District – Drought Management Efforts***

### SPHERE OF INFLUENCE/BOUNDARY CHANGES

7. ***LAFCO 13-08 – Northeast Antioch Reorganization (Area 2A): Annexations to the City of Antioch and Delta Diablo Sanitation District and Detachment from County Service Area P-6*** – consider reorganization proposal of 116± acres (19 parcels) located immediately west of State Route 160 and the Antioch Bridge; and consider related actions under CEQA ***Public Hearing – Continued from June 11, 2014 Meeting***

### BUSINESS ITEMS

8. ***Emergency Medical/Fire Service and LAFCO*** – receive report relating to automatic aid and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round Municipal Service Review, and provide input and direction.
9. ***Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Policy and Workshop*** - receive an update on workshop planning efforts and provide input.
10. ***LAFCO Fee Schedule Update*** – receive report and provide direction on future fee adjustments.
11. ***Contract Extension – Lamphier Gregory*** - consider authorizing staff to execute a one-year contract extension with Lamphier Gregory, which provides environmental planning services to Contra Costa LAFCO.
12. ***CALAFCO 2015 Conference Material and Call for Board of Directors Candidates and Achievement Award Nominations*** – receive the annual CALAFCO conference packet, appoint voting delegate(s), and provide direction regarding nominations and other matters as desired.
13. ***Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Board Election*** – receive information and consider voting for candidates for the 2016 SDRMA Board.
14. ***Financial Audit*** – the Commission will be asked to receive and file the FY 2013-14 financial audit.

### CORRESPONDENCE

15. Correspondence from Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association (CCCERA)

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

16. Commissioner Comments and Announcements
17. Staff Announcements
  - CALAFCO Updates
  - Pending Projects
  - Newspaper Articles

### ADJOURNMENT

*We will adjourn today's meeting in memory of Commissioner George Schmidt, who passed away on May 6, 2015. Commissioner Schmidt served on Contra Costa LAFCO since 1999 as a special district member. He was a quiet and caring man, and very knowledgeable about West County issues. We will miss George.*

*Next regular LAFCO meeting – July 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. – Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop - 30 Muir Road in Martinez. (Please note change in meeting time and location)*

LAFCO STAFF REPORTS AVAILABLE AT [http://www.contracostalafco.org/meeting\\_archive.htm](http://www.contracostalafco.org/meeting_archive.htm)

CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING

May 13, 2015

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 5

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
Martinez, CA

1. Chair Rob Schroder called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He announced that he and Commissioner Butt had been reappointed to their LAFCO seats by the Mayors' Conference.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll was called. A quorum was present of the following Commissioners:

City Members Rob Schroder and Don Tatzin.

County Members Mary Piepho (arrived at 1:37 p.m.) and Alternate Candace Andersen.

Special District Member Igor Skaredoff.

Public Members Don Blubaugh and Alternate Sharon Burke.

Present were Executive Officer Lou Ann Texeira, Legal Counsel Sharon Anderson, and Clerk Kate Sibley.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of Tatzin, second by Blubaugh, Commissioners, by a vote of 5-0, adopted the agenda.

AYES: Andersen (A), Blubaugh, Schroder, Skaredoff, Tatzin

NOES: none

ABSENT: Glover (M), McGill (M), Piepho (M)

ABSTAIN: none

5. Public Comments

Firefighter and Vice President, Firefighters' Local 1230 Gil Guerrero spoke on the situation with East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, which is now in a state of emergency due to inadequate funding. He stated that they have lost people as a result of longer response times.

Vincent Wells, President, Firefighters' Local 1230, reiterated Mr. Guerrero's comments, reminding Commissioners that they had identified these problems in the 2009 Fire and Emergency Medical Services MSR. He asked Commissioners to agendize a discussion on auto and mutual aid agreements.

6. Approval of April 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Upon motion of Tatzin, second by Skaredoff, the minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.

AYES: Andersen (A), Blubaugh, Schroder, Skaredoff, Tatzin

NOES: none

ABSENT: Glover (M), McGill (M), Piepho (M)

ABSTAIN:

7. Informational Presentation - Contra Costa Water District Drought Management Efforts

Jeff Quimby, Director of Planning for Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), was introduced by Chair Schroder. Mr. Quimby has been with CCWD for 15 years, and has nearly 20 years of experience in environmental and water resources planning. He is responsible for facilities and water supply planning, environmental permitting and compliance, acquiring grants and outside funding, watershed management, and real property activities, and now drought management efforts.

**DRAFT**

Mr. Quimby began his presentation with a brief outline of the key points of Governor Brown's Executive Order B-29-15, issued April 1st and requiring statewide 25% reduction compared to 2013. This average varies among districts and municipalities; CCWD is required by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to reduce use by 28%. Mr. Quimby laid out the steps the district will take in order to meet this requirement without affecting the economy.

As CCWD also supplies wholesale water to a number of retail water suppliers, their required reductions will be part of CCWD's calculations.

Mr. Quimby listed the district's temporary conservation pricing adjustments, as well as the fines and penalties that will be levied for violations of the regulations that are now in place statewide. The district will also provide a number of conservation services to its customers, including rebates for lawn-to-garden conversions, free water-saving devices, etc.

Commissioners provided comments and thanked him for his presentation.

8. LAFCO 14-05 - Reorganization 186 (Magee Ranch/SummerHill): Annexations to CCCSD and EBMUD

The Executive Officer provided a brief overview of the proposal and an update on the court proceedings, noting that the item was continued from February 11, 2015 LAFCO meeting due to pending litigation

Staff also noted that LAFCO received communications from SOS-Danville and SummerHill Homes, both supporting continuing the matter to August 2015. Staff will continue to monitor the court docket for updates.

The public hearing was reopened.

Maryann Cella, with SOS Danville, thanked the Commission for continuing the public hearing and questioned why, if only 40 acres are being developed, there should be water and sewer extended to the totality of the acreage.

Commissioner Andersen, in response to this question, asked staff if this is because this is just one large parcel. Staff responded that LAFCO discourages split parcels, and that this is part of CCCSD's efforts to clean up territory that has not been annexed within its boundary.

Upon motion of Blubaugh, second by Andersen, Commissioners, by a 6-0 vote, kept the public hearing open and continued it to the August 12, 2015 meeting.

AYES: Andersen (A), Blubaugh, Piepho, Schroder, Skaredoff, Tatzin

NOES: none

ABSENT: Glover (M), McGill (M)

ABSTAIN: none

9. Adoption of Final FY 2015-16 LAFCO Budget

The Executive Officer presented the final LAFCO budget for FY 2015-16, noting funding for an agriculture and open space preservation workshop in July, preparation of a second-round fire and emergency medical services MSR, and payment to the OPEB liability fund. An approximate 4% increase in agency contributions is projected, with the use of available fund balance to offset agency contributions.

Upon motion of Tatzin, second by Piepho, Commissioners unanimously, by a vote of 6-0, commended staff's work, adopted the Final Budget for FY 2015-16, and authorized staff to distribute to the County, cities, and independent special districts as required by Government Code §56381.

AYES: Andersen, Blubaugh, Piepho, Schroder, Skaredoff, Tatzin

NOES: none

ABSENT: Glover (M), McGill (M)

ABSTAIN: none

10. Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Policy and Workshop

The Executive Officer provided an update on planning for the Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop. The workshop will be held at the hearing room at the County Department of Conservation and Development building at 30 Muir Road. A final, confirmed schedule of speakers was provided. Barbara Cecchini, with the County Farm Bureau, has been added, as well as another session, "Collaboration and Smart Growth," which includes as participants Lisa Vorderbrueggen and the Building Industry Association. The final draft program will be presented in June.

11. CALAFCO 2015 Annual Conference

The Executive Officer reported that registration is now open for the CALAFCO 2015 Annual Conference, scheduled for September 2-4 in Sacramento. Details will be forthcoming; staff asked Commissioners to inform staff if they will attend.

12. Correspondence from CCCERA

There were no comments on this item.

13. Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Piepho commented on the status of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, and reported that she is working with the fire chiefs to see if there is anything to be done to ameliorate the situation.

Commissioners Andersen, Tatzin, and Skaredoff commented on the passing of Commissioner Schmidt on May 6.

14. Staff Announcements and Pending Projects

The Executive Officer reported that staff has begun the process for a Special District election to replace Commissioner Schmidt. An update on various legislation important to LAFCOs (specifically, AB 3, AB 402, and SB 239) was provided.

Staff thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to attend the CALAFCO 2015 Staff Workshop, held April 15-17 and noted that highlights of the workshop are included in the packet.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Final Minutes Approved by the Commission June 10, 2015.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Officer



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

**MEMBERS**

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

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

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

June 10, 2015  
 Agenda Item 6

June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

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

**Informational Presentation – East Bay Municipal Utility District**

Dear Members of the Commission:

With record low snowpack, extreme dry and warm conditions, and four years of drought, Governor Brown has issued an Executive Order mandating 28% water reductions, rate structures and penalties. Local agencies must comply with the Order. Over the next several months, we will hear from local agencies regarding their drought management efforts.

In May we heard from Contra Costa Water District. Today, we are pleased to welcome Richard Harris, Manager of Water Conservation for EBMUD. Richard oversees the development and implementation of EBMUD’s water conservation master planning efforts in support of long term water supply and demand management goals. Richard has been at EBMUD for nearly 25 years, and prior to EBMUD’s Water Conservation Division, Richard managed EBMUD’s Water Recycling Program.

Richard has more than 28 years of experience in water and energy resource management, civil engineering and environmental systems planning. Richard currently serves as a Board member of the California Urban Water Conservation Council and the Alliance for Water Efficiency, based in Chicago, Illinois, two non-profit organizations dedicated to advancing water-use efficiency.

Richard is a licensed Civil Engineer and he holds a Masters in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles, and Bachelor’s degrees in Business Economics and Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 7

June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

<u>LAFCO 13-08</u>	Northeast Antioch Reorganization Area 2A - Annexations to the City of Antioch and Delta Diablo (DD) and detachment from County Service Area (CSA) P-6 <i>This item was continued from the June 11, 2014 LAFCO meeting</i>
<u>PROPONENT</u>	City of Antioch (by Resolution)
<u>ACREAGE &amp; LOCATION</u>	Area 2A comprises 116± acres (19 parcels) and is located immediately west of State Route 160 (Attachment 1).
<u>PURPOSE</u>	Provide municipal services to the area, which is largely built out with marina commercial, storage and incidental uses, along with several dwelling units.

SYNOPSIS/UPDATE

This is one of three separate boundary reorganization proposals submitted by the City of Antioch to annex the greater Northeast Antioch area to the City and to DD. Both the PG&E Reorganization (Area 1) and Northeast Antioch Reorganization Area 2B were approved by the Commission on January 8, 2014. In total, these areas comprise 678± acres and have significantly different characteristics and land uses (Attachment 2).

The Area 2A proposal is to annex 116± acres (19 parcels) to the City of Antioch and to DD, and detach the same area from CSA P-6, the County police district.

The Commission last discussed this proposal in June 2014. At that time, there were a number of unresolved issues raised by residents and property owners in the area, including land use and zoning designations; a potentially faulty drain pipe in the area; and continued opposition to the annexation by members of the Sportsman Yacht Club.

In May 2014, the City Council discussed these concerns and various options including reducing the annexation boundary, or delaying the matter. The decision was made to delay the matter for one year to allow more time for 1) the City to process General Plan and zoning amendments to address the land use designations for some of the heavy industrial uses (e.g., Kiewit); 2) the City and County to assess the drain line issue and possible remedies; 3) the City to secure grant funding to offset costs associated with the sewer lateral needed to serve Area 2A; and 4) the City to conduct more public outreach to the area.

The City of Antioch has provided an update regarding these issues (Attachment 3). In sum, the City is in the process of a comprehensive update of the Land Use Element of its General Plan and Zoning Update. This process will provide an opportunity for landowners, members of the Sportsman Yacht Club, and other interested parties to provide public input. The City expects to complete the General Plan update by mid-2016.

Regarding the drainage pipeline, a portion of the pipeline was inspected and found to have numerous issues, including buckling, dropped joints, root intrusion, and a potentially adverse pipe slope. The City indicates that it will not accept the pipeline and structures until the entire length of the pipeline



within the proposed annexation area is repaired and/or replaced by the County in a manner acceptable to the City.

A number of options are presented for the Commission's consideration at the end of this report. Should the Commission decide to take action today to approve or deny the proposal, we have included the staff analysis and recommendations as presented below.

## DISCUSSION

The Cortese Knox Hertzberg Act (CKH) sets forth factors that the Commission must consider in evaluating any proposed change of organization or reorganization as discussed below (Gov. Code §56668). In the Commission's review of these factors, no single factor is determinative. In reaching a decision, each factor is to be evaluated within the context of the overall proposal.

1. *Consistency with the Sphere of Influence of Any Local Agency:*

LAFCO is charged with both regulatory and planning functions. Annexations are basically a regulatory act, while establishing spheres of influence (SOIs) is a planning function. The SOI is an important benchmark as it defines the primary area within which urban development is to be encouraged. In order for the Commission to approve an annexation, it must be consistent with the jurisdiction's adopted SOI. The annexation area is within both the City of Antioch and the DD SOIs, and within both the City of Antioch and County voter-approved Urban Limit Lines.

2. *Land Use, Planning and Zoning - Present and Future:*

Area 2A is part of the City's Eastern Waterfront Employment Focus Area as identified in the City's General Plan. In 2011, the City and County formed a committee to develop and implement a joint economic development strategy for the Northeast Antioch area. This committee was instrumental in addressing some of the concerns relating to the reorganization proposals, including fiscal and infrastructure issues.

The land in Area 2A is largely built out and includes some underdeveloped properties. Existing uses are predominately marina, commercial, storage and incidental uses, along with several residential dwelling units. The City's General Plan designations for Area 2A include "Marina/Support Uses" and "Commercial." The City has rezoned Area 2A as "Urban Waterfront" and "Regional Commercial."

Surrounding land uses include the San Joaquin River to the north; Highway 160 and heavy industrial to the east; heavy and light industrial to the south; and heavy industrial to the west.

The current and proposed uses are consistent with the City's plan and rezoning designations. No changes in land uses are proposed in conjunction with the proposal.

Other factors relating to land use and growth that LAFCO considers in its review of a proposal are a regional transportation plan and regional growth goals and policies.

In consideration of these factors, LAFCO staff reviewed the *Plan Bay Area* which is a long-range integrated transportation and land-use/housing strategy through 2040 for the nine county San Francisco Bay Area. In July 2013, the *Plan* was jointly approved by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The *Plan* includes the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy and the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

The *Plan* identifies Priority Development Areas (PDAs) - 25 in Contra Costa County, and Priority Conservation Areas - 12 in Contra Costa County. Area 2A is not identified as a PDA.

3. *The Effect on Maintaining the Physical and Economic Integrity of Agricultural Lands:*

The State Department of Conservation produces a map every two years that identifies California's agricultural lands (e.g., Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, Grazing Land, etc.) based on ratings that take into account soil quality and irrigation status.

Both LAFCO law and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provide their respective definitions of "agricultural land" and "prime agricultural land."

Under CEQA, the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is considered a significant impact. There is no farmland in Area 2A, and no portion of the area is under a Williamson Act Land Conservation Agreement.

4. *Topography, Natural Features and Drainage Basins:*

Area 2A is located just south of the San Joaquin River. A portion of Area 2A immediately adjacent to the San Joaquin River is located within a 100-year flood hazard zone. As discussed in the City environmental review, the City's project does not propose any new buildings or structures within an identified area of heightened flood risk.

The area has a relatively level topography. There are no other significant natural features affecting the proposal.

5. *Population:*

The area is designated primarily for marina, commercial, storage and incidental uses. There are an estimated four existing residential units in Area 2A, which appear to be caretaker quarters for existing storage facilities. Also, there is a small number of boat residents in the area. In accordance with the City's General Plan and zoning designations, no new residential development is proposed for this area. Thus, no increase in population is anticipated.

6. *Fair Share of Regional Housing:*

Pursuant to §56668 of the CKH, LAFCO must consider in the review of a proposal the extent to which the proposal will assist the receiving entity in achieving its fair share of the regional housing needs as determined by the regional council of governments. Regional housing needs are determined by the State Department of Housing and Community Development; the councils of government throughout the State allocate to each jurisdiction a "fair share" of the regional housing needs. Given the current and proposed land uses in Area 2A, there is no impact to regional housing needs associated with the proposed reorganization.

7. *Governmental Services and Controls - Need, Cost, Adequacy and Availability:*

In accordance with Government Code §56653, whenever a local agency submits an annexation application, the local agency must also submit a plan for providing services to the annexation area. The plan shall include all of the following information and any additional information required by LAFCO:

- (1) An enumeration and description of the services to be extended to the affected territory.
- (2) The level and range of those services.
- (3) An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory.

- (4) An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed.
- (5) Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

The City has provided a "Plan for Services" as required by statute. The level and range of services will be comparable to those services currently provided within the City. City services will be needed to support future development in the area. As part of the reorganization proposal, the City and County have entered into a tax sharing agreement.

Following annexation, the City will provide a range of municipal services to Area 2A, including police, streets and roads, street lighting, drainage, parks & recreation, library, and other services. Fire services will continue to be provided by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD).

Following annexation, the City will provide sewer collection, and DD will provide sewer treatment and disposal. The City will provide retail water, and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) will provide wholesale water as summarized below. The City has existing sewer and water lines located within Area 2A that can serve the area following annexation.

***Police Services*** – Law enforcement services are currently provided to Area 2A by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Upon annexation, police services will be provided by the City, and the area will be detached from the County's police services district (CSA P-6).

The City's standard for providing police services is 1.2 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. By including Community Service Officers in the sworn officer category, Antioch has maintained this ratio. Police response times are dependent on the agency's staffing level and size of the jurisdiction served. The Antioch General Plan establishes a response time goal of 7-8 minutes for Priority 1 (emergency) calls. The Antioch Police Department reports that the average response time is 11 minutes due to a lack of staffing. The City's CEQA document concludes that the three Northeast Antioch annexation areas would not significantly impact or worsen the ratio of police staff to population or adversely affect the response times.

***Streets and Roads*** – The City indicated that the road network is already in place in Area 2A. The City anticipates that as development occurs in Northeast Antioch, appropriate frontage improvements will be made to existing public streets in this area. The City currently maintains 314 total centerline miles; 669 total lane miles. There is one mile of public streets within Area 2A that would be added to the City's road inventory following annexation.

***Street Lighting*** - The City reports that there are several existing street lights in Area 2A in close proximity to Highway 160, which are installed and maintained by Caltrans. Any new street lights installed in Area 2A would be in conjunction with new development.

***Drainage*** – The City indicates that there are currently no drainage facilities that serve the annexation area; however, there are two large storm drain trunk lines that cross Wilbur Avenue and drain into the San Joaquin River. The extent and location of any storm drainage improvements in Area 2A will depend on future development in the area. Capacity in the existing storm drain lines is limited, and significant new development within the Northeast Antioch reorganization area will require construction of a new outfall to the San Joaquin River. All new development in the annexation area must comply with provisions of various

municipal, regional, State and federal requirements, including measures to remove pollutants from stormwater for compliance with the federal Clean Water Act and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

**Parks & Recreation** – The City of Antioch has 33 parks. The City's General Plan Performance Standards for parks propose five acres of improved public and/or private neighborhood parks and public community parkland per 1,000 residents, including appropriate recreational facilities. The City exceeds this standard when the trail system, the Costa Loma Regional Park, and the Lone Tree Golf Course are factored in. There are currently no public parks in the Northeast Antioch reorganization area.

The City operates a comprehensive recreation program including aquatics, sports, leisure time activities, community and cultural events, Prewett Family Water Park, Senior Center, youth activities, excursions, and 300 instructional programs for pre-school, youth, adult, seniors, and on-line.

The annexation is not expected to create any significant demand on the City's existing parks & recreation facilities and programs due to the limited number of residents in the area.

**Other Services** – The City provides a multitude of other services, including arts & cultural, capital improvements, code enforcement, landscape maintenance, library and special services which will be extended to Area 2A following annexation.

**Fire Protection** – Fire and emergency medical services are, and will continue to be, provided by CCCFPD following annexation. There are four fire stations located in Antioch: Station 81 - located downtown at 315 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St; Station 82 - located at 196 Bluerock Dr, just west of Lone Tree Way in the south central portion of the City; Station 83 - located at 2717 Gentrytown Dr, south of Buchanan Road in the western portion of the City; and Station 88 - located at 4288 Folsom Dr, just east of Hillcrest Avenue in the eastern portion of the City.

The City's CEQA document concludes that the annexation will result in no change to fire services and no impacts will occur.

**Sewer Services** – The City provides wastewater collection services, while DD provides conveyance, treatment and disposal services to the City.

Currently, Area 2A is served by onsite septic systems. Following annexation, municipal wastewater services will be available to the area. The existing sewer line in Wilbur Avenue, which runs along Area 2A's Wilbur frontage, was installed by PG&E in conjunction with LAFCO's previous Out of Agency service approval; the line was later extended by NRG. Given that the existing Wilbur sewer line is at the "doorstep" of the Area 2A properties, connecting to this sewer line will be straightforward. However, there are a number of deep parcels in the area that will require lengthy connections, some as long as 1,000 lineal feet.

The City's current population is 108,298 in a 28± square mile service area. The City's wastewater collection system consists of 319 miles of gravity pipeline with three pump stations.

DD serves the cities of Antioch and Pittsburg and the unincorporated Bay Point community. DD serves 190,567 residents in a service area of 49± square miles. DD has over 49 miles of sewer main and five pump stations. The District's treatment plant capacity is 16.5 million gallons per day (mgd); in 2012, the average dry weather flow (ADWF) was 14.2 mgd.

Regarding capacity, the City's existing ADWF is 7.4 mgd; the future ADWF is 10.7 mgd. The City estimates that the future peak dry weather flow (PDWF) is 16.8 mgd. DD allows an ADWF of 16.5 mgd. As noted above, during 2012, the ADWF influent to the treatment plant was 12.7 mgd; in 2005 and 2010, the ADWF influent to the treatment plant was 14.2 mgd and 13.2 mgd, respectively. It is estimated that all three reorganization areas (Areas 1, 2A, 2B) have an existing estimated ADWF of 2.42 mgd which will increase to 3.71 mgd at buildout.

Both the City and DD indicate that they have the capacity to serve the Northeast Antioch reorganization area.

8. *Timely Availability of Water and Related Issues:*

Pursuant to the CKH, LAFCO must consider the timely and available supply of water in conjunction with a boundary change proposal. Contra Costa LAFCO policies state that any proposal for a change of organization that includes the provision of water service shall include information relating to water supply, storage, treatment, distribution, and waste recovery; as well as adequacy of services, facilities, and improvements to be provided and financed by the agency responsible for the provision of such services, facilities and improvements.

The City provides water treatment and distribution services, with 328 miles of main, seven pump stations and 11 reservoirs. The City obtains a majority of its water supply from CCWD, along with diversions from the San Joaquin River.

CCWD's boundary encompasses 220± square miles in central and eastern Contra Costa County. CCWD's untreated water service area includes Antioch, Bay Point, Oakley, Pittsburg, and portions of Brentwood and Martinez. The District's treated water service area includes Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa, and parts of Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. CCWD also treats and delivers water to the City of Brentwood, Golden State Water Company (Bay Point), Diablo Water District (Oakley), and the City of Antioch. CCWD serves approximately 500,000 (61,085 water connections). The primary sources of water are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Water Project and delta diversions.

Regarding the water distribution system, the City currently has existing "looped" water mains located in the Northeast Antioch annexation area, consisting of a 16-inch main that runs north/south along the length of Viera Avenue, a 12-inch water line that runs east/west along the length of Wilbur Avenue through Area 1, and 12-inch and 16-inch water lines that run along East 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, there is an existing 8-inch water line in Bridgehead Road that can serve properties in that area. These existing water lines provide the backbone of a future water delivery system that will ultimately be developed to serve properties and businesses located in the Northeast Antioch reorganization area.

In its Water Master Plan, the City examined its ability to serve all three subareas. The analysis confirms that, given the City's allocation of raw water and the City's rights to future water supplies of raw water, and based on the City's current and planned treatment capacity, the City has the ability to provide potable water to all three subareas based on the level of existing and future development.

The City reports that most of the existing uses in Area 2A currently have City water; and that these water service connections pre-date LAFCO.

9. *Assessed Value, Tax Rate Areas and Indebtedness:*

The annexation area is within tax rate area 53004. The total assessed value (secured and unsecured) is \$18,840,624 (2014-15 roll). The territory being annexed shall be liable for all authorized or existing taxes comparable to properties presently within the annexing agencies, if applicable.

10. *Property Tax Exchange:*

Revenue and Taxation Code §99(b)(6) requires adoption of a property tax exchange agreement by affected local agencies before the Commission can consider a proposed boundary change. Both the City and County have adopted resolutions approving a tax revenue allocation agreement covering all three annexation areas.

11. *Environmental Impact of the Proposal:*

The City of Antioch, as Lead Agency, prepared and adopted the Northeast Antioch Area Reorganization Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The City's IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts resulting from Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards & Hazardous Materials and Noise. Mitigation measures have been provided for each potentially significant impact, reducing all to a less than significant level. Copies of the City's document were previously provided to Commissioners and are available for review in the LAFCO office. The LAFCO Environmental Coordinator finds the City's CEQA document sufficient for LAFCO purposes.

12. *Landowner Consent and Consent by Annexing Agency:*

At the February 12 LAFCO hearing, members of the Sportsman Yacht Club advised LAFCO that they are opposed to the annexation. At the direction of the Commission, City, County and LAFCO staff met with members of the yacht club and property owners and residents of Area 2A to hear their concerns. A community meeting was held on February 27 at the New Bridge Marina Yacht Club, located in Area 2A. There were over 50 attendees at the meeting. City staff prepared a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Concerning Annexation which was distributed at the community meeting. At the meeting, City, County and LAFCO staff addressed a range of issues and questions. City staff responded to questions relating to water and sewer services, utility connection fees/rates and potential funding/grant options, zoning and land use, police and marine patrol services, the City's ability to serve the area, curbs and sidewalks, access roads and easements, code enforcement and eminent domain. County staff provided information regarding environmental health and septic system requirements. LAFCO staff provided information regarding LAFCO's role, mission and authority, LAFCO proceedings, protest thresholds, islands and Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs). The majority of attendees indicated opposition to the annexation.

At the March 12 LAFCO meeting, there were public comments and concerns regarding potential fiscal impacts to the residents of Area 2A following annexation, and requirements to connect to the City's water and sewer systems.

As explained in the FAQ and by City staff, there are no additional taxes or assessments associated with annexation. In November 2013, the Antioch voters passed a ½ cent temporary sales tax. The impact of this sales tax is insignificant given the lack of retail uses in Area 2A. As a sales tax, it would be paid by a customer buying a product or merchandise sold within Area 2A.

Regarding connection to the City's water and sewer utilities, City staff notes that all of the properties in Area 2A have City water service, and that all developed properties within Area 2A currently rely on onsite septic systems to handle wastewater flow. Many of these septic systems have been in operation for decades (in some cases 50 years). The age of the septic systems, as well as the proximity of Area 2A to the San Joaquin River and the high water table in the area, are cause for concern. Following annexation, property owners will have the ability to hook up to the City's sewer system, which is one of the benefits of annexation.

City staff explains that most properties within Area 2A will not be required to be hook up to City sewer, unless they are located a close distance from an existing sewer line. Annexation will give property owners the option to hook up, which would not otherwise exist without annexation. The City's existing ordinance stipulates that any property in the City with a septic system that is located with 200 feet of a City sewer line is required within 30 days to hook up to the sewer line. The distance is measured from the location of the sewer connection in the building to the sewer line. Most properties in Area 2A would not be impacted by this requirement, given how far they are located from the Wilbur sewer line.

On June 3, 2015, LAFCO staff confirmed with County Elections in February 2014, the area is "inhabited" (i.e., 12 or more registered voters). Thus, the Commission's action is subject to notice, hearing, as well as protest proceedings. If the Commission approves the annexation as proposed, a subsequent notice and protest hearing will follow. Authority to conduct the protest hearing has been delegated to the LAFCO Executive Officer.

13. *Boundaries and Lines of Assessment:*

Area 2A is contiguous to existing City of Antioch boundary. A map and legal description to implement the proposed boundary change have been received and are subject to approval by the County Surveyor.

On January 8, 2014, the Commission approved the annexation of Area 1, which is adjacent to Area 2A. The annexation of Area 2A will prevent the area from becoming an island, which would be surrounded by the City of Antioch to the west and south, the City of Oakley to the east, and the San Joaquin River to the north.

14. *Environmental Justice:*

One of the factors LAFCO must consider in its review of an application is the extent to which the proposal will promote environmental justice. As defined by statute, "environmental justice" means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the location of public facilities and the provision of public services. The proposed annexation is not expected to promote or discourage the fair treatment of minority or economically disadvantaged groups.

15. *Disadvantaged Communities:*

In accordance with recent legislation (SB 244), local agencies and LAFCOs are required to plan for disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs). Many of these communities lack basic infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, storm drainage, clean drinking water, and adequate sewer service. LAFCO actions relating to Municipal Service Reviews, SOI reviews/amendments, and annexations must take into consideration DUCs, and specifically the adequacy of public services, including sewer, water, and fire protection needs or

deficiencies, to these communities. According to the County and City Planning Departments, the annexation area does not meet the criteria of a DUC.

16. *Comments from Affected Agencies/Other Interested Parties:*

Members of the Sportsman Yacht Club expressed their opposition to the annexation at the February 12, March 12, April 9 and June 11 LAFCO meetings and at the community meeting on February 27.

On February 26, 2014, LAFCO received a letter from Steve Klee, Chairman and General Manager, The New Bridge Marina, Inc., expressing support for the annexation. Mr. Klee also expressed his support for the annexation at the April 9 LAFCO meeting.

At the April 9 LAFCO meeting, representatives from Kiewit Construction and Vortex Marine Construction expressed opposition to the annexation. At the June 11 meeting, a representative of Kiewit and Vortex indicated that they are working with the City and supported LAFCO's deferral of the proposal.

#### ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

After consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider taking one of the following options:

**Option 1** Reopen public hearing to accept additional evidence and public comment, if any; continue the public hearing to June 8, 2016, or other specified date.

**Option 2** Reopen public hearing to accept additional evidence and public comment, if any; close the public hearing and *approve the reorganization as submitted by the City*.

A. Find that, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Northeast Antioch Area Reorganization Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration as prepared and adopted by the City of Antioch.

B. Adopt this report and direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the proposal to be known as **Northeast Antioch Reorganization (Area 2A) - Annexations to the City of Antioch and Delta Diablo and detachment from County Service Area P-6** subject to the following:

1. The territory being annexed shall be liable for the continuation of any authorized or existing special taxes, assessments and charges comparable to properties presently within the annexing agency.

C. Find that the subject territory is inhabited, and the reorganization is subject to a subsequent conducting authority (protest) hearing.

**Option 3** Reopen public hearing to accept additional evidence and public comment, if any; close the public hearing and *approve the boundary reorganization as modified by the Commission*. If the Commission chooses this option, the City requests that LAFCO modify the annexation boundary by removing the properties located west of Fleming Lane (Sportsman Yacht Club, Kiewit, Vortex) as these property owners do not wish to



be annexed. Removal of this area would also delete the problematic drainage line from the annexation.

- A. Find that, as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Northeast Antioch Area Reorganization Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration as prepared and adopted by the City of Antioch.
- B. Adopt this report and direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the proposal to be known as **Northeast Antioch Reorganization (Area 2A) - Annexations to the City of Antioch and Delta Diablo and detachment from County Service Area P-6** subject to the following:
  - 1. The territory being annexed shall be liable for the continuation of any authorized or existing special taxes, assessments and charges comparable to properties presently within the annexing agency.
- C. Find that the subject territory is inhabited, and the reorganization is subject to a subsequent conducting authority (protest) hearing.

**Option 4** Reopen public hearing to accept additional evidence and public comment, if any; close the public hearing and take the following actions:

- A. Certify it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the City's Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- B. Adopt this report and DENY the proposal without prejudice.

**Option 5** Reopen public hearing to accept additional evidence and public comment, if any; close the public hearing and take the following actions:

- A. Certify it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the City's Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- B. Adopt this report and DENY the proposal.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Option 1**

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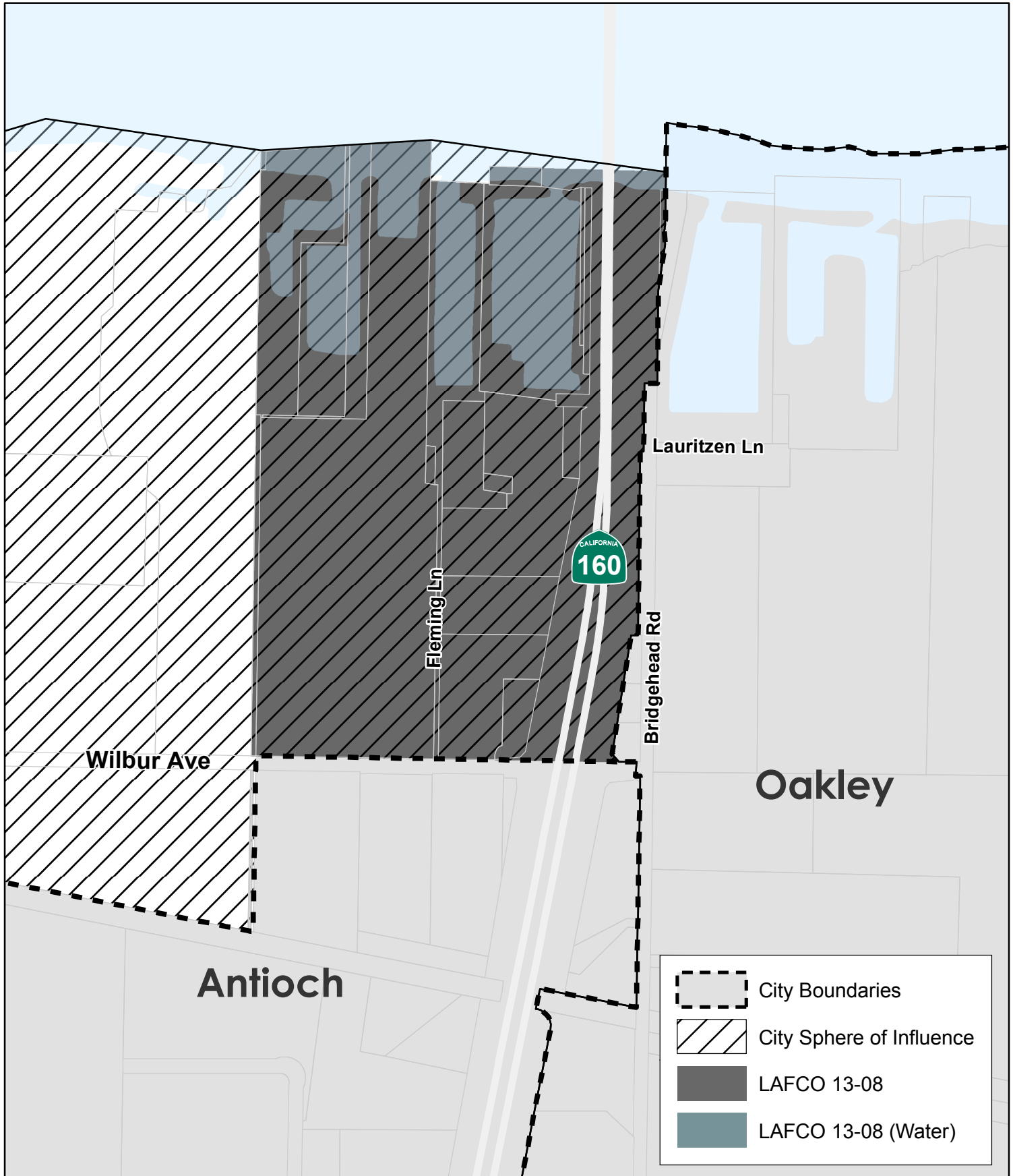
LOU ANN TEXEIRA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

c: Distribution

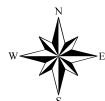
**Attachments**

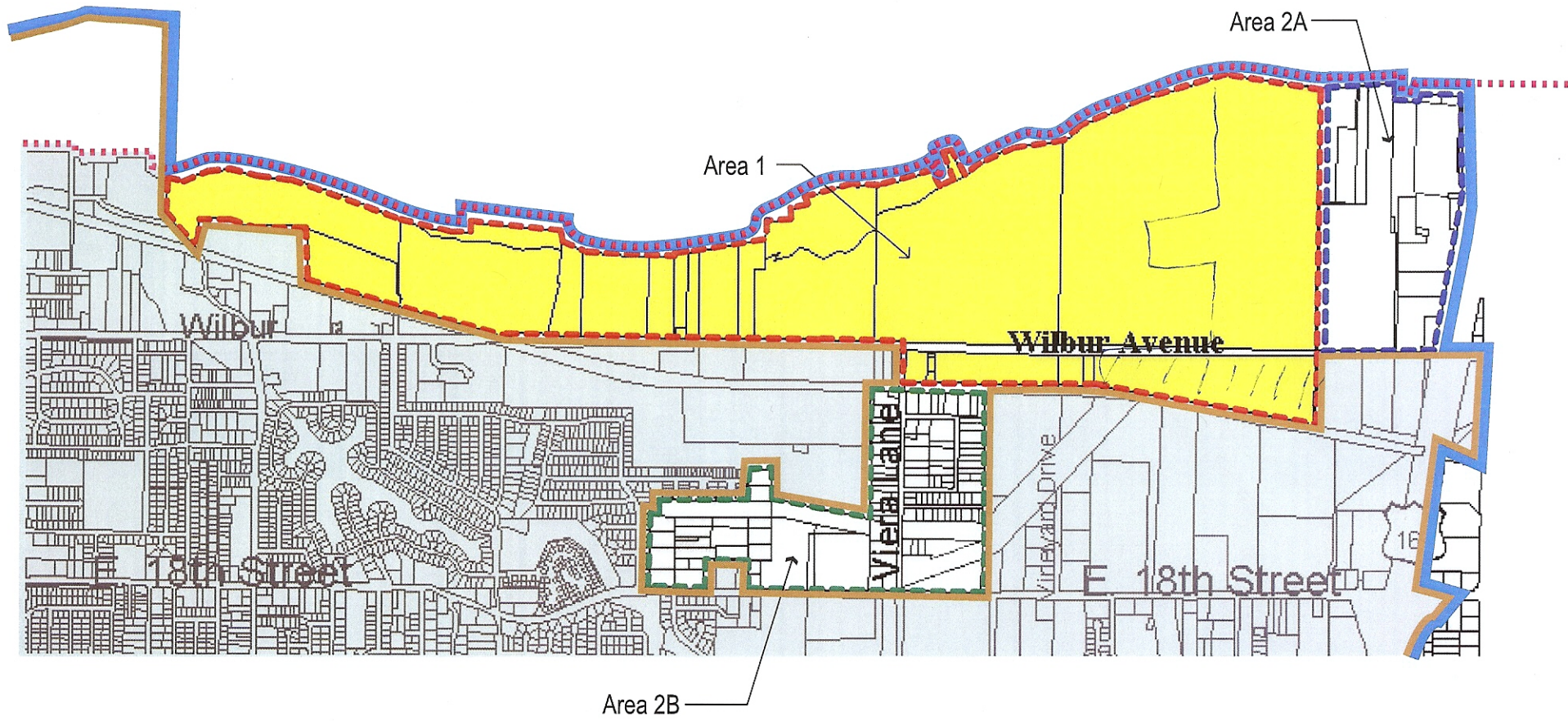
- 1. Map of Area 2A Reorganization
- 2. Map of Northeast Antioch (Areas 1, 2A and 2B)
- 3. Letter from the City of Antioch dated May 29, 2015

# LAFCO No. 13-08 Northeast Antioch Area 2A Reorganization Annexations to City of Antioch and Delta Diablo Sanitation District Detachment from CSA P-6



	City Boundaries
	City Sphere of Influence
	LAFCO 13-08
	LAFCO 13-08 (Water)





**LEGEND**

- ..... Urban Limit Line
- City Sphere of Influence (SOI)
- City Boundary
- DDSD Service Boundary and SOI
- Area 1
- Area 2A
- Area 2B

**EXHIBIT 2**  
 Current Administrative Boundaries  
 Industrial Areas Along Wilbur Avenue –  
 Administrative Reorganization



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May 29, 2015

Lou Ann Texeira  
Executive Officer  
Contra Costa LAFCO  
561 Pine Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Lou Ann:

Thank you for your recent emails regarding the status of the Northeast Antioch Reorganization 2A (Marina area). The City of Antioch has been following up on the significant issues that must be resolved before the City moves forward with annexation. The key issues are the zoning of the area adjacent to and including the area in question and the drainage pipeline situation.

Regarding the zoning issue, as reported earlier, the City is still in the process of a comprehensive update of the Land Use Element of our General Plan (GP) and Zoning Update to conform to the new land use designations. At this time we don't anticipate any significant changes to the nature of the existing County Zoning upon an annexation. However, the GP and Zoning updates will provide an opportunity for the overall community, the Sportsman Yacht Club and businesses in the area to express their thoughts about future land uses in this area. We estimate that the GP and Zoning updates will be complete by mid-2016.

On the drainage pipeline situation, the storm drain line from Wilbur Avenue to the outfall at the San Joaquin River has been inspected and found to have numerous issues, including buckling at multiple sections, dropped joints, root intrusion and a potentially adverse pipe slope. The City will not accept the pipe and structures for ownership and maintenance until the entire length of pipe within the area proposed to be annexed is repaired and/or replaced by the County in a manner acceptable to the City.

We look forward to resolving the storm drain issues with the County and will advise when there is a timeline in place for the necessary County improvements to the storm drain. That can help us form a more specific schedule for moving forward on the annexation of this area. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mitch Oshinsky', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mitch Oshinsky  
Interim Community Development Director

cc: City of Antioch Mayor and Councilmembers  
Steve Duran, City Manager  
Ron Bernal, Public Works Director/City Engineer  
Alexis Morris, Associate Planner

T:\Annexations\NE Annexation 2A\NEAnnex ltr.final.docx

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Community Development Department

P.O. Box 5007 • 200 H Street • Antioch, CA 94531-5007 • Tel: 925-779-7035 • Fax: 925-779-7034 • www.ci.antioch.ca.us



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

**MEMBERS**

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

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

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

June 10, 2015

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 8

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

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services and LAFCO**

This report provides an update on two issues relating to fire and emergency medical services (EMS) in Contra Costa County. The first issue was raised by Vince Wells, President, United Professional Firefighters Contra Costa – Local 1230 regarding automatic and mutual aid agreements and LAFCO’s role. The second issue pertains to LAFCO’s upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> round Fire & EMS Municipal Service Review (MSR). The report also provides a brief background/ chronology of LAFCO’s past efforts relating to EMS/Fire service issues.

BACKGROUND/CHRONOLOGY

Municipal Service Review (MSR)/Sphere of Influence Updates

In 2009, LAFCO completed a countywide MSR covering fire and emergency medical services (EMS) provided by the following three cities and eight special districts:

- City of El Cerrito
- City of Pinole
- City of Richmond
- Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD)
- Crockett-Carquinez Fire Protection District (CCFPD)
- East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD)
- Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD)
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD)
- Rodeo-Hercules Fire District (RHFD)
- San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD)
- County Service Area EM-1 (CSA EM-1)

The 2009 MSR provided a comprehensive review of EMS/fire services; showcased resource sharing and best practices; identified service, infrastructure, fiscal and other challenges; presented policy options; provided a basis for sphere of influence (SOI) updates and future boundary changes; and served as a catalyst for ongoing dialogue.

In conjunction with the 2009 MSR, LAFCO formed an Ad Hoc Fire Committee, composed of five Commissioners. The Committee held five meetings to facilitate discussions and receive additional input regarding the governance and SOI options identified in the MSR report. Following the Ad Hoc Committee meetings, East and West County fire agencies formed regional committees to explore service options and alternatives. The City of Pinole and ECCFPD provided regular updates to LAFCO.

Following the Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and as a result of the MSR, the Commission took the following SOI and policy actions:

1. **CCCFPD** – Updated SOI (expanded to include area southeast of Clayton, eastern boundary areas in the cities of Antioch and Pittsburg, and Roddy Ranch; and reduced to remove Bogue Ranch, and 101-acre area in Orinda).
2. **CSA EM-1** – Updated SOI (retained existing coterminous SOI). Encouraged CSA EM-1 to coordinate a 911 dispatch study in conjunction with the Contra Costa County Sheriff and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) managers' group to address dispatch issues.
3. **ECCFPD** – Updated SOI (reduced to remove Roddy Ranch).
4. **MOFD** – Updated SOI (expanded to include previously annexed 101-acre area in Orinda). Encouraged MOFD, City of Orinda and Town of Moraga to communicate regarding road and water infrastructure challenges and report back to LAFCO.
5. **SRVFPD** – Updated SOI (expanded to include previously annexed areas in Tassajara Valley/Morgan Territory and Bogue Ranch). Encouraged SRVFPD and the Alameda County Fire Department to work together to achieve service/fiscal balance in the Crow Canyon and North Dublin areas.

The Commission deferred the SOI updates for CCFPD, KFPD, and RHFD in anticipation of a potential fire service consolidation in West County.

### **Fire Workshops and Ongoing Discussions**

As a follow-up to the MSR and fire ad hoc committee meetings, in 2010, LAFCO hosted two fire workshops facilitated by Bill Chiat, the outcome of which resulted in a list of pressing issues and potential opportunities as summarized below.

#### **Pressing Issues**

- Funding
- Fiscal sustainability
- Service efficiency, equity and consistency

#### **Potential Opportunities**

- Evaluating service efficiencies
- Establishing baseline and/or service standards
- Centralizing dispatch services
- Pursuing best practices and governance/service models
- Continuing public relations/education efforts and community involvement

The LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee meetings and Fire Workshops were well attended by County, city and special district officials and staff, fire commissioners, representatives from labor, members of the Grand Jury, the public and the media.

Over the course of a year, the Commission continued to discuss short, mid- and long-term goals relating to fire service, and subsequently, directed LAFCO staff to explore with Citygate Associates and fire service providers further study of fire service issues in Contra Costa County.

Following several meetings with the fire chiefs and representatives of Citygate Associates, the group reported back to the Commission. The report noted the following:

- ❖ The LAFCO MSR provides important data and analysis which served as a catalyst for the ongoing dialogue among stakeholders, and contributed to improved collaboration and working relationships among fire/EMS providers and labor groups in Contra Costa County.
- ❖ Fire service providers in Contra Costa County continue to work to address their service and fiscal challenges. Agencies are looking for ways to reduce costs and increase revenues. Several agencies are pursuing voter-approved funding measures; and most continue to explore new opportunities for resource sharing and collaboration in order to sustain services during these challenging fiscal times.
- ❖ It will take political will and cooperation by local agencies, labor and the communities they serve to effect major change in the provision of fire service.

In sum, the general consensus was that the economic climate will continue to present challenges for local agencies, and that those local agencies facing significant service and fiscal challenges are working to address their particular issues.

The group thanked the Commission for its efforts and stated that there was little interest in pursuing another study, noting that local agencies continue to be financially constrained and would rather devote funding to critical services. The Commissioner accepted the group's report and requested that fire service agencies provide an update to LAFCO in six months; most of the agencies did so. The periodic updates reported ongoing fiscal and service challenges, and efforts to address them.

Following the MSR process, and the Ad Hoc Committee meetings and fire workshops, discussions continued regarding funding challenges and the fiscal sustainability of fire service agencies. The decline in property tax revenue forced local agencies to take severe measures, including closing and browning out fire stations, eliminating positions, modifying service delivery, reallocating staff, deferring expenses (e.g., capital outlay), increasing fees and depleting reserves. East and West County were particularly hard-hit by the decline in property tax revenues and continue to be financially challenged today.

With regard to funding, the three cities fund fire department operations primarily from their general fund revenues; whereas, the fire districts are funded primarily by property tax. As a funding source, property taxes are constrained by statewide initiatives that have been passed by voters over the years, and the recent recession.

Fire district property tax allocations vary significantly, with KFPD (30%) and MOFD (21%) receiving higher shares, on average; and ECCFPD (8%) and RHFD (9%) receiving lower shares, on average.

In the past, several of the fire service providers imposed voter-approved special benefit assessments on parcels or dwelling units or special taxes to fund services, including RHFD, KFPD, MOFD and City of Pinole. Since completion of the MSR in August 2009, CCCFPD and ECCFPD attempted special tax measures; however, the voters rejected the measures.

A number of the fire service providers continue to struggle today. In the fall of 2015, LAFCO will embark on its 2<sup>nd</sup> round MSR covering EMS/Fire services, as discussed below.

### AUTOMATIC AND MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

At the LAFCO meeting on May 13, 2015, the President and Vice President of the United Professional Firefighters Contra Costa – Local 1230 addressed the Commission under public comment. The officers expressed concern regarding the level of fire service in certain areas of the County, the disparity in automatic and mutual aid services. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Vince Wells, President, Local 1230, submitted a letter to LAFCO (Attachment 1) reiterating his concerns and requesting that LAFCO discuss and review the automatic aid agreements between fire service agencies in Contra Costa County.

The 2009 LAFCO EMS/Fire MSR included a brief discussion regarding automatic and mutual aid as summarized below.

*Fire providers' service areas differ from their jurisdictional boundaries as a result of automatic aid, mutual aid and contract service arrangements.*

***Automatic aid** refers to reciprocal service provided under an automatic aid agreement, a prearranged plan or contract between agencies for an automatic response for service with no need for a request to be made. Automatic aid is more extensive in the County than in many other parts of California. The Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Association agreed in the early 2000s to implement countywide closest-resource dispatching (known as "boundary drop") in which the closest available crew is dispatched to an incident regardless of boundaries. Apparatus location and availability is known at the CCCFPD Communications Center due to automatic vehicle locator (AVL) technology, and the Communications Center's computer-aided design (CAD) technology facilitates dispatch of the closest resource.*

***Mutual aid** refers to reciprocal service provided under a mutual aid agreement, a pre-arranged plan and contract between agencies for reciprocal assistance upon request by the first-response agency. All agencies are required to provide mutual aid in times of extreme disaster as part of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Master Mutual Aid Agreement. All three ambulance providers have agreed to provide ambulance service when needed to areas of the County outside their service areas to the extent they are able.*

*Aid arrangements among the local agencies are shown in the attached table (Attachment 2). Aid arrangements frequently provided or received are listed in plain font, and aid occasionally provided*



*or received is in italicized font. Not shown in the table are the aid arrangements with and between private fire brigades.*

President Wells notes in his letter that many of the automatic agreements have not been formalized, reviewed or modified since the closure of fire stations within the County, and is requesting that LAFCO discuss and review the automatic aid agreements between the fire service providers in Contra Costa County.

In his letter, President Wells references the Contra Costa LAFCO policy relating to out of agency service, and requests that LAFCO review the automatic aid agreements pursuant to these provisions.

On May 27, LAFCO staff met with President Wells and Vice President Guerrero to discuss fire service issues, including the request for LAFCO to review automatic aid agreements and the upcoming EMS/Fire MSR.

LAFCO staff explained that agreements between public agencies, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Joint Powers Agreements (JPAs) are not subject to LAFCO's authority. Further, out of agency service agreements between two or more public agencies are exempt from LAFCO approval pursuant to Government Code section 56133(e) as follows:

*(e) This section does not apply to contracts or agreements solely involving two or more public agencies where the public service to be provided is an alternative to, or substitute for, public services already being provided by an existing public service provider and where the level of service to be provided is consistent with the level of service contemplated by the existing service provider.*

While it is not within LAFCO's authority or expertise, the Commission could consider a review of the automatic aid agreements as part of the upcoming MSR.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND EMS/FIRE SERVICE MSR

As noted above, in 2009 Contra Costa LAFCO completed a comprehensive review of EMS/Fire services, and updated the SOIs for five of the agencies covered in the MSR.

LAFCO law provides that "*on or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence*" (Gov. Code section 56425). Further, LAFCO law provides "*in order to prepare and to update spheres of influence in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission.*" (Gov. Code section 56430).

The Commission expressed a desire to move forward with a 2<sup>nd</sup> round MSR covering EMS/Fire services.

In June 2014, LAFCO released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to prepare its 2<sup>nd</sup> round EMS/Fire MSR. LAFCO sent the RFP notice to approximately 30 consulting firms; and, unfortunately, received **no** proposals. LAFCO staff followed up with some of the consultants and asked the following questions:

1. *Why didn't your firm bid on the MSR?*
2. *What can Contra Costa LAFCO do to make the project more appealing to bidders?*
3. *Can you offer any suggestions?*

Some of the responses are summarized below:

- **Timing** - Several of the firms indicated that they had a full workload at the time and were understaffed (due to recession), and unable to take on another project at the time. Several firms indicated they would be able to take on other projects in early 2015. A couple of firms suggested that LAFCO wait until the County awarded the ambulance contract before embarking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round EMS/Fire MSR.
- **Scope of Work** – A number of firms expressed concern with the work/cost involved in updating the 1<sup>st</sup> round EMS/Fire MSR, as it was extensive. A number of firms suggested we narrow the scope or approach or “phase” the second round MSR (e.g., operational/fiscal, “problem” or “issue” oriented, subregional approach, separate MSRs for city and district service providers, etc.).

Based on the lack of bids, and the timing of the County’s ambulance contract award, the Commission decided to defer the 2<sup>nd</sup> round EMS/Fire MSR until after the County awards its ambulance contract, which is tentatively scheduled for late July 2015.

In August 2015, LAFCO staff will bring a new RFP to the Commission for review and approval. Based on the feedback received last year, it is desirable to narrow the scope of work in the new RFP (e.g., critical issue(s), subregional, agency-specific, governance alternatives, fiscal sustainability, etc.).

LAFCO staff reached out to the fire chiefs, EMS Director and labor for input as to the most critical EMS/Fire service issues, and focus of LAFCO’s 2<sup>nd</sup> round EMS/Fire MSR; and looks forward to their feedback.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Receive report and provide input and direction as desired.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Texeira  
Executive Officer

#### Attachments

1. Letter dated May 14, 2015 from Vince Wells, President, United Professional Firefighters Contra Costa – Local 1230
2. Automatic and Mutual Aid Table, 2009 LAFCO EMS/Fire MSR



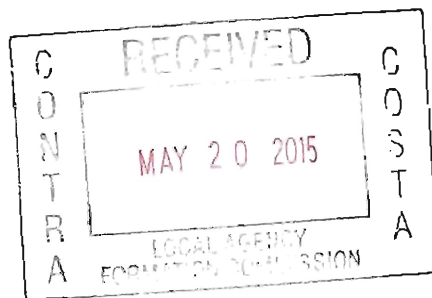
## United Professional Firefighters Contra Costa • Local 1230

112 Blue Ridge Drive • Martinez, California 94553

Phone (925) 932-1230 • Fax (925) 932-1521 • www.contracostafirefighters.org

May 14, 2015

Lou Ann Texeira  
 Executive Officer  
 Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)  
 651 Pine Street, 6<sup>th</sup>. Floor  
 Martinez, CA 94553



Re: Request to Place Auto-Aide Agreements between Contra Costa County Fire Agencies on the Agenda

Dear Executive Officer Texeira,

This letter is a follow-up to my request to have LAFCO discuss and review the automatic-aid agreements between fire service agencies within Contra Costa County. As I stated during my public comments at the May 13, 2015 LAFCO meeting; we would like to have these agreements discussed at a LAFCO meeting in the near future. Many of these agreements have not been formalized, reviewed, or have not been modified since the closure of fire stations within the county.

Section 3.15 of the Contra Costa LAFCO, Section titled Provision of Services by Contract (Out of Agency Service), provides the guidelines that govern the service agreements between District's and other governing agencies. We are asking that LAFCO review the fire service agreements to assure that they meet the criteria set in this provision. We understand that the provision exempts certain agreements from requiring LAFCO approval. We would like to have the aid agreements that have not been approved by LAFCO to be reviewed to assure they do meet the requirements of this exemption.

As you know there are multiple fire agencies within this county who share borders with other agencies. Each agency makes its decision on what level of funding and service they will provide to their constituents. The automatic aid agreements within this county have been set up to provide the closest resource



for most emergencies amongst border agencies. In order to assure that this agreement is not being used to subsidize services, we request these agreements to be reviewed.

Please let me know if there is another process we must go through to get this issue on the agenda. Please contact me for any questions.

Thank you for your assistance on such an important service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vince Wells, President of the United Professional Firefighters  
of Contra Costa County, Local 1230

**Table 3-2: Automatic and Mutual Aid, 2009**

<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Automatic Aid Provided to</b>	<b>Automatic Aid Received from</b>	<b>Mutual Aid Partners</b>
City of El Cerrito FD	ConFire: East Richmond Heights KFPD: Kensington Richmond: east areas <i>Occasionally throughout West County</i>	<i>Occasional from ConFire</i>	Cities of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley and Oakland, ConFire, EBRPD, and CAL FIRE
City of Pinole FD	ConFire: Tara Hills, Montalvin Manor, Bay View, and Alhambra Valley RHFPD <i>Occasionally to Richmond and CCFPD</i>	ConFire, RHFPD. <i>Occasional from Richmond and CCFPD</i>	City of Richmond, EBRPD and CAL FIRE.
City of Richmond FD	ConFire: San Pablo, north Richmond, El Sobrante, and E. Richmond Heights El Cerrito <i>Occasional aid to Pinole and RHFPD</i>	El Cerrito, ConFire, <i>occasional aid from Pinole and RHFPD</i>	City of Berkeley, ConFire. <i>Occasionally with EBRPD and CAL FIRE</i>
Contra Costa County FPD	Benicia: northbound lanes Benicia-Martinez Bridge ECCFPD: northwest Brentwood, west Oakley, west Marsh Creek Dr.	Benicia: southbound lanes Benicia-Martinez Bridge Pinole: Tara Hills, Bayview, Montalvin Manor and Alhambra Valley El Cerrito: East Richmond Heights Richmond: San Pablo, Valley View	EBRPD, CAL FIRE and City of Benicia
Crockett-Carquinez FPD	RHFPD: westbound I-80 between Cummings Skyway and Willow Ave. ramp <i>Occasional aid to ConFire and Pinole</i>	RHFPD: south/west of Cummings Skyway	City of Vallejo
East Contra Costa FPD	ConFire	CAL FIRE: Marsh Creek ConFire: northwest Brentwood, west Oakley, west Marsh Creek Dr.	Alameda County FD <i>Occasionally in San Joaquin County off SR 4.</i>
Moraga-Orinda FPD	ConFire	ConFire	Cities of Berkeley and Oakland, and CAL FIRE.
Rodeo-Hercules FPD	CCFPD: south/west of Cummings Skyway Pinole, ConFire	CCFPD: westbound I-80 between Cummings Skyway and Willow Ave. ramp Pinole, ConFire	Cities of Pinole and Richmond, ConFire, EBPRD, and CAL FIRE
San Ramon Valley FPD	Alameda County Fire District (ACFD) in the northern portion of Dublin and in Crow Canyon	<i>ACFD: southern end of San Ramon, and southern portions of Dougherty Valley</i>	ACFD, CAL FIRE, and ConFire. <i>Occasionally MOFPD and Livermore-Pleasanton FD</i>

Note: Occasional aid provided or received indicated by italics



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

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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





Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

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June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

June 10, 2015  
 Agenda Item 10

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

**LAFCO Fee Schedule Update**

Dear Members of the Commission:

Government Code §56383 allows the Commission to adopt a schedule of fees to recover “estimated reasonable costs” of LAFCO proceedings. A copy of the current Schedule of Processing Fees is attached (Attachment 1). The fee schedule was last comprehensively reviewed in January 2007, and previously in 2001 to reflect LAFCO’s increased responsibilities under the newly enacted Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). Prior fee adjustments were modest to moderate.

LAFCO staff has embarked on a comprehensive review of the current fee schedule, and is currently reviewing the historical fee adjustments and average staff time spent on various proposals and projects.

In addition, we have surveyed 13 other LAFCOs (Bay Area and other urban) in order to analyze and compare fees. There is considerable variation in fees, including flat fees, time and materials, and various hybrid formulas. Some of the other fee schedules are complex. There are benefits and challenges associated with the various fee methodologies. For example, time and materials fees can result in greater cost recovery; however, they are more staff intensive and require tracking staff hours by project. A number of LAFCOs use factors such as acreage, landowner consent (i.e., 100% versus less than 100%), applicant (local agency, landowner/voter), and level of environmental review (i.e., EIR, Negative Declaration) to determine fees. Some of these factors are more relevant than others, as the nature and complexity of each application varies considerably.

In our preliminary review of Contra Costa LAFCO fees as compared to other Bay Area and urban LAFCO fees, it appears that our fees are significantly below the market average in most categories.

The Commission's current fee schedule applies flat fees for various types of applications (e.g., annexation, reorganization, SOI amendment, out of agency service, etc.), and actual cost for special services (e.g., municipal service reviews, special studies, preparing environmental documents). The application fees recover a portion of LAFCO's expenses, and comprise a fraction of LAFCO's total revenue, ranging from 5.4% in FY 2007-08, when we last adjusted the fees, to 1.5% (estimated) in FY 2014-15.

Application activity has declined since 2008, and continues to do so. Consequently, staff deferred updating the fee schedule. However, we are hopeful that application activity will begin to increase, and need to assure that our fees are up-to-date.

Any proposed fee adjustments will take into consideration the following: 1) reasonable cost of providing the service, 2) cost recovery enhancement, and 3) comparability to fees levied by the other urban and Bay Area LAFCOs.

At this time, LAFCO staff is seeking the Commission's input and direction regarding the following:

- interest in increasing fees
- extent of fee increases - i.e., minor to modest increases based on current schedule of fees, change in fee methodology (i.e. time & materials), etc.
- other factors

#### RECOMMENDATION

If the Commission is interested in pursuing fee increases, it is recommended that a public hearing be set for August 12, 2015, to adopt the revised fee schedule.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment 1 – Current Contra Costa LAFCO Schedule of Processing Fees

**CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROCESSING FEES AND DEPOSITS**  
*(Effective September 12, 2007 with slight modification March 15, 2013)*

<b><u>Change of Organization:</u></b> (annexation to, or detachment from, a city or district)	\$2,765
<b><u>Annexation to County Service Area L-100:</u></b> (no longer applicable, 3/15/13)	\$1,575
<b><u>District Formation:</u></b>	\$7,800
<b><u>District Dissolution/Merger/Consolidation/Establishing Subsidiary District:</u></b>	\$4,750
<b><u>Reorganization:</u></b>	\$3,885
<b><u>Addition/Deletion of Powers for Special District:</u></b>	\$2,765
<b><u>Incorporation/Disincorporation:</u></b>	\$8,000
<b><u>Concurrent review of relevant sphere(s) with change of organization or reorganization:</u></b>	\$1,500
<b><u>Sphere of Influence Amendment/Revision:</u></b>	\$4,500
<b><u>Transfer of Jurisdiction to another LAFCO:</u></b> (payable to principal LAFCO)	\$ 300
<b><u>Request for Reconsideration:</u></b>	\$2,500
<b><u>Out-of-Agency Service Review:</u></b>	\$3,400
<b>OTHER FEES</b>	
<b><u>Environmental Review</u></b>	
<i>Categorical Exemption</i>	\$ 200
<i>Negative Declaration</i>	Actual Cost with advance deposit of \$ 500
<i>EIR Preparation</i>	Actual Cost with advance deposit of \$2,500
<i>Review Lead Agency's EIR</i>	\$1,000
<i>Review Lead Agency's Negative Declaration</i>	\$ 750
<b><u>Special Meeting/Workshop Fee:</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Special Study Fee</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Outside/Special Consultant Fee:</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Outside/Special Legal Fee:</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Hearing Notice Fee</u></b> (mailing and publication pursuant to Gov. Code 56157):	Actual Cost
<b><u>Notices of Determination per Public Resources Code 21089 &amp; Fish &amp; Game Code 711.4</u></b> (filed with County Clerk):	
<i>Filing as a Responsible Agency * (required of most LAFCO actions)</i>	\$ 50
<i>For specific information regarding filing fees for Negative Declarations or Environmental Impact Reports, please refer to California Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife</i>	

**SCHEDULE OF PROCESSING FEES (Effective September 12, 2007) – Page two**

<b><u>Deposit to Review map and legal description:</u></b> (Check payable to County Surveyor)	\$1,100
<b><u>Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis:</u></b>	Actual Cost with advance deposit of \$5,000
<b><u>State Controller’s Review of Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis:</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Municipal Service Reviews</u></b>	Actual Cost
<b><u>Annual Mail List Fee:</u></b>	\$ 50
<b><u>Duplication of Meeting Record</u></b> (i.e., tape, CD, transcription)	Actual Cost
<b><u>Document Copying:</u></b> (less than 20 pages \$.25/page)	\$ 25
<b><u>County Registrar of Elections fees to review petitions:</u></b>	Per the County Election Division’s Fee Schedule
<b><u>State Board of Equalization (SBE) Fee:</u></b>	Per the SBE Fee Schedule

**Payments & Refunds:** Fees are due with application submittal. No application shall be deemed filed until processing fees are deposited. Application processing fees are typically non-refundable.

Checks made payable to Contra Costa LAFCO and/or County offices must be business checks or money orders; personal checks will not be accepted.

**Waiver Provision:** The Commission may waive or alter fees in special circumstances [Gov. Code §56383(d)]. A proposal previously denied and resubmitted shall be accompanied by new fees unless changes are determined to be minor.

**\*Previously Paid Fees:** If any fee requirement has been previously met, please submit a copy of the appropriate documentation (e.g., fee receipt from County Clerk’s Office)

*The fee schedule is administered in accordance with Government Code §56383.*



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

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June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 11

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

**Contract Extension – Lamphier-Gregory**

Dear Commissioners:

In June 2011, following a formal bid process, the Commission approved a new contract with Lamphier-Gregory to provide professional planning services to LAFCO on an as needed basis. The firm has provided planning services to Contra Costa LAFCO since 2008.

Under the contract, Nat Taylor serves as Senior Planner and Project Manager, supporting LAFCO as follows:

- Review and analysis of, and preparation of, written comments regarding various LAFCO applications
- Review and evaluation of, and preparation of, written comments regarding environmental documents prepared by other agencies
- Preparation of environmental documents for LAFCO projects
- Assistance with development of new, and review of existing, LAFCO policies and procedures
- Assistance with municipal service reviews (MSRs) and sphere of influence (SOI) updates
- Attendance at LAFCO hearings, meetings with applicants, and other meetings as needed

Through the firm's ongoing work, they have become familiar with projects and issues relating to Contra Costa LAFCO. The firm is currently working with LAFCO staff on a number of projects including several pending reorganization proposals and development of new policies and procedures. Given the firm's exemplary work and familiarity with Contra Costa LAFCO issues, staff recommends an extension of the current contract, as previously discussed in the FY 2015-16 budget report.

The current contract provides for amendment subject to written agreement by both parties.

## RECOMMENDATION

Authorize LAFCO staff to execute a one-year contract extension with Lamphier-Gregory extending the term of the contract from June 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The amendment includes no increase to hourly rates and no increase to the contract amount. Adequate funds are included in the existing contract and in the FY 2015-16 LAFCO budget.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Texeira  
Executive Officer

c: Nat Taylor, Lamphier-Gregory  
County Auditor-Controller

PO Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

Reference is made to that contract entered into on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2011, by and between the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission and Lamphier Gregory.

Said contract is hereby amended:

TERM will be from July 1, 2011 through **June 30, 2016**.

This amendment is effective July 1, 2015.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this amendment this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2015.

CONTRA COSTA LAFCO

CONTRACTOR  
LAMPHER GREGORY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAFCO Executive Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Taxpayer ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAFCO Legal Counsel

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the Executive Officer of the Contra Costa LAFCO was duly authorized to execute this document on behalf of the Contra Costa LAFCO by a majority vote of the Commission on June 10, 2015.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contra Costa LAFCO Clerk



Lou Ann Texeira  
 Executive Officer

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June 10, 2015

June 10, 2015  
 Agenda Item 12

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

**CALAFCO Annual Conference - Call for Board Members & Achievement Award Nominations**

Dear Commissioners:

The annual CALAFCO conference will be held September 2-4, 2015 in Sacramento (see Attachment 1). Registration for the conference is now open. Conference updates regarding the program, mobile workshop and other conference events will be posted on the CALAFCO website at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org).

Each year, prior to the annual conference, CALAFCO calls for Board of Director and Achievement Award nominations. The election of CALAFCO Board members and Achievement Award ceremony will take place at the annual CALAFCO conference on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nominations are now open for the fall elections of the CALAFCO Board of Directors. There are eight seats up for election this fall, two from each of the four regions. The Coastal Region seats include a City Member and a Public Member. Candidates must be nominated by the Commission on which they serve. The deadline for Board nominations is **August 3, 2015**. See Attachment 2.

Also, nominations are now open for the 2015 CALAFCO Achievement Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievements by individuals and organizations committed to LAFCO goals and principles. The deadline for award nominations is **July 20, 2015**. See Attachment 3.

Finally, the CALAFCO bylaws require that each LAFCO designate a voting delegate to vote on behalf of their Commission. The voting delegate may be a commissioner, alternate commissioner or executive officer. Voting delegates must be designated by **August 3, 2015**.

**Recommendations:** Advise as to Board and/or Achievement Award nominations, appoint a voting delegate and alternate, and direct staff to forward the information to CALAFCO.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment 1 - CALAFCO 2015 Annual Conference Announcement  
 Attachment 2 – CALAFCO Board Nomination Packet  
 Attachment 3 - CALAFCO Achievement Awards Nomination Packet





CALAFCO 2015 CONFERENCE  
★ SACRAMENTO ★

# Announcing The 2015 CALAFCO Annual Conference



Hosted by Sacramento LAFCo

**September 2 – 4, 2015**

Downtown Sacramento, California  
at the Hyatt Regency



## Value-Added General and Breakout Session Topics

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation – Where Do We Go From Here?
- Planning, Agriculture and Natural Resources – a Confluence of Ideas for LAFCo Solutions
- Urban Growth Boundaries and SOIs
- Leadership Practices in an Era of VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity)
- The Impact of Climate Change on Land Use Planning
- Community Services Districts 101
- Fiscal Tools to Sustain Services
- LAFCo Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Exploring the New World of Broadband
- LAFCo Staff: The Magic Behind the Curtain

*Plus many others!*

*Note: The Program is still being put together. The topics noted above represent only a portion of the program to be offered. All sessions are subject to change.*

Mark your calendar and  
plan to attend!

Registration is now open!  
Visit [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org)

## Special Highlights

**Mobile Workshop**  
A special look at the physical confluence of the Sacramento & American rivers, followed by a tour of the largest and most progressive inland Waste Water Treatment Plant west of the Mississippi, and close with a tour of the Delta levy & habitat. Lunch at the historic Old Sugar Mill included.

**Wednesday from  
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
(times approx..)

**LAFCo 101**  
An introduction to LAFCo and LAFCo law for commissioners, staff, and anyone interested in learning more about LAFCo

**Wednesday from  
10:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Luncheon Keynote**  
Featuring *Ted Gaebler*,  
co-author of the *National best-seller Reinventing Government*

**Thursday Luncheon**

## Invaluable Networking Opportunities

- Commissioner Roundtable discussions on current issues
- Roundtable discussions for LAFCo staff, LAFCo counsel, and Associate members
- 9<sup>th</sup> CALAFCO Beer & Wine Competition and Reception
- Networking breakfasts
- Receptions

## Hyatt Regency Downtown



Make your reservations now at the Hyatt Regency at the CALAFCO special rate of \$126. Find the link at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org).



**2014-2015  
Board of Directors**

**Chair**

JOHN LEOPOLD  
Santa Cruz LAFCo

**Secretary**

GAY JONES  
Sacramento LAFCo

**Treasurer**

JOSH SUSMAN  
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JULIE ALLEN  
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CHERYL BROTHERS  
Orange LAFCo

JAMES CURATALO  
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LARRY R. DUNCAN  
Butte LAFCo

MARY JANE GRIEGO  
Yuba LAFCo

JULIANA INMAN  
Napa LAFCo

MICHAEL KELLEY  
Imperial LAFCo

DR. WILLIAM KIRBY  
Placer LAFCo

MICHAEL R. MCGILL  
Contra Costa LAFCo

RICKY SAMAYOA  
Yuba LAFCo

ROGER WELT, PHD  
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**Staff**

PAMELA MILLER  
Executive Director

MARJORIE BLOM  
Executive Officer

CLARK ALSOP  
Legal Counsel

STEPHEN LUCAS  
Deputy Executive Officer

DAVID CHURCH  
Deputy Executive Officer

PAUL NOVAK  
Deputy Executive Officer

JENI TICKLER  
Executive Assistant

5 May 2015

**To:** Local Agency Formation Commission  
Members and Alternate Members

**From:** Elliot Mulberg, Committee Chair  
Board Recruitment Committee  
CALAFCO Board of Directors

**RE: Nominations for 2015/2016 CALAFCO Board of Directors**



Nominations are now open for the fall elections of the CALAFCO Board of Directors. Serving on the CALAFCO Board is a unique opportunity to work with other commissioners throughout the state on legislative, fiscal and operational issues that affect us all. The Board meets four to five times each year at alternate sites around the state. Any LAFCo commissioner or alternate commissioner is eligible to run for a Board seat.

CALAFCO's Recruitment Committee is accepting nominations for the following seats on the CALAFCO Board of Directors:

<u>Northern Region</u>	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Coastal Region</u>	<u>Southern Region</u>
District Member	City Member	City Member	District Member
County Member	Public Member	Public Member	County Member

The election will be conducted during regional caucuses at the CALAFCO annual conference prior to the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento, CA.

**Please inform your Commission that the CALAFCO Recruitment Committee is accepting nominations for the above-cited seats until *Monday, August 3, 2015.***

Incumbents are eligible to run for another term. Nominations received by August 3 will be included in the Recruitment Committee's Report and on the ballot, copies of which will be distributed to LAFCo members August 19 and made available at the Annual Conference. Nominations received after this date will be returned; however, nominations will be permitted from the floor during the Regional Caucuses or during at-large elections, if required, at the Annual Membership Meeting.

For those member LAFCos who cannot send a representative to the Annual Meeting an electronic ballot will be made available if requested in advance. The ballot request must be made no later than Monday, August 3, 2015. Completed absentee ballots must be returned by August 28, 2015.

Should your Commission nominate a candidate, the Chair of your Commission must complete the attached Nomination Form and the Candidate's Resume Form, or provide the specified information in another format other than a resume. Commissions may also include a letter of recommendation or resolution in support of their nominee.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Voice 916-442-6536  
Fax 916-442-6535

[www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org)

**The nomination forms and materials must be received by the CALAFCO Executive Director no later than Monday, August 3, 2015.**

Here is a summary of the deadlines for this year's nomination process:

- **May 5** – Nomination Announcement and packet sent to LAFCo membership and posted on the CALAFCO website.
- **August 3** – Completed Nomination packet due
- **August 3** – Request for an absentee/electronic ballot
- **August 3** – Voting delegate name due to CALAFCO
- **August 19** – Distribution of the Recruitment Committee Report (includes all completed/submitted nomination papers)
- **August 19** – Distribution of requested absentee/electronic ballots.
- **August 28** – Absentee ballots due to CALAFCO
- **September 3** - Elections

Returning the nomination form prior to the deadline ensures your nominee is placed on the ballot. Please forward nominations to:

CALAFCO Recruitment Committee c/o Executive Director  
California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, California 95814  
FAX: 916-442-6535

Electronic filing of nomination forms and materials is encouraged to facilitate the recruitment process. Please send e-mails with forms and materials to [info@calafco.org](mailto:info@calafco.org). Alternatively, nomination forms and materials can be mailed or faxed to the above address.

Former CALAFCO Board Member and Associate Member Elliot Mulberg has agreed to once again assist CALAFCO with the election process. We appreciate and value his expertise. Questions about the election process can be directed to him at [elliott@emulberg.com](mailto:elliott@emulberg.com) or 916-217-8393.

Members of the 2015/2016 CALAFCO Recruitment Committee are:

Chair – Elliot Mulberg <a href="mailto:elliott@emulberg.com">elliott@emulberg.com</a>	Associate Member and former CALAFCO Board member 916-217-8393
Josh Susman <a href="mailto:jsusman@calafco.org">jsusman@calafco.org</a>	Nevada LAFCo (Northern Region) 530-559-1725
Gay Jones <a href="mailto:gjones@calafco.org">gjones@calafco.org</a>	Sacramento LAFCo (Central Region) 916-208-0736
Michael McGill <a href="mailto:mmcgill@calafco.org">mmcgill@calafco.org</a>	Contra Costa LAFCo (Coastal Region) 925-383-9750
Cheryl Brothers <a href="mailto:cbrothers@calafco.org">cbrothers@calafco.org</a>	Orange LAFCo (Southern Region) 714-315-1403

Attached please find a copy of the CALAFCO Board of Directors Nomination and Election Procedures.

*Please consider joining us!*  
Enclosures

## **Board of Directors Nomination and Election Procedures and Forms**

The procedures for nominations and election of the CALAFCO Board of Directors [Board] are designed to assure full, fair and open consideration of all candidates, provide confidential balloting for contested positions and avoid excessive demands on the time of those participating in the CALAFCO Annual Conference.

The Board nomination and election procedures shall be:

### **1. APPOINTMENT OF A RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. Following the Annual Membership Meeting the Board shall appoint a Committee of four members of the Board. The Recruitment Committee shall consist of one member from each region whose term is not ending.
- b. The Board shall appoint one of the members of the Recruitment Committee to serve as Chairman. The CALAFCO Executive Officer shall appoint a CALAFCO staff member to serve as staff for the Recruitment Committee in cooperation with the CALAFCO Executive Director.
- c. Each region shall designate a regional representative to serve as staff liaison to the Recruitment Committee.
- d. Goals of the Committee are to encourage and solicit candidates by region who represent member LAFCoS across the spectrum of geography, size, and urban-suburban-rural population, and to provide oversight of the elections process.

### **2. ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEMBER LAFCoS**

- a. No later than three months prior to the Annual Membership Meeting, the Recruitment Committee Chair shall send an announcement to each LAFCo for distribution to each commissioner and alternate. The announcement shall include the following:
  - i. A statement clearly indicating which offices are subject to the election.
  - ii. A regional map including LAFCoS listed by region.
  - iii. The dates by which all nominations must be received by the Recruitment Committee. The deadline shall be no later than 30 days prior to the opening of the Annual Conference. Nominations received after the closing date shall be returned to the proposing LAFCo marked "Received too late for Nominations Committee action."
  - iv. The names of the Recruitment Committee members with the Committee Chair's LAFCo address and phone number, and the names and contact information for each of the regional representatives.
  - v. The address to send the nominations forms.
  - vi. A form for a Commission to use to nominate a candidate and a candidate resume form of no more than one page each to be completed for each nominee.
- b. No later than four months before the annual membership meeting, the Recruitment Committee Chair shall send an announcement to the Executive Director for distribution to each member LAFCo and for publication in the newsletter and on the website. The announcement shall include the following:

<b>Key Timeframes for Nominations Process</b>	
<u>Days*</u>	
90	Nomination announcement
30	Nomination deadline
14	Committee report released
<small>*Days prior to annual membership meeting</small>	

- i. A statement clearly indicating which offices are subject to the election.
  - ii. The specific date by which all nominations must be received by the Recruitment Committee. Nominations received after the closing dates shall be returned to the proposing LAFCo marked "Received too late for Recruitment Committee action."
  - iii. The names of the Recruitment Committee members with the Committee Chair's LAFCo address and phone number, and the names and contact information for each of the regional representatives.
  - iv. Requirement that nominated individual must be a commissioner or alternate commissioner from a member in good standing within the region.
- c. A copy of these procedures shall be posted on the web site.

### **3. THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. The Recruitment Committee and the regional representatives have the responsibility to monitor nominations and help assure that there are adequate nominations from each region for each seat up for election. No later than two weeks prior to the Annual Conference, the Recruitment Committee Chair shall distribute to the members the Committee Report organized by regions, including copies of all nominations and resumes, which are received prior to the end of the nomination period.
- b. At the close of the nominations the Recruitment Committee shall prepare regional ballots. Each region will receive a ballot specific to that region. Each region shall conduct a caucus at the Annual Conference for the purpose of electing their designated seats. Caucus elections must be held prior to the annual membership meeting at the conference. The Executive Director or assigned staff along with a member of the Recruitment committee shall tally ballots at each caucus and provide the Recruitment Committee the names of the elected Board members and any open seats. In the event of a tie, the staff and Recruitment Committee member shall immediately conduct a run-off ballot of the tied candidates.
- c. Make available sufficient copies of the Committee Report for each Voting Member by the beginning of the Annual Conference.
- d. Make available blank copies of the nomination forms and resume forms to accommodate nominations from the floor at either the caucuses or the annual meeting (if an at-large election is required).
- e. Advise the Annual Conference Planning Committee to provide "CANDIDATE" ribbons to all candidates attending the Annual Conference.
- f. Post the candidate statements/resumes organized by region on a bulletin board near the registration desk.
- g. Regional elections shall be conducted as described in Section 4 below. The representative from the Recruitment Committee shall serve as the Presiding Officer for the purpose of the caucus election.
- h. Following the regional elections, in the event that there are open seats for any offices subject to the election, the Recruitment Committee Chair shall notify the Chair of the Board of Directors that an at-large election will be required at the annual membership meeting and to provide a list of the number and category of seats requiring an at-large election.

**4. ELECTRONIC BALLOT FOR LAFCO IN GOOD STANDING NOT ATTENDING ANNUAL MEETING**

Limited to the elections of the Board of Directors

- a. Any LAFCo in good standing shall have the option to request an electronic ballot if there will be no representative attending the annual meeting.
- b. LAFCos requesting an electronic ballot shall do so in writing no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.
- c. The Executive Director shall distribute the electronic ballot no later than two weeks prior to the annual meeting.
- d. LAFCo must return the ballot electronically to the executive director no later than three days prior to the annual meeting.
- e. LAFCos voting under this provision may discard their electronic ballot if a representative is able to attend the annual meeting.
- f. LAFCos voting under this provision may only vote for the candidates nominated by the Recruitment Committee.

**5. AT THE TIME FOR ELECTIONS DURING THE REGIONAL CAUCUSES OR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

- a. The Recruitment Committee Chairman, another member of the Recruitment Committee, or the Chair's designee (hereafter called the Presiding Officer) shall:
  - i. Review the election procedure with the membership.
  - ii. Present the Recruitment Committee Report (previously distributed).
  - iii. Call for nominations from the floor by category for those seats subject to this election:
    1. For city member.
    2. For county member.
    3. For public member.
    4. For special district member.
- b. To make a nomination from the floor, a LAFCo, which is in good standing, shall identify itself and then name the category of vacancy and individual being nominated. The nominator may make a presentation not to exceed two minutes in support of the nomination.
- c. When there are no further nominations for a category, the Presiding Officer shall close the nominations for that category.
- d. The Presiding Officer shall conduct a "Candidates Forum". Each candidate shall be given time to make a brief statement for their candidacy.
- e. The Presiding Officer shall then conduct the election:
  - i. For categories where there are the same number of candidates as vacancies, the Presiding Officer shall:
    1. Name the nominees and offices for which they are nominated.
    2. Call for a voice vote on all nominees and thereafter declare those unopposed candidates duly elected.

- ii. For categories where there are more candidates than vacancies, the Presiding Officer shall:
  - 1. Poll the LAFCoS in good standing by written ballot.
  - 2. Each LAFCo in good standing may cast its vote for as many nominees as there are vacancies to be filled. The vote shall be recorded on a tally sheet.
  - 3. With assistance from CALAFCO staff, tally the votes cast and announce the results.
- iii. Election to the Board shall occur as follows:
  - 1. The nominee receiving the majority of votes cast is elected.
  - 2. In the case of no majority, the two nominees receiving the two highest number of votes cast shall face each other in a run-off election.
  - 3. In case of tie votes:
    - a. A second run-off election shall be held with the same two nominees.
    - b. If there remains a tie after the second run-off, the winner shall be determined by a draw of lots.
  - 4. In the case of two vacancies, any candidate receiving a majority of votes cast is elected.
    - a. In the case of no majority for either vacancy, the three nominees receiving the three highest number of votes cast shall face each other in a run-off election.
    - b. In the case of no majority for one vacancy, the two nominees receiving the second and third highest number of votes cast shall face each other in a run-off election.
    - c. In the event of a tie, a second run-off election shall be held with the tied nominees. If there remains a tie after the second run-off election the winner shall be determined by a draw of lots.

## **6. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES**

- a. For categories where there are more candidates than vacancies, names will be listed in the order nominated.
- b. The Recruitment Committee Chair shall announce and introduce all Board Members elected at the Regional Caucuses at the annual business meeting.
- c. In the event that Board seats remain unfilled after a Regional Caucus, an election will be held immediately at the annual business meeting to fill the position at-large. Nominations will be taken from the floor and the election process will follow the procedures described in Section 4 above. Any commissioner or alternate from a member LAFCo may be nominated for at-large seats.
- d. Seats elected at-large become subject to regional election at the expiration of the term. Only representatives from the region may be nominated for the seat.
- e. As required by the Bylaws, the members of the Board shall meet as soon as possible after election of new board members for the purpose of electing officers, determining meeting places and times for the coming year, and conducting any other necessary business.

## 7. LOSS OF ELECTION IN HOME LAFCO

Board Members and candidates who lose elections in their home office shall notify the Executive Director within 15 days of the certification of the election.

## 8. FILLING BOARD VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment by the Board for the balance of the unexpired term. Appointees must be from the same category as the vacancy, and should be from the same region.

*These policies and procedures were adopted by the CALAFCO Board of Directors on 12 January 2007 and amended on 9 November 2007, 8 February 2008, 13 February 2009, 12 February 2010, 18 February 2011, and 29 April 2011. They supersede all previous versions of the policies.*

## CALAFCO Regions





The counties in each of the four regions consist of the following:

**Northern Region**

Butte  
Colusa  
Del Norte  
Glenn  
Humboldt  
Lake  
Lassen  
Mendocino  
Modoc  
Nevada  
Plumas  
Shasta  
Sierra  
Siskiyou  
Sutter  
Tehama  
Trinity  
Yuba

**CONTACT:** Steve Lucas, Butte LAFCo  
slucas@buttecounty.net

**Southern Region**

Orange  
Los Angeles  
Imperial  
Riverside  
San Bernardino  
San Diego

**CONTACT:** Paul Novak,  
Los Angeles LAFCo  
pnovak@lalafco.org

**Coastal Region**

Alameda  
Contra Costa  
Marin  
Monterey  
Napa  
San Benito  
San Francisco  
San Luis Obispo  
San Mateo  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Clara  
Santa Cruz  
Solano  
Sonoma  
Ventura

**CONTACT:** David Church  
San Luis Obispo LAFCo  
dchurch@slolafco.com

**Central Region**

Alpine  
Amador  
Calaveras  
El Dorado  
Fresno  
Inyo  
Kern  
Kings  
Madera  
Mariposa  
Merced  
Mono  
Placer  
Sacramento  
San Joaquin  
Stanislaus  
Tulare  
Tuolumne  
Yolo

**CONTACT:** Marjorie Blom, Stanislaus LAFCo  
blomm@stancounty.com

## Board of Directors 2015/2016 Nominations Form

### *Nomination to the CALAFCO Board of Directors*

In accordance with the Nominations and Election Procedures of CALAFCO,

\_\_\_\_\_ LAFCo of the \_\_\_\_\_ Region

Nominates \_\_\_\_\_

for the (check one)     City     County     Special District     Public

Position on the CALAFCO Board of Directors to be filled by election at the next Annual  
Membership Meeting of the Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAFCo Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **NOTICE OF DEADLINE**

Nominations must be received by **August 3, 2015**  
to be considered by the Recruitment Committee. Send  
completed nominations to:  
CALAFCO Recruitment Committee  
CALAFCO  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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## Board of Directors 2015/2016 Candidate Resume Form

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_ LAFCo Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Region (please check one):  Northern  Coastal  Central  Southern

Category (please check one):  City  County  Special District  Public

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Office \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Personal and Professional Background:

LAFCo Experience:

CALAFCO or State-level Experience:

Availability:

Other Related Activities and Comments:

**NOTICE OF DEADLINE**

Nominations must be received by **August 3, 2015**  
to be considered by the Recruitment Committee. Send  
completed nominations to:  
CALAFCO Recruitment Committee  
CALAFCO  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Date:** 14 May 2015

**To:** LAFCo Commissioners and Staff  
CALAFCO Members  
Other Interested Organizations

**From:** CALAFCO Achievement Awards Committee



**Subject: 2015 CALAFCO Achievement Award Nominations**

Each year, CALAFCO recognizes outstanding achievements by dedicated and committed individuals and/or organizations from throughout the state at the Annual Conference Achievement Awards Ceremony.

Recognizing individual and organizational achievements is an important responsibility. It provides visible recognition and support to those who go above and beyond in their work to advance the principles and goals of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. We invite you to use this opportunity to nominate the individuals and organizations you feel deserve this important recognition.

To make a nomination, please use the following procedure:

1. Nominations may be made by an individual, a LAFCo, a CALAFCO Associate Member, or any other organization. There is no limit to the number of nominations.
2. Please use a separate form (attached) for each nomination. Nominations must be submitted with a completed nomination form. The form is your opportunity to summarize the most important points of your nomination.
3. All nomination materials must be submitted at one time and must be received by the deadline. Electronic submittals are encouraged.
4. All supporting information (e.g. reports, news articles, etc.) must be submitted with the nomination. Endorsement letters from third parties are optional. Please limit supporting documentation to a file no larger than 5 mg. If necessary, a CD or thumb drive will be accepted for supporting documentation exceeding 5 mg. Should you submit a CD or thumb drive for consideration, you will need to provide 10 copies.
5. **Nominations and supporting materials must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 20, 2015.** Send nominations via e-mail, or U.S. mail to:

Marjorie Blom  
Stanislaus LAFCo  
1010 Tenth Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 3600  
Modesto, CA 95354  
E-mail: [blomm@stancounty.com](mailto:blomm@stancounty.com)

Please contact Marjorie with any questions at (209) 525-7660. A list of the previous Achievement Award recipients is attached to this announcement.



## **Nomination Form**

### **NOMINEE**

**Person or Agency Being Nominated:**

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone/E-mail:

**NOMINATION CATEGORY** (check one – see category detail on attached sheet)

- Outstanding CALAFCO Member
- Distinguished Service Award
- Most Effective Commission
- Outstanding Commissioner
- Outstanding LAFCo Professional
- Outstanding LAFCo Clerk
- Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member
- Project of the Year
- Government Leadership Award
- Legislator of the Year (must be selected by the full CALAFCO Board)
- Mike Gotch Courage and Innovation in Local Government Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

### **NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:**

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:



## **2015 Achievement Award Nominations**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Please indicate the reasons why this person or agency deserves to be recognized (Use additional sheets as needed):





## 2015 Achievement Award Nominations

### CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CATEGORIES

CALAFCO recognizes excellence within the LAFCo community and the full membership by presenting the *Achievement Awards* at the CALAFCO Annual Conference. Nominations are being accepted until *Monday, July 20, 2015*, in the following categories:

<b>Outstanding CALAFCO Member</b>	Recognizes a CALAFCO Board Member or staff person who has provided exemplary service during the past year.
<b>Distinguished Service Award</b>	Given to a member of the LAFCo community to recognize long-term service by an individual.
<b>Most Effective Commission</b>	Presented to an individual Commission to recognize innovation, streamlining, and/or initiative in implementing LAFCo programs; may also be presented to multiple Commissions for joint efforts.
<b>Outstanding Commissioner</b>	Presented to an individual Commissioner for extraordinary service to his or her Commission.
<b>Outstanding LAFCo Professional</b>	Recognizes an Executive Officer, Staff Analyst, or Legal Counsel for exemplary service during the past year.
<b>Outstanding LAFCo Clerk</b>	Presented to a LAFCo Clerk for service above and beyond the call of duty.
<b>Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member</b>	Presented to an active CALAFCO Associate Member (person or agency) that has advanced or promoted the cause of LAFCos by consistently producing distinguished work that upholds the mission and goals of LAFCos, and has helped elevate the roles and mission of LAFCos through its work. Recipient consistently demonstrates a collaborative approach to LAFCo stakeholder engagement.
<b>Project of the Year</b>	Recognition for a project-specific program that involved complex staff analysis, community involvement, or an outstanding solution.
<b>Government Leadership Award</b>	Presented to a decision-making body at the city, county, special district, regional or state level which has furthered good government efforts in California.
<b>Legislator of the Year</b>	Presented to a member of the California State Senate or Assembly in recognition of leadership and valued contributions in support of LAFCo goals. Selected by CALAFCO Board.
<b>Mike Gotch Courage and Innovation in Local Government Award</b>	Presented to an individual who has taken extraordinary steps to improve and innovate local government. This award is named for Mike Gotch: former Assembly Member, LAFCo Executive Officer and CALAFCO Executive Director responsible for much of the foundations of LAFCo law and CALAFCO. He is remembered as a source of great inspiration for staff and legislators from throughout the state.
<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	Recognizes any individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the LAFCo community in terms of longevity of service, exemplary advocacy of LAFCO-related legislation, proven leadership in approaching a particular issue or issues, and/or demonstrated support in innovative and creative ways of the goals of LAFCOs throughout California. At a minimum, the individual should be involved in the LAFCO community for at least ten years.

**CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS****2014**

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award

**David Church**, San Luis Obispo LAFCo

Distinguished Service Award

**Kate McKenna**, Monterey LAFCo

Most Effective Commission

**Santa Clara LAFCo**

Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Stephen Lucas**, Butte LAFCo

Outstanding Commissioner

**Paul Norsell**, Nevada LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Kate McKenna**, Monterey LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk

**Paige Hensley**, Yuba LAFCo

Project of the Year

**LAFCo Procedures Guide: 50<sup>th</sup> Year Special Edition**,  
San Diego LAFCo

Government Leadership Award

**Orange County Water District, City of Anaheim, Irvine  
Ranch Water District, and Yorba Linda Water District**

Legislators of the Year Award

**Assembly member Katcho Achadjian**

Lifetime Achievement Award

**Susan Wilson**, Orange LAFCo

**2013**

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award

**Simón Salinas**, Commissioner, Monterey LAFCo

Distinguished Service Award

**Roseanne Chamberlain**, Amador LAFCo

Most Effective Commission

**Stanislaus LAFCo**

Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Harry Ehrlich**, San Diego LAFCo

Outstanding Commissioner

**Jerry Gladbach**, Los Angeles LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Lou Ann Texeira**, Contra Costa

LAFCo Outstanding LAFCo Clerk

**Kate Sibley**, Contra Costa LAFCo

Project of the Year

**Plan for Agricultural Preservation**, Stanislaus LAFCo

Government Leadership Award

**Orange County LAFCo Community Islands Taskforce**,  
Orange LAFCo

Legislators of the Year Award

**Senators Bill Emmerson and Richard Roth**

Lifetime Achievement Award

**H. Peter Faye**, Yolo LAFCo; **Henry Pellissier**, Los Angeles  
LAFCo; **Carl Leverenz**, Butte LAFCo; **Susan Vicklund-Wilson**,  
Santa Clara LAFCo.

**2012**

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award

**Bill Chiat**, CALAFCO Executive Director

Distinguished Service Award

**Marty McClelland**, Commissioner, Humboldt LAFCo

Most Effective Commission

**Sonoma LAFCo**

Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Stephen A. Souza**, Commissioner, Yolo LAFCo and  
CALAFCO Board of Directors

Outstanding Commissioner

**Sherwood Darington**, Monterey

LAFCo Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Carole Cooper**, Sonoma LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk

**Gwenna MacDonald**, Lassen LAFCo

Project of the Year

**Countywide Service Review & SOI Update**, Santa Clara  
LAFCo



## 2015 Achievement Award Nominations

Government Leadership Award  
Lifetime Achievement Award

North Orange County Coalition of Cities, Orange LAFCo  
P. Scott Browne, Legal Counsel LAFCos

### 2011

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award  
Distinguished Service Award  
LAFCo Most Effective Commission  
Outstanding CALAFCO Member  
Outstanding Commissioner  
Outstanding LAFCo Professional  
Outstanding LAFCo Clerk  
Project of the Year

**Martin Tuttle**, Deputy Director for Planning, Caltrans  
**Mike McKeever**, Executive Director, SACOG  
**Carl Leverenz**, Commissioner and Chair, Butte  
**San Bernardino LAFCo**  
**Keene Simonds**, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCo  
**Louis R. Calcagno**, Monterey LAFCo  
**June Savala**, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCo  
**Debbie Shubert**, Ventura LAFCo  
**Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Definitions Revision**  
Bob Braitman, Scott Browne, Clark Alsop, Carole Cooper,  
and George Spiliotis

Government Leadership Award

**Contra Costa Sanitary District**  
**Elsinore Water District and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water  
District**

### 2010

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award  
Distinguished Service Award  
  
Most Effective Commission  
Outstanding CALAFCO Member  
Outstanding Commissioner  
Outstanding LAFCo Professional  
Outstanding LAFCo Clerk  
Project of the Year

**Helen Thompson**, Commissioner, Yolo LAFCo  
  
**Kathleen Rollings-McDonald**, Executive Officer, San  
Bernardino LAFCo  
**Bob Braitman**, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara LAFCo  
**Tulare LAFCo**  
**Roger Anderson, Ph.D.**, CALAFCO Chair, Santa Cruz LAFCo  
**George Lange**, Ventura LAFCo  
**Harry Ehrlich**, Government Consultant, San Diego LAFCo  
**Candie Fleming**, Fresno LAFCo

Government Leadership Award

**Butte LAFCo**  
Sewer Commission - Oroville Region Municipal Service  
Review  
**Nipomo Community Services District and the County of San  
Luis Obispo**

Special Achievement

**Chris Tooker**, Sacramento LAFCo and CALAFCO Board of  
Directors

### 2009

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Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in  
Local Government Leadership Award  
Distinguished Service Award  
Most Effective Commission  
Outstanding CALAFCO Member  
  
Outstanding Commissioner  
Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Paul Hood**, Executive Officer, San Luis Obispo LAFCo  
  
**William Zumwalt**, Executive Officer, Kings LAFCo  
**Napa LAFCo**  
**Susan Vicklund Wilson**, CALAFCO Vice Chair  
**Jerry Gladbach**, CALAFCO Treasurer  
**Larry M. Fortune**, Fresno LAFCo  
**Pat McCormick**, Santa Cruz LAFCo Executive Officer



## 2015 Achievement Award Nominations

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk  
Project of the Year  
Government Leadership Award

**Emmanuel Abello**, Santa Clara LAFCo  
**Orange LAFCo** Boundary Report  
**Cities of Amador City, Jackson, Ione, Plymouth & Sutter Creek; Amador County; Amador Water Agency; Pine Grove CSD – Countywide MSR Project**  
**Assembly Member Jim Silva**

Legislator of the Year Award

### 2008

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Distinguished Service Award

**Peter M. Detwiler**, Senate Local Government Committee  
Chief Consultant

Most Effective Commission

**Yuba LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner

**Dennis Hansberger**, San Bernardino LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Michael Ott**, San Diego LAFCo Executive Officer

**Martha Poyatos**, San Mateo Executive Officer

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk

**Wilda Turner**, Los Angeles LAFCo

Project of the Year

**Kings LAFCo**

City and Community District MSR and SOI Update

Government Leadership Award

**San Bernardino Board of Supervisors**

Legislator of the Year Award

**Assembly Member Anna M. Caballero**

### 2007

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Kathy Long**, Board Chair, Ventura LAFCo

Distinguished Service Award

**William D. Smith**, San Diego Legal

Counsel Most Effective Commission

**Santa Clara LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner

**Gayle Uilkema**, Contra Costa LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional

**Joyce Crosthwaite**, Orange LAFCo Executive Officer

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk

**Debby Chamberlin**, San Bernardino LAFCo

Project of the Year

**San Bernardino LAFCo and City of Fontana**  
Islands Annexation Program

Government Leadership Award

**City of Fontana - Islands Annexation Program**

Lifetime Achievement

**John T. "Jack" Knox**

### 2006

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Everett Millais**, CALAFCO Executive Officer and Executive  
Officer of Ventura LAFCo

Distinguished Service Award

**Clark Alsop**, CALAFCO Legal Counsel

Most Effective Commission Award

**Alameda LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner Award

**Ted Grandsen**, Ventura LAFCo

**Chris Tooker**, Sacramento LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award

**Larry Calemine**, Los Angeles LAFCo Executive Officer

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award

**Janice Bryson**, San Diego LAFCo

**Marilyn Flemmer**, Sacramento LAFCo

Project of the Year Award

**Sacramento Municipal Utility District** Sphere of Influence  
Amendment and Annexation; **Sacramento LAFCo**

Outstanding Government Leadership Award

**Cities of Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia and Tulare LAFCo**  
Island Annexation Program



## 2015 Achievement Award Nominations

Legislator of the Year Award

Senator Christine Kehoe

### 2005

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Peter Herzog**, CALAFCO Board, Orange LAFCo

Distinguished Service Award

**Elizabeth Castro Kemper**, Yolo LAFCo

Most Effective Commission Award

**Ventura LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner Award

**Art Aseltine**, Yuba LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award

**Henri Pellissier**, Los Angeles LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award

**Bruce Baracco**, San Joaquin LAFCo

Project of the Year Award

**Danielle Ball**, Orange LAFCo

Outstanding Government Leadership Award

**San Diego LAFCo**

MSR of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

**Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)**

### 2004

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Scott Harvey**, CALAFCO Executive Director

Distinguished Service Award

**Julie Howard**, Shasta LAFCo

Most Effective Commission Award

**San Diego LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner Award

**Edith Johnsen**, Monterey LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award

**David Kindig**, Santa Cruz LAFCo

Project of the Year Award

**San Luis Obispo LAFCo**

Nipomo CSD SOI Update, MSR, and EIR

### 2003

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Michael P. Ryan**, CALAFCO Board Member

Distinguished Service Award

**Henri F. Pellissier**, Los Angeles LAFCo

Most Effective Commission Award

**San Luis Obispo LAFCo**

Outstanding Commissioner Award

**Bob Salazar**, El Dorado LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award

**Shirley Anderson**, San Diego LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award

**Lori Fleck**, Siskiyou LAFCo

Project of the Year Award

**Napa LAFCo**

Comprehensive Water Service Study

Special Achievement Award

**James M. Roddy**

### 2002

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member

**Ken Lee**, CALAFCo Legislative Committee Chair

Most Effective Commission Award

**San Diego LAFCo** Outstanding

Commissioner Award

**Ed Snively**, Imperial LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award

**Paul Hood**, San Luis Obispo LAFCo

Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award

**Danielle Ball**, Orange LAFCo

Project of the Year Award

**San Luis Obispo LAFCo**

Outstanding Government Leadership Award

**Napa LAFCo, Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa Valley Vintners Association, Napa Valley Housing Authority, Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Napa County Counsel Office, and Assembly Member Patricia Wiggins**



## 2015 Achievement Award Nominations

### 2001

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member	<b>SR Jones</b> , CALAFCO Executive Officer
Distinguished Service Award	<b>David Martin</b> , Tax Area Services Section, State Board of Equalization
Outstanding Commissioner Award	<b>H. Peter Faye</b> , Yolo LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award	<b>Ingrid Hansen</b> , San Diego LAFCo
Project of the Year Award	<b>Santa Barbara LAFCo</b>
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	<b>Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Livermore City Council, Pleasanton City Council</b>
Legislator of the Year Award	<b>Senator Jack O'Connell</b>

### 2000

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member	<b>Ron Wootton</b> , CALAFCO Board Chair
Distinguished Service Award	<b>Ben Williams</b> , Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century
Most Effective Commission Award	<b>Yolo LAFCo</b>
Outstanding Commissioner	<b>Rich Gordon</b> , San Mateo LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Professional Award	<b>Annamaria Perrella</b> , Contra Costa LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award	<b>Susan Stahmann</b> , El Dorado LAFCo
Project of the Year Award	<b>San Diego LAFCo</b>
Legislator of the Year Award	<b>Robert Hertzberg</b> , Assembly Member

### 1999

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Distinguished Service Award	<b>Marilyn Ann Flemmer-Rodgers</b> , Sacramento LAFCo
Most Effective Commission Award	<b>Orange LAFCo</b>
Outstanding Executive Officer Award	<b>Don Graff</b> , Alameda LAFCo
Outstanding LAFCo Clerk Award	<b>Dory Adams</b> , Marin LAFCo
Most Creative Solution to a Multi-Jurisdictional Problem	<b>San Diego LAFCo</b>
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	<b>Assembly Member John Longville</b>
Legislator of the Year Award	<b>Assembly Member Robert Hertzberg</b>

### 1998

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Outstanding CALAFCO Member	<b>Dana Smith</b> , Orange LAFCo
Distinguished Service Award	<b>Marvin Panter</b> , Fresno LAFCo
Most Effective Commission Award	<b>San Diego LAFCo</b>
Outstanding Executive Officer Award	<b>George Spiliotis</b> , Riverside LAFCo
Outstanding Staff Analysis	<b>Joe Convery</b> , San Diego LAFCo <b>Joyce Crosthwaite</b> , Orange LAFCo
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	<b>Santa Clara County Planning Department</b>

### 1997

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Most Effective Commission Award	Orange LAFCo
Outstanding Executive Officer Award	George Finney, Tulare LAFCo
Outstanding Staff Analysis	Annamaria Perrella, Contra Costa LAFCo
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	South County Issues Discussion Group
Most Creative Solution to a Multi-Jurisdictional Problem	Alameda LAFCo and Contra Costa LAFCo
Legislator of the Year Award	Assembly Member Tom Torlakson

Please join us for the CALAFCO Annual Conference  
September 2 – 4, 2015  
Sacramento, California





Lou Ann Teixeira  
 Executive Officer

**MEMBERS**

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

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

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

June 10, 2015  
 Agenda Item 13

June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

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

**Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Board Election**

Dear Commissioners:

Contra Costa LAFCO purchases its workers' compensation and property/liability insurance through the SDRMA. The SDRMA is a joint powers public agency formed under California Government Code and provides a full-service risk management program for California's local governments. The SDRMA provides risk financing and risk management services to over 760 member agencies, including numerous special districts, municipalities, joint powers authorities and approximately 20 LAFCOs. In conjunction with participation in the SDRMA, LAFCO is also a member of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

In February 2015, the Commission received correspondence from the SDRMA calling for nominations to fill three seats on the SDRMA Board of Directors.

In May, LAFCO received an election packet with information regarding the election process and the four candidates (attached). The SDRMA requests action by LAFCO to select up to three candidates for the SDRMA Board of Directors. Ballots must be cast by **August 25, 2015**.

In conjunction with the last SDRMA election in 2013, the Commissioners appointed an ad hoc committee to review the candidates and report back to the Commission with recommendations.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Provide direction as to casting a vote in the 2015 SDRMA Election.

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Teixeira  
 Executive Officer

Attachment





SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

# OFFICIAL ELECTION RESOLUTION BALLOT ENCLOSED

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This is an official election packet that contains items that require ACTION by your Agency's governing body for the selection of up to three (3) candidates to the SDRMA Board of Directors.

## ELECTION PACKET ENCLOSURES

- Election Ballot Instructions
- Official Election Resolution Ballot (Action Required)
- Candidate's Statements of Qualifications (4)
- Self-addressed, Stamped Envelope



## SDRMA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

Notification of nominations for three (3) seats on the Special District Risk Management Authority's (SDRMA's) Board of Directors was mailed to the membership in January 2015.

On May 6, 2015, SDRMA's Election Committee reviewed the nomination documents submitted by the candidates in accordance with SDRMA's Policy No. 2015-01 Establishing Guidelines for Director Elections. The Election Committee confirmed that four (4) candidates met the qualification requirements and those names are included on the Official Election Resolution Ballot.

Enclosed is the Official Election Resolution Ballot along with a Statement of Qualifications as submitted by each candidate. Election instructions are as follows:

1. The enclosed combined Official Election Resolution Ballot must be used to ensure the integrity of the balloting process.
2. After selecting up to three (3) candidates, your agency's governing body must approve the enclosed Official Election Resolution Ballot. **Ballots containing more than three (3) candidate selections will be considered invalid and not counted.**
3. The signed Official Election Resolution Ballot **MUST** be sealed and received **by mail or hand delivery at SDRMA's office on or before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 to the address below.** Faxes or electronic transmissions are NOT acceptable. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Special District Risk Management Authority  
Election Committee  
1112 "I" Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95814

5. The four-year terms for newly elected Directors will begin on January 1, 2016 and terminate on December 31, 2019.
6. Important balloting and election dates are:

**August 25, 2015 - Deadline for members to return the signed Official Election Resolution Ballot**

August 26, 2015 - Ballots are opened and counted

August 27, 2015 - Election results are announced and candidates notified

September 23, 2015 - Newly elected Directors are introduced at the SDRMA Annual Breakfast to be held in Monterey at the CSDA Annual Conference

October 28-29, 2015 - Newly elected Directors are invited to attend SDRMA board meeting (Sacramento)

January 2016 - Newly elected Directors are seated and Board officer elections are held

Please do not hesitate to call SDRMA's Chief Operating Officer Paul Frydendal at 800.537.7790 if you have any questions regarding the election and balloting process.



**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

This information will be distributed to the membership with the ballot, "exactly as submitted" by the candidates – no attachments will be accepted. No statements are endorsed by SDRMA.

Nominee/Candidate Robert Swan  
District/Agency Groveland Community Services District  
Work Address P.O. Box 350, Groveland, CA 95321  
Work Phone 209-962-7161 Home Phone 209-962-6535

**Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)**

SDRMA's services are particularly important to the successful operation of smaller special districts, such as the one I serve. I would like to contribute what I can to ensuring that SDRMA continues to provide its vital services to its member agencies, prudently and cost-effectively.

Board oversight can be time-consuming. Due to my personal circumstances (retired, single, two hours from Sacramento), I will be able to participate regularly in Board activities.

**What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)**

I have been a member of the governing Board of the Groveland Community Services District (water, sewer, fire and parks district) since June 2013. I've served as Board President since January 2014.

Since February of 2010, member of the Board of Pine Cone Performers, a community choral and drama organization.

During 1995 to 2001, I was a delegate to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) committees working on standards development in the area of wireless communications.

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?  
(Response Required)**

In my work career in the semiconductor industry, I managed business operations and organizations with annual budgets in the range of ten to twenty million dollars, so I have a good working knowledge of budgeting and accounting principles. My academic background (BS in Physics, MS in Computer Science) and work experience have given me a solid understanding of statistical modeling and economic cost-benefit analysis.

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**What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)**

SDRMA has a well-defined role in providing comprehensive insurance coverage to member agencies. Clearly, continuing this function is central to its future operations. I would like to see continued expansion of the educational and loss-prevention aspects of the operation, as these are the keys to improving cost-effectiveness. However, as an insurance entity, prudent financial management is of paramount importance, and functional expansion must be thoughtfully controlled.

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I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature Robert J. Huran Date 4-9-15

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**This information will be distributed to the membership with the ballot, "exactly as submitted" by the candidates – no attachments will be accepted. No statements are endorsed by SDRMA.**

Nominee/Candidate Ed Gray  
District/Agency Chino Valley Independent Fire District  
Work Address 14011 City Center Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709  
Work Phone 909 902-5260 Home Phone 909 9627-4821

**Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)**

When appointed to the Board of Directors of SDRMA in November of 2010, and my election to the Board 2012, I made a commitment to be an effective member of the SDRMA team and to work hard to ensure the continued success of the organization. As a Board member, I believe I have shown that I seek to understand issues and use common sense when making decisions. I wish to continue my service to SDRMA, as I can be a positive member of the SDRMA team and an asset to the members, Board and staff.

**What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)**

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the SDRMA and serve as Secretary. I have been an elected Director of the Chino Valley Independent Fire District since 2004. During my tenure, I have served multiple terms as President and Vice-President, and as a member of our Finance, Planning, and Personnel Committees. I have served as Liaison to the City Councils of Chino and Chino Hills and to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. I am also the District's representative and current Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the California Institution for Men in Chino. I am a member of the Chino Valley Lions Club. I also serve on the Governing Board of the Green Valley Lake Mutual Water Company.

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?  
(Response Required)**

After serving in the US Army, I enjoyed a lengthy career in law enforcement retiring in 2004 as a Police Lieutenant. I learned early in my career, that to be an effective individual and leader, it was important to actively listen to people; to seek understanding of all sides of an issue; and make decisions based on common sense and "rightness".

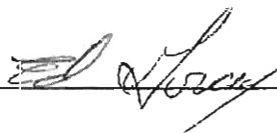
My experience as an elected official has broadened my knowledge and reinforced my belief that decisions must be made based on what is right, and not on what is a personal preference.

**What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)**

I see SDRMA as continuing its journey as a successful, effective and efficient service provider through innovation, right thinking and conservative business strategies. I can visualize the organization exploring other avenues of financial endeavors that will benefit our customers.

**I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.**

Candidate Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

3-30-2015



**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

This information will be distributed to the membership with the ballot, "exactly as submitted" by the candidates – **no attachments will be accepted**. No statements are endorsed by SDRMA.

Nominee/Candidate R MICHAEL WRIGHT  
District/Agency LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
Work Address 2122 9th STREET, LOS OSOS CA 93402  
Work Phone 805-528-9370 Home Phone 805-234-4513

**Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)**

WITH 38 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE INSURANCE FIELD, I BELIEVE I HOLD THE SKILL SET THAT WILL BENEFIT THE OPERATIONS OF THE SDRMA. I HAVE OWNED AND OPERATED MY OWN INSURANCE AGENCY SUCCESSFULLY AND HAVE SOLD AND SERVICED ALL LINE OF INSURANCE INCLUDING COMMERCIAL AND WORK COMP.

**What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)**

I AM CURRENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOS OSOS CSD. I WAS VICE PRESIDENT THE YEAR BEFORE. BEFORE I WAS ON THE LOS OSOS BOARD, I WAS A MEMBER OF THE LOS OSOS CSD EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR SIX YEARS.

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

(Response Required)

LICENSED PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE AGENT  
SINCE 1977, OVER 730 HOURS OF INSURANCE  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
I ALSO HOLD A 6 AND 63 SECURITIES LICENSE.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)

THE OVERALL VISION OF THE SDRMA IS TO  
PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE AND SERVICE  
TO ITS MEMBERS AND TO ALSO EDUCATE THEIR MEMBERS  
TO ALERT THEM TO COST EFFECTIVE SAFETY PROGRAMS  
TO SAFE GUARD THEIR EMPLOYEES HEALTH AND WELFARE.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature

*R. Michael Wright*

Date

*April 20, 2015*

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidates' State of Qualifications**

**This Information will be distributed to the membership with the ballot, "exactly as submitted" by the candidates – no attachments will be accepted. No statements are endorsed by SDRMA**

Nominee/Candidate: Sandy Seifert-Raffelson  
District/Agency: Herlong Public Utility District  
Work Address: 447-855 Plumas St, P O Box 515, Herlong CA 96113  
Work Phone: (530) 827-3150 Home Phone: (530) 254-0234

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors?

I am a current Board member of SDRMA and feel that I have added my financial background to make better informed decisions for our members. As a Board member, I have learned a lot about insurance issues and look forward to representing small District's and Northern California as a voice on the SDRMA Board. I feel I am an asset to the Board with my degree in business and my 29 years' experience in accounting and auditing. I have audited small districts and know what they need and what they can afford.

I understand the challenges that small District face every day when it comes to managing liability insurance and worker's compensation for a few employees with limited revenues and staff. My education and experience gives me an appreciation of the importance of risk management services and programs, especially for smaller district's that lack expertise with insurance issues on a daily basis.

I feel I am an asset to this Board and would love a chance to stay on the Board for 4 more years.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization)

I have worked as the District Clerk for the Herlong PUD for the last 7 years. Before that, I served as the Secretary to the Board of Herlong Utilities, Inc. and Office Administrator. I worked directly with the formation of our District which included working for 2 separate Board's of Directors and the transfer of assets from a public benefit corporation to a special district. As part of the team that worked to form the District I was directly involved with LAFCo, Lassen County Board of Supervisors and County Clerk to establish the District's initial Board of Directors as well as the transfer of multiple permits and closure procedures from multiple agencies for the seamless transition of our District operations. I closed out the Corporation books and established the books for the District transitioning to fund accounting. I have also administered the financial portion of a large capital improvement project with USDA as well as worked on the first ever successful water utility privatization project with the US Army and Department of Defense. I am currently working on HPUD's 2<sup>nd</sup> loan/grant for 4.8 million with USDA to improve the community's sewer system. I also am the primary administrator of a federal contract for utility services with the Federal Bureau of Prison.

While on the SDRMA Board, I have served on the nomination committee and SDLF Board. I have enjoyed learning and completing my duties on both boards and feel I have been an asset to both. I have served on CSDA's Audit and Financial Committee's for the last 2 years. In the last 20 years I have served on several Boards including school, church, 4-H, County and U.C. Davis.

**Special District Risk Management Authority  
Board of Directors  
Candidates' State of Qualifications**

What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

I have my Bachelors Degree in Business with a minor in Sociology. I have audited Small Districts for 5 years, worked for a Small District for 10 years and have 25 years of accounting experience. I am a good communicator and organizer. I have served on several Boards and feel I work well within groups or special committees. I am willing to go that extra mile to see things get completed.

I believe in recognition for jobs well done. I encourage Incentive programs that get members motivated to participate and strive to do their very best to keep all losses at a minium and reward those with no losses.

I have completed my Certificate for Special District Board Secretary/Clerk Program in both regular and advance coursework through CSDA and co-sponsored by SDRMA. I have completed the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy and Special District Governance Academy. I have helped my small District obtain their District of Transparency and currently we are working on the District of Distinction.

I work for a District in Northeastern California that has under gone major changes from a Cooperative Company to a 501c12 Corporation, to finally a Public Utility District. I have worked with LAFCo to become a District. Also my District is currently working on a consolidation through LAFCo with another small District to better serve our small community. Through past experience I feel I make a great Board member representing the small districts of Northern California and their unique issues and will make decisions that would help all rural/small districts.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA?

For SDRMA to be at the top of the risk management field and have all of the Special Districts in the State utilizing their quality insurance and support at a price all California Special Districts can afford.

**I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.**

Candidate Signature:



Date:

4/2/15

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
FOR THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE SPECIAL DISTRICT  
RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) is a Joint Powers Authority formed under California Government Code Section 6500 et seq., for the purpose of providing risk management and risk financing for California special districts and other local government agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, SDRMA's Sixth Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement specifies SDRMA shall be governed by a seven member Board of Directors nominated and elected from the members who have executed the current operative agreement and are participating in a joint protection program; and

**WHEREAS**, SDRMA's Sixth Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Article 7 - Board of Directors specifies that the procedures for director elections shall be established by SDRMA's Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, SDRMA's Board of Directors approved Policy No. 2015-01 Establishing Guidelines for Director Elections specifies director qualifications, terms of office and election requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, Policy No. 2015-01 specifies that member agencies desiring to participate in the balloting and election of candidates to serve on SDRMA's Board of Directors must be made by resolution adopted by the member agency's governing body.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the governing body of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission selects the following candidates to serve as Directors on the SDRMA Board of Directors:

(continued)



**OFFICIAL 2015 ELECTION BALLOT  
SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**VOTE FOR ONLY THREE (3) CANDIDATES**

Mark each selection directly onto the ballot, voting for no more than three (3) candidates. Each candidate may receive only one (1) vote per ballot. A ballot received with more than three (3) candidates selected will be considered invalid and not counted. All ballots must be sealed and received by mail or hand delivery in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope at SDRMA on or before 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 25, 2015. Faxes or electronic transmissions are NOT acceptable.

- ROBERT SWAN**  
Director/President, Groveland Community Services District
- ED GRAY (INCUMBENT)**  
Director/President, Chino Valley Independent Fire District
- R. MICHAEL WRIGHT**  
Director/President, Los Osos Community Services District
- SANDY SEIFERT-RAFFELSON (INCUMBENT)**  
District Clerk, Herlong Public Utility District

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015 by the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission by the following roll call votes listed by name:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_



Lou Ann Teixeira  
*Executive Officer*

**MEMBERS**  
 Donald A. Blubaugh  
*Public Member*  
 Federal Glover  
*County Member*  
 Michael R. McGill  
*Special District Member*  
 Mary N. Piepho  
*County Member*  
 Rob Schroder  
*City Member*  
 Igor Skaredoff  
*Special District 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*

June 10, 2015 (Agenda)

June 10, 2015  
 Agenda Item 14

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

**Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2013-14**

Dear Members of the Commission:

Each year, LAFCO conducts a financial audit of the LAFCO finances. The independent auditing firm of R.J. Ricciardi, Inc. prepared the LAFCO financial audit for FY 2013-14. Per the Commission’s request, the auditing firm agreed to periodically rotate staff auditors assigned to the LAFCO audit, and a different auditor prepared the FY 2013-14 financial audit.

The audit was conducted in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards as specified in the report. The report found no material weaknesses. The auditors identified no deficiencies in internal control that they would consider to be material weaknesses, and no current year observations.

The FY 2013-14 audit reflects one notable addition. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 45, the audit now reflects LAFCO’s other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liability.

Special thanks are extended to the County Auditor-Controller’s Office staff, especially Laura Garvey, and LAFCO Executive Assistant Kate Sibley for their work on the annual audit.

**Recommendation-** It is recommended that the Commission receive and file the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 (attached).

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Enclosure – FY 2013-14 Financial Audit

c: R.J. Ricciardi, Inc. CPAs  
 Bob Campbell, County Auditor’s Office

**CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA**

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**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2014**



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Commissioners  
Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
Martinez, California

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Commissions. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission as of June 30, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as accounting systems prescribed by the State Controller's Office and state regulations governing special Commissions.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis (page 3-6) and budgetary comparison information (page 16) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*R. J. Ricciardi, Inc.*

R. J. Ricciardi, Inc.  
Certified Public Accountants

San Rafael, California  
June 1, 2015

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
June 30, 2014

This section of Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO's) basic financial statements presents management's overview and analysis of the financial activities of the agency for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. We encourage the reader to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Introduction to the Basic Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to LAFCO's audited financial statements, which are composed of the basic financial statements. This annual report is prepared in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for States and Local Governments*. The Single Governmental Program for Special Purpose Governments reporting model is used, which best represents the activities of LAFCO.

The required financial statements include the Statement of Net Position and Governmental Funds Balance Sheet; and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position and Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances.

These statements are supported by notes to the basic financial statements. All sections must be considered together to obtain a complete understanding of the financial picture of LAFCO.

**The Basic Financial Statements**

The Basic Financial Statements comprise the Government-wide Financial Statements and the Fund Financial Statements; these two sets of financial statements provide two different views of LAFCO's financial activities and financial position.

The Government-wide Financial Statements provide a longer-term view of LAFCO's activities as a whole, and comprise the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. The Statement of Net Position provides information about the financial position of LAFCO as a whole, including all of its capital assets and long-term liabilities on the full accrual basis, similar to that used by corporations. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position provides information about all of LAFCO's revenues and all of its expenses, also on the full accrual basis, with the emphasis on measuring net revenues or expenses of LAFCO's programs. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position explains in detail the change in Net Position for the year.

All of LAFCO's activities are grouped into Government Activities, as explained below.

The Fund Financial Statements report LAFCO's operations in more detail than the Government-wide statements and focus primarily on the short-term activities of LAFCO's Major Funds. The Fund Financial Statements measure only current revenues and expenditures and fund balances; they exclude capital assets, long-term debt and other long-term amounts.

Major Funds account for the major financial activities of LAFCO and are presented individually. Major Funds are explained below.

**The Government-wide Financial Statements**

Government-wide Financial Statements are prepared on the accrual basis, which means they measure the flow of all economic resources of LAFCO as a whole.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
 June 30, 2014

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position present information about the following: *Governmental Activities* – LAFCO's basic services are considered to be governmental activities. These services are supported by specific general revenues from local agencies.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The Fund Financial Statements provide detailed information about each of LAFCO's most significant funds, called Major Funds. The concept of Major Funds, and the determination of which are Major Funds, was established by GASB Statement No. 34 and replaces the concept of combining like funds and presenting them in total. Instead, each Major Fund is presented individually, with all Non-major Funds summarized and presented only in a single column. Major Funds present the major activities of LAFCO for the year, and may change from year-to-year as a result of changes in the pattern of LAFCO's activities.

In LAFCO's case, there is only one Major Governmental Fund.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements are prepared on the modified accrual basis, which means they measure only current financial resources and uses. Capital assets and other long-lived assets, along with long-term liabilities, are not presented in the Governmental Fund Financial Statements.

Comparisons of Budget and Actual financial information are presented for the General Fund.

**Analyses of Major Funds**

Governmental Funds

General Fund actual revenue decreased this fiscal year compared to the prior year by \$15,471 due primarily to decreased application activity. Actual revenues were more than budgeted amounts by \$614 due primarily to application processing reimbursements.

General Fund actual expenditures were \$600,716, an increase of \$13,817 from the prior year primarily due to cost of living adjustments. Expenditures were \$74,300 less than budgeted due primarily to fewer legal expenses and less Municipal Service Review activity.

**Governmental Activities**

Table 1  
Governmental Net Position

	2014 Governmental Activities	2013 Governmental Activities
Current assets	\$ 355,547	\$ 326,367
Total assets	355,547	326,367
Accounts payable	23,719	25,311
Due to other governments	41,256	25,398
Total liabilities	64,975	50,709
Net position:		
Unrestricted	290,572	275,658
Total net position	\$ 290,572	\$ 275,658

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
 June 30, 2014

LAFCO's governmental net position amounted to \$290,572 as of June 30, 2014, an increase of \$14,914 from 2013. This increase is the Change in Net Position reflected in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position shown in Table 2. LAFCO's net position as of June 30, 2014 comprised the following:

- Cash and investments comprised \$352,072 of cash on deposit with the Contra Costa County Treasury.
- Prepaid items totaling \$3,475.
- Accounts payable totaling \$23,719.
- Due to other government agencies totaling \$41,256.
- Unrestricted net position, the part of net position that can be used to finance day-to-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants or other legal requirements or restrictions. LAFCO had \$290,572 of unrestricted net position as of June 30, 2014.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position presents program revenues and expenses and general revenues in detail. All of these are elements in the Changes in Governmental Net Position summarized below.

Table 2  
Changes in Governmental Net Position

	2014	2013
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 457,376	\$ 346,931
Services and supplies	243,143	232,968
Total expenses	700,519	586,899
<u>Revenues</u>		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	33,614	37,417
Total program revenues	33,614	37,417
General revenues:		
Intergovernmental	582,016	593,684
Total general revenues	582,016	593,684
Total revenues	615,630	631,101
<u>Change in net position</u>	\$ (84,899)	\$ 44,202

As Table 2 above shows, \$33,614, or 5.5% of LAFCO's fiscal year 2014 governmental revenue, came from program revenues and \$582,016, or 94.5%, came from general revenues (i.e. contributions from local agencies). Furthermore, LAFCO had budgeted \$150,000 of its fund balance reserves to cover the budgeted excess expenditures over revenues.

Program revenues were composed of Boundary Proposal and related fees of \$33,614.

General revenues are not allocable to programs. General revenues are used to pay for the net cost of governmental programs.

Salaries and benefits costs include adjustments for other post-employment benefits as discussed in Note 8.

### Capital Assets

LAFCO has no capital assets.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
June 30, 2014

**Debt Administration**

LAFCO does not utilize long-term debt to fund operations or growth.

**Economic Outlook and Major Initiatives**

Financial planning is based on specific assumptions from recent trends, State of California economic forecasts and historical growth patterns in the various agencies served by LAFCO.

The economic condition of LAFCO as it appears on the Statement of Net Position reflects financial stability and the potential for organizational growth. LAFCO will continue to maintain a watchful eye over expenditures and remain committed to sound fiscal management practices to deliver the highest quality service to the citizens of the area.

**Contacting LAFCO's Financial Management**

The basic financial statements are intended to provide citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of LAFCO's finances. Questions about this report should be directed to Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission, 651 Pine Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Martinez, California 94553.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET  
 June 30, 2014

	General	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and investments	\$ 352,072	\$ -	\$ 352,072
Prepaid items	3,475	-	3,475
Total assets	\$ 355,547	\$ -	\$ 355,547
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts payable	\$ 23,719	\$ -	23,719
Due to other governments	41,256	-	41,256
Long-term liabilities:			
Due in more than one year (Note 8)		99,803	99,803
Total liabilities	64,975	99,803	164,778
 <u>FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</u>			
Fund balances:			
Assigned fund balance	30,000	(30,000)	-
Unassigned fund balance	260,572	(260,572)	-
Total fund balances	290,572	(290,572)	-
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 290,572		
Net position:			
Unrestricted		190,769	190,769
Total net position		\$ 190,769	\$ 190,769

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES,  
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
For the Period Ended June 30, 2014

	<u>General</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position</u>
Expenditures/expenses:			
Salaries and benefits (Note 8)	\$ 357,573	\$ 99,803	\$ 457,376
Services and supplies	<u>243,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,143</u>
Total expenditures/expenses	<u>600,716</u>	<u>99,803</u>	<u>700,519</u>
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	<u>33,614</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,614</u>
Total program revenues	<u>33,614</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,614</u>
Net program expenses			<u>(666,905)</u>
General revenues:			
Intergovernmental	<u>582,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>582,016</u>
Total general revenues	<u>582,016</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>582,016</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	14,914	(14,914)	-
Change in net position	-	(84,889)	(84,889)
Fund balance/Net position, beginning of period	<u>275,658</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275,658</u>
Fund balance/Net position, end of period	<u>\$ 290,572</u>	<u>\$ (99,803)</u>	<u>\$ 190,769</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
June 30, 2014

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

A. Organization of LAFCO

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) was formed in 1963. LAFCO is responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local government boundaries, conducting special studies that review ways to reorganize, simplify, and streamline governmental structure, and preparing a sphere of influence for each city and special district within its county. LAFCO's efforts are directed toward seeing that services are provided efficiently and economically while agricultural and open-space lands are protected. LAFCO also conducts service reviews to evaluate the provision of municipal services within its county.

B. Principles that Determine the Scope of Reporting Entity

LAFCO consists of seven voting members and exercises the powers allowed by state statutes. This follows section 56325 of the Government Code. The basic financial statements of LAFCO consist only of the funds of LAFCO. LAFCO has no oversight responsibility for any other governmental entity since no other entities are considered to be controlled by, or dependent on, LAFCO.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Presentation

LAFCO's basic financial statements are prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the acknowledged standard setting body for establishing accounting and financial reporting standards followed by governmental entities in the U.S.A.

LAFCO has chosen to present its basic financial statements using the reporting model for special purpose governments engaged in a single government program.

This model allows the fund financial statements and the government-wide statements to be combined using a columnar format that reconciles individual line items of fund financial data to government-wide data in a separate column on the face of the financial statements rather than at the bottom of the statements or in an accompanying schedule.

Government-wide Financial Statements

LAFCO's financial statements reflect only its own activities; it has no component units. The statement of net position and statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity. Governmental activities generally are financed through intergovernmental revenues and charges for services.

The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each segment of LAFCO's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods and services offered by the program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all intergovernmental revenues, are presented as general revenues.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
June 30, 2014

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

A. Basis of Presentation (concluded)

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. General Fund operations are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures (or expenses) as appropriate. LAFCO's resources are accounted for based on the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental categories. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of LAFCO or meets the following criteria: Total assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures (or expenses) of the individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type. The General Fund is always a major fund.

Governmental Funds

General Fund: This is the operating fund of LAFCO. The major revenue source for this fund is intergovernmental revenues. Expenditures are made for intergovernmental revenues projects and administration.

B. Basis of Accounting

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *full accrual basis* of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are *incurred*, regardless of when the related cash flows take place.

Governmental funds are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual* basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when "measurable and available." LAFCO considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within sixty days after year-end.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as *expenditures* in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as *other financing sources*.

Those revenues susceptible to accrual are intergovernmental, certain charges for services and interest revenue. Charges for services are not susceptible to accrual because they are not measurable until received in cash.

LAFCO may fund programs with a combination of charges for services and general revenues. Thus, both restricted and unrestricted net position may be available to finance program expenditures. LAFCO's policy is to first apply restricted grant resources to such programs, followed by general revenues if necessary.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
June 30, 2014

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (concluded)

C. LAFCO Budget

Pursuant to Section 56381, et seq of the Government Code, LAFCO adopts a preliminary budget by May 1 and a final budget by June 15 of each year.

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Budget/actual comparisons in this report use this budgetary basis. These budgeted amounts are as originally adopted or as amended by LAFCO. Individual amendments were not material in relation to the original appropriations that were amended.

D. Property, Plant and Equipment

LAFCO currently has no fixed assets.

E. Compensated Absences

Compensated absences comprise unpaid vacation. Vacation and sick time are accrued as earned.

NOTE 3 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS

LAFCO's cash is maintained with the Contra Costa County Treasury in a non-interest-bearing account. LAFCO's cash on deposit with the Contra Costa County Treasury at June 30, 2014 was \$352,072.

Credit Risk, Carrying Amount and Market Value of Investments

LAFCO maintains specific cash deposits with Contra Costa County. Contra Costa County is restricted by state code in the types of investments it can make. Furthermore, the Contra Costa County Treasurer has a written investment policy, approved by the Board of Supervisors, which is more restrictive than state code as to terms of maturity and type of investment. Also, Contra Costa County has an investment committee, which performs regulatory oversight for its pool as required by California Government Code Section 27130. In addition, LAFCO has its own investment policy as well.

Contra Costa County's investment policy authorizes Contra Costa County to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, its agencies and instrumentalities, certificates of deposit, commercial paper rated A-1 by Standard & Poor's Corporation or P-1 by Moody's Commercial Paper Record, bankers' acceptances, repurchase agreements, and the State Treasurer's investment pool. At June 30, 2014, LAFCO's cash with the Contra Costa County Treasurer was maintained in a non-interest-bearing account.

NOTE 4 - USE OF ESTIMATES

The basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and, as such, include amounts based on informed estimates and judgments of management with consideration given to materiality. Actual results could differ from those amounts.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2014

NOTE 5 - CONTINGENCIES

LAFCO may be involved from time to time in various claims and litigation arising in the ordinary course of business. LAFCO management, based upon the opinion of legal counsel, is of the opinion that the ultimate resolution of such matters should not have a materially adverse effect on LAFCO's financial position or results of operations.

NOTE 6 - FUND EQUITY

The accompanying basic financial statements reflect certain changes that have been made with respect to the reporting of the components of Fund Balances for governmental funds. In previous years, fund balances for governmental funds were reported in accordance with previous standards that included components for reserved fund balance, unreserved fund balance, designated fund balance, and undesignated fund balance. Due to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 54, the components of the fund balances of governmental funds now reflect the component classifications described below. In the fund financial statements, governmental fund balances are reported in the following classifications:

Nonspendable fund balance includes amounts that are not in a spendable form, such as prepaid items or supplies inventories, or that are legally or contractually required to remain intact, such as principal endowments.

Restricted fund balance includes amounts that are subject to externally enforceable legal restrictions imposed by outside parties (i.e., creditors, grantors, contributors) or that are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance includes amounts whose use is constrained by specific limitations that the government imposes upon itself, as determined by a formal action of the highest level of decision-making authority. The Commissioners serve as LAFCO's highest level of decision-making authority and have the authority to establish, modify or rescind a fund balance commitment via minutes action.

Assigned fund balance includes amounts intended to be used by LAFCO for specific purposes, subject to change, as established either directly by the Commissioners or by management officials to whom assignment authority has been delegated by the Commissioners.

As of June 30, 2014, the assigned fund balance was \$30,000 designated for the Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB). Beginning in fiscal year 11/12, LAFCO began designating \$10,000 annually for OPEB.

Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification that includes spendable amounts in the General Fund that are available for any purpose.

When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned or unassigned) fund balances are available, LAFCO specifies that restricted revenues will be applied first. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which committed, assigned or unassigned fund balances are available, LAFCO's policy is to apply committed fund balance first, then assigned fund balance, and finally unassigned fund balance.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
June 30, 2014

NOTE 6 - FUND EQUITY (concluded)

Net Position

Net Position is the excess of all LAFCO's assets over all its liabilities, regardless of fund. Net Position is divided into three captions under GASB Statement No. 34. These captions apply only to Net Position, which is determined only at the government-wide level, and are described below:

*Invested in capital assets, net of related debt* describes the portion of Net Position that is represented by the current net book value of LAFCO's capital assets, less the outstanding balance of any debt issued to finance these assets.

*Restricted* describes the portion of Net Position that is restricted as to use by the terms and conditions of agreements with outside parties, governmental regulations, laws, or other restrictions that LAFCO cannot unilaterally alter.

*Unrestricted* describes the portion of Net Position that is not restricted to use.

All of LAFCO's Net Position is unrestricted.

NOTE 7 - PENSION PLAN

A LAFCO employee is eligible to participate in pension plans offered by the Contra Costa County Employee Retirement Association (CCCERA), a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) which acts as a common investment and administrative agent for its participating member employers. CCCERA provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members, who must be public employees and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions under the Plan are established by State statute and County resolution. Benefits are based on years of credited service, equal to one year of full time employment. Funding contributions for the Plan are determined annually on an actuarial basis as of December 31 by CCCERA; LAFCO must contribute these amounts.

A LAFCO employee will pay actuarially required contributions. Retirement age varies and is based on different criteria, described as follows: any time, regardless of age, if the employee has 30 or more years of retirement service credit; any time after age 50, if the employee has 10 or more years of retirement service credit; at age 65, if the employee was a member on or before December 31, 1978; at age 70, regardless of years of retirement service credit.

CCCERA determines contribution requirements using a modification of the Entry Age Normal Method. Under this method, LAFCO's total normal benefit cost for each employee from date of hire to date of retirement is expressed as a level percentage of the related total payroll cost.

Normal benefit cost under this method is the level amount the employer must pay annually to fund an employee's projected retirement benefit. This level percentage of payroll method is used to amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities. The actuarial assumptions used to compute contribution requirements are also used to compute the pension benefit obligation.

CCCERA uses the market related value method of valuing the Plan's assets. The December 31, 2012 valuation included an assumed investment rate of return of 7.75%, including inflation at 3.25%. Salary increases are based on performance. LAFCO's unfunded actuarial accrued liability is being amortized as a level percentage of payroll on a closed basis. The remaining amortization period ends January 1, 2025.

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 June 30, 2014

NOTE 7 - PENSION PLAN (concluded)

CCCERA financial statements can be obtained at the Contra Costa County Employee Retirement Association, 1355 Willow Way, Suite 221, Concord, California 94520.

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (OPEB)

A. Plan Description

The Commission provides health care for employees and dependents (and also for retirees and their dependents) through Contra Costa County. Employees may choose from the following medical options: Contra Costa Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, Health Net HMO, and Health Net CA & National PPO.

All retired employees of the Commission are eligible to receive health and dental benefits for life, with costs shared by the Commission and the retirees.

B. Funding Policy

There is no statutory requirement for the Commission to prefund its OPEB obligation. The Commission currently pays a portion of retiree healthcare benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the Commission paid approximately \$19,263 for retiree healthcare plan benefits. As of July 1, 2013, the plan membership consisted of 2 active participants and 3 retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits.

The Commission is required to contribute or accrue the *annual required contribution of the employer (ARC)*, an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement No. 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years.

C. Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation/(Asset)

The following table shows the components of the Commission's Annual OPEB Cost for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, the amount actually contributed to the plan (including implicit subsidy, if any), and changes in the Commission's Net OPEB Obligation/(Asset):

	2014
Annual Required Contribution	\$ 52,278
Interest on Net OPEB Obligation on Annual Required Contribution	2,720
Amortization Adjustment	(3,932)
Annual OPEB cost (expense)	51,066
Employer Contributions	(19,263)
Increase in Net OPEB Obligation / (Asset)	(31,803)
Net OPEB Obligation/ (Asset) - Beginning of year	68,000
Net OPEB Obligation/ (Asset) - End of year	\$ 99,803

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 June 30, 2014

NOTE 8 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (OPEB) (concluded)

C. Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation/(Asset) (concluded)

The Commission's Annual OPEB Cost, the percentage of Annual OPEB Cost contributed to the plan, and the Net OPEB Obligation/(Asset) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, is as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Annual OPEB Cost	Actual Contribution	Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed	Net OPEB Obligation/ (Asset)
6/30/14	\$ 51,066	\$19,263	138%	\$ 99,803

D. Funded Status and Funding Progress

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Projected Unit Credit Actuarial Accrued Liability	Unfunded AAL (UAAL)	Funded Ratio	Covered Payroll	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
July 1, 2013	\$ -	\$ 516,522	\$ 516,522	0%	\$ 195,072	264.7%

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the Annual Required Contributions of the Commission are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress presents multiyear trend information that shows whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

E. Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

The plan's most recent actuarial valuation was performed as of July 1, 2013. In that valuation, the Alternate Measurement Method (AMM) was used. The actuarial assumptions included a 5.0% investment rate of return (net of administrative expenses) and an annual medical trend rate of 8.0% initially, reduced by decrements to an ultimate rate of 5% after 3 years. The dental trend rate is 4% for all future years. These assumptions reflect an implicit 3% general inflation assumption. The Commission's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability is being amortized as a level dollar amount on an open basis over 30 years.



Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
AUDITORS' INFORMATION  
June 30, 2014

Audit Firm: R.J. Ricciardi, Inc.  
Lead Auditor's Name: Michael O'Connor, CPA  
Audit Firm's Address: 1000 Fourth Street, Suite 400  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Telephone number: (415) 457-1215  
Date of Independent Auditors' Report: June 1, 2015

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Schedule 1

Required Supplemental Information  
 Budget and Actual  
 General Fund (Unaudited)  
 For the Period Ended June 30, 2014

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual (Budgetary Basis)</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 585,016	\$ 585,016	\$ 582,016	\$ (3,000)
Charges for services	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>33,614</u>	<u>3,614</u>
Total revenues	<u>615,016</u>	<u>615,016</u>	<u>615,630</u>	<u>614</u>
Expenditures:				
Salaries and benefits	351,936	351,936	357,573	(5,637)
Services and supplies	<u>323,080</u>	<u>323,080</u>	<u>243,143</u>	<u>79,937</u>
Total expenditures	<u>675,016</u>	<u>675,016</u>	<u>600,716</u>	<u>74,300</u>
<hr/>				
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(60,000)	(60,000)	14,914	<u>\$ (73,686)</u>
Fund balance, beginning of period			<u>275,658</u>	
Fund balance, end of period			<u>\$ 290,572</u>	
Contingency reserve	(80,000)	(80,000)		
OPEB trust	(10,000)	(10,000)		
Fund balance reserves	<u>150,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>		
Total	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these basic financial statements.





June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 15

**AGENDA**

**RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**

SECOND MONTHLY MEETING  
May 28, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

Retirement Board Conference Room  
The Willows Office Park  
1355 Willow Way, Suite 221  
Concord, California

THE RETIREMENT BOARD MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Accept comments from the public.

*CLOSED SESSION*

3. The Board will go into closed session under Govt. Code Section 54956.81 to consider the sale of a particular pension fund investment.

*OPEN SESSION*

4. Review of total portfolio performance.
5. Review of Managers on Watch List.
  - a. Consider and take possible action to add or remove managers from the Watch List.
6. Update from Verus regarding the Strategy Development Workplan.
7. Consider and take possible action on revised Board meeting schedule for 2015.
8. Consider and take possible action to adopt BOR Resolution 2015-6 granting a \$250 lump sum payment for all employees formerly represented by IFPTE Local 21.
9. Consider authorizing the attendance of Board and/or staff:
  - a. DBL Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, June 11, 2015.
  - b. Equilibrium Capital 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum, Sausalito, CA, June 22-23, 2015.
  - c. Institutional Investor: Roundtable for Consultants and Institutional Investors, Chicago, IL, October 7-9, 2015.
10. Miscellaneous
  - a. Staff Report
  - b. Outside Professionals' Report
  - c. Trustees' comments

The Retirement Board will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Board meetings who contact the Retirement Office at least 24 hours before a meeting.

## CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report as of Wednesday, June 03, 2015

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 17a

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### [AB 402](#) ([Dodd D](#)) **Local agency services: contracts.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/18/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/19/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/18/2015

**Status:** 5/28/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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

**Summary:**

Would establish a pilot program, until January 1, 2021, for the Napa, Sonoma, and San Bernardino commissions that would permit those commissions to authorize a city or district to provide new or extended services outside both its jurisdictional boundaries and its sphere of influence under specified circumstances. This bill contains other related provisions.

**Position:** None at this time

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

**CALAFCO Comments:** Amended on May 18, the bill now leaves most of 56133 as it is today intact. However, it does eliminate the focus of contracts and agreements throughout the section. What the bill does now is create a 5 year pilot opportunity for Napa, Sonoma and San Bernardino LAFCo Commissions to authorize an extension of services outside boundaries and spheres to support existing or planned uses pending the commission's determination that (1) a service deficiency was identified and evaluated in a MSR; AND (2) the extension of services will not result in adverse impacts on open space or ag lands or have growth inducing impacts.

CALAFCO previously considered (over an extensive period of time) amending GC §56133, and twice (in 2011 and again in 2013) the CALAFCO Board of Directors decided not to pursue those amendments. This is not a CALAFCO sponsored bill. Assembly member Dodd is a former Napa LAFCo Commissioner.

### [AB 448](#) ([Brown D](#)) **Local government finance: property tax revenue allocations: vehicle license fee adjustments.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/23/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/23/2015

**Status:** 6/2/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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

**Summary:**

Current property tax law requires the county auditor, in each fiscal year, to allocate property tax revenue to local jurisdictions in accordance with specified formulas and procedures, and generally provides that each jurisdiction shall be allocated an amount equal to the total of the amount of revenue allocated to that jurisdiction in the prior fiscal year, subject to certain modifications, and that jurisdiction's portion of the annual tax increment, as defined. This bill would modify these reduction and transfer provisions, for the 2015-16 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 Letter March 2015](#)

**Position:** Support

**Subject:** Financial Viability of Agencies, Tax Allocation

**CALAFCO Comments:** As introduced, this bill is identical to AB 1521 (Fox) from last year. This bill reinstates the VLF payment (through ERAF) and changes the way that the growth in the VLF adjustment amount (property tax in lieu of VLF) is calculated starting in FY 2015-16 to include

the growth of assessed valuation, including in an annexed area, from FY 2004-05 to FY 2015-16. Beginning in FY 2016-17, the VLF adjustment amount would be the jurisdiction's annual change in the assessed valuation

**AB 851 (Mayer R) Local government: organization: disincorporations.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/7/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/26/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/7/2015

**Status:** 5/22/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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 requires a local agency or school district that initiates proceedings for a change of local government organization or reorganization, by submitting a resolution of application to a local agency formation commission, to also submit a plan for providing services within the affected territory, as specified. This bill would, in the case of a disincorporation or reorganization that includes a disincorporation, require the plan for services to include specific provisions, including, among others, an enumeration and description of the services currently provided by the city proposed for disincorporation.

**Attachments:**

[CALAFCO Support\\_Mar 2015](#)

**Position:** Sponsor

**Subject:** CKH General Procedures, Disincorporation/dissolution

**CALAFCO Comments:** Sponsored by CALAFCO. As introduced, this bill addressed the long-outdated statutes relating to disincorporation. Although many other areas of CKH have been updated over the past 52 years, the areas pertaining to disincorporations remain in their original format as written in 1963.

This bill does the following: (1) Clarifies the expectation for assignment of responsibility for debt that will continue in existence after disincorporation; (2) Establishes the parameters and requirements for the submission of the Plan for Service for a disincorporation proposal which outlines existing services, the proponent's plan for the future of those services, and whether or not a bankruptcy proceeding has been undertaken; (3) Establishes the responsibilities of LAFCOs in preparing a Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis for disincorporations, the determination of the transfer of property tax revenues previously received by the proposed disincorporating City, and the determination of the transfer of debt to a successor agency or agencies. Further, the bill retains LAFCOs existing authority to impose terms and conditions on a proposed disincorporation as well as the election requirements necessary for approval of disincorporation. The proposed disincorporation statutory changes use the incorporation provisions as a template to propose changes in the disincorporation process.

**AB 1532 (Committee on Local Government) Local government: omnibus.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/22/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 3/23/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/22/2015

**Status:** 5/28/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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, requires a local agency formation commission to notify specified state agencies having oversight or regulatory responsibility over, or a contractual relationship with, a local health care district when a proposal is made for any of specified changes of organization affecting that district. This bill would update obsolete references to a "hospital" district and replace outdated references to the State Department of Health Services with references to the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Health Care Services.

**Attachments:**

[CALAFCO Support Letter\\_March 2015](#)

**Position:** Sponsor

**Subject:** CKH General Procedures

**CALAFCO Comments:** This is the annual Omnibus bill for the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Reorganization Act of 2000. This bill makes nonsubstantive technical clean-up corrections to the Act.

**SB 25 (Roth D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 12/1/2014 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 12/1/2014

**Status:** 6/2/2015-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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

**Summary:**

Would modify specified reduction and transfer provisions for a city incorporating after January 1, 2004, and on or before January 1, 2012, for the 2014-2015 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 Support March 2015](#)

**Position:** Support

**Subject:** Financial Viability of Agencies

**CALAFCO Comments:** Identical to SB 69 (Roth) from 2014, the bill calls for reinstatement of the VLF through ERAF for cities that incorporated between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2012. There are no provisions for back payments for lost revenue, but the bill does reinstate future payments beginning in the 2014/15 year for cities that incorporated between 1-1-2004 and 1-1-2012.

**SB 239 (Hertzberg D) Local services: contracts: fire protection services.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 6/1/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/17/2015

**Last Amended:** 6/1/2015

**Status:** 6/2/2015-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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

**Summary:**

Current law permits a city or district to provide extended services, as defined, outside its jurisdictional boundaries only if it first requests and receives written approval from the local agency formation commission in the affected county. Under current law, the commission may authorize a city or district to provide new or extended services outside both its jurisdictional boundaries and its sphere of influence under specified circumstances. This bill would, with certain exceptions, permit a public agency to exercise new or extended services outside the public agency's current service area pursuant to a fire protection contract, as defined, only if the public agency receives written approval from the local agency formation commission in the affected county.

**Attachments:**

[CALAFCO OpposeLetter April 2015](#)

**Position:** Oppose

**Subject:** CKH General Procedures, Municipal Services

**CALAFCO Comments:** As amended on June 1, this bill sets forth requirements for the application of service extensions relating to fire protection services. The bill calls for a Fire Protection Contract to be submitted with the application. This is required for applications that (1) Transfer greater than 25% of the service area or (2) Changes the employment status of more than 25% of employees of any affected agencies. Prior to submitting the application for service extension, all affected agency employee unions must approve the request and conduct a

public hearing; or, provide at least 30 days notice of the public hearing with such notice being sent to each affected public agency and all affected employee unions and shall include a copy of the proposed agreement. The bill requires contents of the Contract Plan to include: (1) Cost of providing services to be extended; (2) Cost to customers; (3) an ID of existing service providers; (4) Financing plan; (5) Alternatives to the extension; (6) Enumeration and description of services proposed; (7) level and range of services proposed; (8) Timeline for services to be provided; and (9) improvements or upgrades that would be imposed or required to provide services. Further, it requires a comprehensive Fiscal Analysis to be conducted. It further requires the CFA to include (1) Cost to provide services for three years; (2) Cost comparison; (3) Estimated revenue for three years; and (4) Cost/revenue effects to any affected agency.

The bill also outlines determinations the commission must make that include the provider of services for the extension of service will build a "reasonable reserve" during the three years following the effective date of the contract. This new requirement is highly subjective and ambiguous as it is undefined and sets a precedent.

The bill sets several precedents. First, it requires a California state agency to apply for, and request LAFCo approval prior to undertaking an action that involves the provision of services outside of a public agency's current service area under contract or agreement. Further, the >25% threshold that triggers this kind of scrutiny appears to be an arbitrary threshold with no data to support it. Next, LAFCOs currently have exempted the review of contracts or agreements between two public agencies - this bill would change that provision. Finally, the bill addresses only one type of service provider, which fails to address the concern of why the provision of fire protection services, by contract or agreement, outside of a public agency's boundaries, requires a different level of review than other types of equally vital services or demands a heightened or weighted review from any commenter or affected agency.

**SB 272 (Hertzberg D) The California Public Records Act: local agencies: inventory.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 4/6/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/19/2015

**Last Amended:** 4/6/2015

**Status:** 5/22/2015-Referred to Coms. on JUD. and L. GOV.

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

**Calendar:**

6/16/2015 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202 ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, MARK STONE, Chair

**Summary:**

Would require each local agency, in implementing the California Public Records Act, to create a catalog of enterprise systems, as defined, to make the catalog publicly available upon request in the office of the clerk of the agency's legislative body, and to post the catalog on the local agency's Internet Web site. The bill would require the catalog to disclose a list of the enterprise systems utilized by the agency, and, among other things, the current system vendor and product. Because the bill would require local agencies to perform additional duties, it would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** LAFCo Administration, Public Records Act

**CALAFCO Comments:** As amended, this bill requires all local agencies (including LAFCo) to create a catalogue of enterprise systems used by that agency and make that catalogue available to the public. For purposes of the bill, the author defines enterprise systems as a system that both (1) is a multi-departmental system or system containing information collected about the public; AND (2) a system of record for that agency. Further, the bill defines a system of record as a system that serves as an original source of data within an agency. The bill requires certain pieces of information be disclosed including (1) Current system vendor; (2) Current system product; (3) A brief statement of the system's purpose; (4) A general description of categories, modules, or layers of data; (5) The department that serves as the system's primary custodian; (6) How frequently system data is collected; and (7) How frequently system data is updated.



**AB 3 (Williams D) Isla Vista Community Services District.****Current Text:** Amended: 5/5/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)**Introduced:** 12/1/2014**Last Amended:** 5/5/2015**Status:** 5/28/2015-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

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

**Calendar:**

6/3/2015 #39 ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

**Summary:**

Would authorize the establishment of the Isla Vista Community Services District by requiring the board of supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara to place the question of whether the district should be established on the ballot at the next countywide election. By imposing new duties on the County of Santa Barbara, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**Attachments:**[CALAFCO Oppose Unless Amended Letter April 2015](#)[CALAFCO Letter of Concern Dec 2014](#)**Position:** Oppose unless amended**Subject:** LAFCo Administration, Special District Powers

**CALAFCO Comments:** As amended, this bill gives legislative authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District (CSD). Addressed in the amendments are the services that would be provided, but not the formation process, governance or financing mechanisms. This authority would completely bypass the LAFCo process in the creation of this special district.

**AB 707 (Wood D) Agricultural land: Williamson Act contracts: cancellation.****Current Text:** Amended: 4/6/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)**Introduced:** 2/25/2015**Last Amended:** 4/6/2015**Status:** 5/22/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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

**Summary:**

Would provide that the authority for the landowner and the Department of Conservation to agree on the cancellation value of the land does not apply to a contract between a landowner and a city or county if that contract includes an additional cancellation fee, as specified .

**Position:** Watch**Subject:** Ag Preservation - Williamson

**CALAFCO Comments:** As written, this bill repeals the provision that allows cancellation of the valuation of the land.

**AB 168 (Maienschein R) Local government finance.****Current Text:** Introduced: 1/22/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)**Introduced:** 1/22/2015**Status:** 5/15/2015-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 1/22/2015)

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

**Summary:**

Current law requires the county auditor, in the case in which a qualifying city becomes the successor agency to a special district as a result of a merger with that district as described in a specified statute, to additionally allocate to that successor qualifying city that amount of

property tax revenue that otherwise would have been allocated to that special district pursuant to general allocation requirements. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to the provision pertaining to property tax revenue allocations to a qualifying city that merges with a special district.

**Position:** Placeholder - monitor

**Subject:** Tax Allocation

**CALAFCO Comments:** This is a spot bill. No information is available on the author's intent at this time.

**[AB 369](#) (Steinorth R) Local government.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/17/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/17/2015

**Status:** 5/15/2015-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/17/2015)

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

**Summary:**

The Planning and Zoning Law establishes in each city and county a planning agency with the powers necessary to carry out the purposes of that law. Current law sets forth the Legislature's findings and declarations regarding the availability of affordable housing throughout the state. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those findings and declarations.

**Position:** Placeholder - monitor

**CALAFCO Comments:** This is a spot bill. No information is available at this time regarding the author's intent for the bill. CALAFCO will monitor for amendments.

**[AB 541](#) (Dahle R) Big Valley Watermaster District Act.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/23/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/23/2015

**Status:** 5/1/2015-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/5/2015)

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

**Summary:**

Would create a watermaster district with unspecified boundaries within the Counties of Lassen and Modoc to be known as the Big Valley Watermaster District. The bill would generally specify the powers and purposes of the district. The bill would prescribe the composition of the board of directors of the district. The bill would require the district to provide watermaster service on behalf of water right holders whose place of use under an appointed decree, as defined, is a parcel of real property within the district.

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** LAFCo Administration, Special District Powers, Water

**[AB 568](#) (Dodd D) Reclamation District No. 108: hydroelectric power.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/14/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/24/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/14/2015

**Status:** 5/22/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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

**Summary:**

Current law authorizes Reclamation District No. 1004, in conjunction with the County of Colusa, to construct, maintain, and operate a plant, transmission lines, and other necessary or appropriate facilities for the generation of hydroelectric power, as prescribed. Existing law requires proceeds from the sale of electricity to be utilized to retire any time warrants issued for construction of the facilities and otherwise for the powers and purposes for which the district was formed. This bill would grant the above-described hydroelectric power authority to Reclamation District No. 108 until January 1, 2021.

**Position:** Watch  
**Subject:** Special District Powers

**AB 656 (Garcia, Cristina D) Joint powers agreements: mutual water companies.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/4/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/24/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/4/2015

**Status:** 5/22/2015-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

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

**Summary:**

Would specifically authorize a mutual water company and a public agency to participate in joint powers agreement for the provision of insurance and risk-pooling, technical support, and other similar services for the purpose of reducing risk liability .

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** Other

**CALAFCO Comments:** As amended, the bill gives the ability for a mutual water company to enter into a joint powers agreement with a public water agency for the purposes of either risk-pooling or the provision of technical support, continuing education, safety engineering, operational and managerial advisory assistance to be provided to the members of that joint powers agency.

**SB 13 (Pavley D) Groundwater.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/21/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 12/1/2014

**Last Amended:** 5/21/2015

**Status:** 5/21/2015-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

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

**Summary:**

Would specify that the State Water Resources Control Board is authorized to designate a high- or medium-priority basin as a probationary basin. This bill would provide a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy certain deficiencies that caused the board to designate the basin as a probationary basin. This bill would authorize the board to develop an interim plan for certain probationary basins one year after the designation of the basin as a probationary basin. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** Water

**CALAFCO Comments:** While this bill has no direct affect on LAFcos, the formation of groundwater management agencies and groundwater management is of interest, therefore CALAFCO will watch the bill.

**SB 181 (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.**

**Current Text:** Chaptered: 6/1/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/9/2015

**Status:** 6/1/2015-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter No. 4, Statutes of 2015

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

**Summary:**

This bill would enact the First Validating Act of 2015, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities. This bill contains other related provisions.

**Attachments:**

[CALAFCO Letter of Support\\_Mar 2015](#)

**Position:** Support  
**Subject:** Other  
**CALAFCO Comments:** One of three annual acts which validate the boundaries of all local agencies.

**SB 182 (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/9/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)  
**Introduced:** 2/9/2015  
**Status:** 5/22/2015-From consent calendar. Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Maienschein.

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

**Summary:**  
 This bill would enact the Second Validating Act of 2015, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities. This bill contains other related provisions.

**Attachments:**  
[CALAFCO Letter of Support Mar 2015](#)

**Position:** Support  
**Subject:** Other  
**CALAFCO Comments:** One of three annual acts which validate the boundaries of all local agencies.

**SB 183 (Committee on Governance and Finance) Validations.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/9/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)  
**Introduced:** 2/9/2015  
**Status:** 5/18/2015-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

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

**Summary:**  
 This bill would enact the Third Validating Act of 2015, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

**Attachments:**  
[CALAFCO Letter of Support Mar 2015](#)

**Position:** Support  
**Subject:** Other  
**CALAFCO Comments:** One of three annual acts which validate the boundaries of all local agencies.

**SB 184 (Committee on Governance and Finance) Local government: omnibus bill.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 4/16/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)  
**Introduced:** 2/9/2015  
**Last Amended:** 4/16/2015  
**Status:** 5/28/2015-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

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

**Summary:**  
 Current law requires the legislative body of a local entity to annually file with the auditor a list of lots or parcels of land subject to specified fees or charges for water, sanitation, storm drainage, or sewerage system services and facilities and the amounts of the installments of the fees or charges to be entered against the affected lots or parcels of land. Current law requires the auditor to enter on the assessment roll the amounts of installments of these fees or charges. Current law defines the auditor, for the purposes of these provisions, as the financial officer of the local entity. This bill would clarify that the above-described provisions relating to the authority and duties of the auditor apply only to the county auditor. This bill makes changes to the duties and processes of the County Recorder. The bill would also make changes to the Subdivision Map Act and the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act. This bill contains

other related provisions.

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** Other

**CALAFCO Comments:** This bill is the Senate Governance & Finance Committee's annual Omnibus bill. This bill is intended to make technical, non-substantive changes to the Government Code outside of CKH.

**SB 226 (Pavley D) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: groundwater rights.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 5/5/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/13/2015

**Last Amended:** 5/5/2015

**Status:** 5/26/2015-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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

**Summary:**

The bill would provide that a court shall use the Code of Civil Procedure for determining rights to groundwater, except as provided by the special procedures established in the bill. This bill would require the process for determining rights to groundwater to be available to any court of competent jurisdiction. The bill would provide that it applies to Indian tribes and the federal government. The bill would require the boundaries of a basin to be as identified in Bulletin 118, unless other basin boundaries are established, as specified. This bill contains other existing laws and other provisions.

**Position:** None at this time

**Subject:** Water

**CALAFCO Comments:** As amended this bill addresses groundwater rights and is a follow up to the 2014 groundwater legislative package.

**SB 393 (Nguyen R) Local agencies.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/25/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/25/2015

**Status:** 5/15/2015-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was RLS. on 3/5/2015)

Desk	2 year	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, establishes the sole and exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the above-described law.

**Position:** Placeholder - monitor

**Subject:** CKH General Procedures

**CALAFCO Comments:** This is a spot bill. According to the author's office, it has been introduced by the Senator on behalf of the Republican Caucus as a local government spot bill (Senator Nguyen is the Vice Chair of the Senate Gov & Finance Comm). CALAFCO will monitor.

**SB 422 (Monning D) Santa Clara Valley Open-Space Authority.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 4/14/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/25/2015

**Last Amended:** 4/14/2015

**Status:** 5/28/2015-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

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

**Calendar:**

6/17/2015 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MAIENSCHIN, Chair

**Summary:**

Current law authorizes the Santa Clara County Open-Space Authority to take by eminent

domain any property necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes of the authority, with the exception of lands in active ranching, lands in agricultural production, and lands in timberland production zones that are not threatened by imminent conversion to developed uses. This bill would, in addition, authorize the authority to acquire , but not to take by eminent domain interests in real property that are outside of the authority's jurisdiction, necessary to the full exercise of its powers.

**Subject:** Special District Powers

**SB 485 (Hernandez D) County of Los Angeles: sanitation districts.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/26/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/26/2015

**Status:** 5/28/2015- Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

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

**Summary:**

The County Sanitation District Act authorizes a sanitation district to acquire, construct, and complete certain works, property, or structures necessary or convenient for sewage collection, treatment, and disposal. This bill would authorize specified sanitation districts in the County of Los Angeles, to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and furnish facilities for the diversion, management, and treatment of stormwater and dry weather runoff, the discharge of the water to the stormwater drainage system, and the beneficial use of the water. This bill contains other related provisions.

**Subject:** Special District Powers

**SB 552 (Wolk D) Public water systems: disadvantaged communities: drinking water standards.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 4/16/2015 [pdf](#) [html](#)

**Introduced:** 2/26/2015

**Last Amended:** 4/16/2015

**Status:** 6/2/2015- In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

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

**Summary:**

Would require, by January 1, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a report identifying specific funding and enforcement mechanisms necessary, to ensure that disadvantaged communities have water systems that are in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. The bill would require the report to identify specific legislative and administrative actions necessary to bring disadvantaged communities into compliance with safe drinking water standards.

**Position:** Watch

**Subject:** Disadvantaged Communities, Water

Total Measures: 24

Total Tracking Forms: 24

6/3/2015 9:59:53 AM

**CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
PENDING PROPOSALS – JUNE 10, 2015**

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 17b

<b>LAFCO APPLICATION</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
West County Wastewater District Annexation Nos. 310 and 312: proposed annexation of 3.33+ acres located at 39 Kirkpatrick Drive and 5527 Sobrante Avenue in El Sobrante	11/7/08	Incomplete; awaiting info from District
Laurel Place/Pleasant View Annexation to City of Concord: proposed annexation of 5.86+ acres located on Laurel Dr and Pleasant View Ln	5/8/09	Pending property tax exchange agreement
Discovery Bay Community Services District (DBCSD) SOI Amendment (Newport Pointe): proposed SOI expansion of 20+ acres bounded by Bixler Road, Newport Drive and Newport Cove (with corresponding annexation application)	7/28/10	Incomplete; awaiting info from applicant
DBCSD Annexation (Newport Pointe): proposed annexation of 20+ acres to supply water/sewer services to a 67-unit single family residential development	7/28/10	Incomplete; awaiting info from applicant
Bayo Vista Housing Authority Annexation to RSD – proposed annexation of 33+ acres located south of San Pablo Avenue at the northeastern edge of the District’s boundary	2/20/13	Continued from 11/12/14 meeting
Northeast Antioch Reorganization Area 2A: Annexations to City of Antioch and DDS; detachments from CSAs L-100 and P-6	7/30/13	Continued from 6/11/14 meeting to 6/10/15
Reorganization 186 - Annexations to CCCSD and EBMUD: proposed annexation of Magee Ranch/SummerHill (402+ acres; 9 parcels total;) to CCCSD (8 parcels) and EBMUD (7 parcels)	6/20/14	Continued from 2/11/15 meeting to 5/13/15

# San Pablo: Doctors Medical Center approves two-pronged asset disposition plan

June 10, 2015  
Agenda Item 17c

By [Tom Lochner tlochner@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:Tom.Lochner@bayareanewsgroup.com)

Posted: 05/13/2015 04:31:52 PM PDT Updated: 88 min. ago

SAN PABLO -- Doctors Medical Center is for sale -- as a hospital or as choice developable downtown real estate -- according to a two-pronged asset disposition plan decided by its board Tuesday.

The decision followed a sometimes raucous meeting of the West Contra Costa Healthcare District board during which several would-be hospital turnaround operators complained that the board had turned a deaf ear to their rescue proposals.

The hospital closed April 21 after running what officials say was an intractable, years-long annual deficit that stood at about \$18 million most recently. Officials blame the deficit largely on the hospital's payer mix: About 80 percent of DMC's patients were covered by Medi-Cal or Medicare, and another 10 percent were uninsured.

Under a bifurcated disposition plan, the Camden Group, a nationwide health care consultant, will seek a buyer or partner to operate the hospital. The district previously worked with Camden in an unsuccessful marketing attempt in 2012.

In a parallel effort, Kennedy Wilson, a commercial real estate brokerage firm, will market the remaining 8.3 acres of the DMC campus as a commercial real estate opportunity. The board recently agreed to sell to San Pablo a 2.5-acre slice of the campus used by the adjacent Lytton Rancheria for parking under a 20-year easement. San Pablo also has a right of first refusal on the main portion of the campus.

Board members acknowledged that DMC would likely fetch a much higher offer if marketed as developable real estate than as a hospital.

Several would-be buyers complained they stood ready for months to buy and operate the hospital, but the district refused to negotiate.

And on Tuesday, some of them urged the board to negotiate with them immediately, rather than list the hospital for sale with brokers.

Board Chairman Eric Zell said the board is not about to "single-source" a deal. Any offers need to be vetted properly, he added, to protect against the eventuality that a buyer might acquire the hospital cheaply, pledging to operate it as such, only to pull the plug months later and sell it to a developer at a profit. Board member Deborah Campbell blasted the rest of the board, and Zell in particular, for not negotiating with entrepreneur Larry Anderson, who has made several proposals and asserted that he has raised \$13 million.



That prompted an angry exchange with district counsel Rick Norris, who said Anderson might have walked away after the district committed more money to keep the hospital afloat trying to make a deal with him.

After the meeting, Zell and Norris said the board would give priority to a "viable and sustainable" offer to operate the hospital over a more lucrative sale of the campus as real estate.

## AB-3 Passes Assembly Governance Committee

By Staff Report



Das Williams. Stephen Manga/Daily Nexus

The California State Assembly Committee on Local Government voted 6-1 with two abstentions on Wednesday to

re-refer Assemblymember Das Williams' Assembly Bill 3 (AB 3) to the Joint Committee on Fairs, Allocation and Classification.

The bill establishes Isla Vista self-governance through a Community Services District (CSD) funded by a Utility Users Tax (UUT), if approved by voters within the district's proposed boundaries. Williams wrote AB 3 as an alternative to establishing a CSD through the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in order to address the need for improved infrastructure and services in the I.V. community. Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) trustee and UCSB alumnus Jonathan Abboud organized a group of UCSB students and I.V. residents to speak in favor of the bill during public comment.

Assemblymember Williams said the bill is going straight to the committee because previous attempts to establish I.V. self-governance over the last 45 years have been stifled by LAFCO.

"When a local LAFCO cannot take care of a very important, complicated but ever-present problem for 45 years, do we have the authority to take that back and act ourselves?" Williams said. "I think we do."

Williams said the bill has been thoroughly evaluated by the community since first being introduced to the Assembly in December.

"While the CSD is not going through the traditional LAFCO process, this bill has undergone extensive community outreach, including 42 public meetings and four public town halls," Williams said. "It truly reflects the majority opinion from the community."

According to Williams, the current conditions in I.V. are at a "breaking point" and require improved services such as additional police, a parking district and a tenant mediation program.

"Critical infrastructure and services are not being provided and the safety and wellbeing of I.V.'s residents are not being adequately protected," Williams said.

Associated Students External Vice President of Local Affairs (EVPLA) and fourth-year political science and psychology double major Cameron Schunk said AB 3 is an opportunity to redefine I.V. through the establishment of CSD.

"We have consistently had a lack of opportunity to prove ourselves," Schunk said. "We are consistently at the behest of media sources and every time something happens in Isla Vista, we are painted colors that we have no choice or say in."

Chair of the Local Governance Committee Assemblymember and UCSB alumnus Brian Maienschein said, while he chose to abstain from voting on the motion because of his connection to USC, he plans to continue working with Williams on AB 3.

"Isla Vista is unique," Maienschein said. "I have been persuaded by the testimony today and just kind of my life experience there, so I won't quite get to 'yes,' but I want to keep working with you and your office on this."

Maienschein said that AB 3 resonates with him on a personal level because of his experience living in Isla Vista for three years.

"I think Isla Vista sits in a unique position," Maienschein said, "because of all the issues that have traditionally been there back since my time up through the current time. In fact, the latest incident was in literally one of the exact blocks I lived on. So this hits close to home for me."

Thirty-three year I.V. resident and homeowner Pegeen Souter said she opposes the bill and favors the LAFCO process because she feels AB 3 does not clarify funding and the role of UC Santa Barbara in a CSD.

"It takes time and information to craft a solid and lasting form of government," Souter said. "If this bill is to move forward, then it should go through the LAFCO process."

Santa Barbara LAFCO Executive Officer Paul L. Hood said the commission is taking an "oppose unless amended position" on AB 3, and the commission should be included in the formation process to ensure a financially feasible CSD.

"We strongly believe the Santa Barbara LAFCO should be involved in the formation process," Hood said. "We also believe that the LAFCO process would afford a feasibility study to be prepared, which would determine the viability, the sustainability of revenues that would be available to the new CSD."

California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Executive Director Pamela Miller said the commission does not oppose the CSD itself, but believes LAFCO should be included in its establishment.

"CALAFCO is not arguing whether or not a CSD is the appropriate mechanism, our concerns lie in the bypassing of the LAFCO process," Miller said.

Miller said, while there are certain components in AB 3 that LAFCO cannot grant, excluding the commission may lead to greater risks.

"It is true, as the assemblyman said that LAFCO cannot approve the proposed governance structure or the proposed services to be provided," Miller said. "But bypassing the comprehensive analysis is very dangerous ... all of our concerns would be addressed if a comprehensive review by the LAFCO were done."

Office of the External Vice President of Local Affairs board member and second-year communications and film and media studies double major Arielle Kronovet said one of the biggest issues facing I.V. is inadequate parking.

"I'm lucky I have parkway so I don't have to deal with parking," Kronovet said. "But last year I was searching sometimes for hours trying to find parking, and I couldn't afford parking on campus."

According to Kronovet, students need the government to protect students from property management companies that abuse their power and take advantage of students.

"In the beginning of the year, my house was robbed," Kronovet said. "There was no evidence of forced entry so the property management wouldn't change the locks and they had a key. I called the property management, and they told me it wasn't a high priority issue."

Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr said a CSD in I.V. will require components LAFCO cannot establish, such as a UUT and a hybrid board with elected and hybrid board with elected and appointed members representing entities such as UCSB, SBCC and Santa Barbara County.

"What I wanted to convey to the legislature was the uniqueness of Isla Vista, and the fact that we had demanded a unique solution, requiring some elements that [neither] LAFCO nor the board of supervisors could grant," Farr said. "Only the legislature could."

Farr said LAFCO members should offer alternative ways to help I.V. rather than criticize AB 3.

"I can understand [LAFCO] having concerns, but they did not express more concern and care for the future of the community," Farr said. "You can have questions and you can have concerns, but also, show us that you really do want to be helpful. I have to say I haven't gotten that sense at the meetings."

According to Farr, Isla Vista does not have a high source of income from sales or property taxes.

"[I.V.] doesn't have a lot of commercial development or other kinds of sales tax or transient occupancy tax

generators, hotels and such and the community,” Farr said.

“Properties in the community don’t change hands very often, so the property tax that has been being paid is probably much lower than if the property was sold and then reassessed.”

Off-campus senator-elect and second-year political science major Louis Mariano said he appreciates Farr’s supporting AB 3 regardless of her position in the county.

“She’s always been there for Isla Vista and been working hard for the county to focus on it,” Mariano said. “She’s in a tight squeeze, but I am very grateful she was for the bill, because she knows Isla Vista needs help.”

Abboud said Maienschein’s support of AB 3 shows the importance of I.V. self-governance.

“It shows Isla Vista has faced the same issues over and over without a way to correct them permanently,” Abboud said. “The root of the issue has been no local control and no local self-determination. I think him being moved by his own personal experiences is indicative of why we need to pass this bill.”

According to Abboud, students have shown they can efficiently hold leadership positions regardless of how long they live and stay in I.V.

“Students are regularly elected and do a wonderful job,” Abboud said. “Just because students with a little ‘S’ are transient, students with a big ‘S’ aren’t.”

A version of this story appeared on page 7 of the Thursday, May 14, 2015 print edition of the *Daily Nexus*.

[Correction: A previous version of this article was titled “Contested Bill Addresses Isla Vista Self-Governance”. The title was altered to its current title for clarity.]

**NEWS**

**MAY 14, 2015**

# Stanislaus County mayors retain Beekman in 'black eye' marathon

## HIGHLIGHTS

Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman stays on LAFCO – for now

Other mayors say Beekman went against their direction

Audience supports Beekman and farmland preservation



At a meeting of the Stanislaus County Mayors' City Selection Committee for Local Agency Formation Commission representation Wednesday, Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman's counterparts decided to decide later whether Beekman will continue serving as a city representative on LAFCO. | **Garth Stapley** -

[gstapely@modbee.com](mailto:gstapely@modbee.com)

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BY GARTH STAPLEY

[gstapely@modbee.com](mailto:gstapely@modbee.com)

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Accusations flew and tempers flared as all nine mayors in Stanislaus County gathered to decide if one of their own should continue representing them on a growth-guiding panel that suddenly doesn't seem so obscure.

For 3 1/2 hours Wednesday, some of Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman's counterparts accused him of traitorous conduct for discounting their wishes in a March vote on farmland preservation, while most speakers in a full audience stridently defended him and charged his accusers of manipulative politicking.

"This meeting is really about what puppet you're going to put on the dais to say what you want him to say," said audience member Lina Alldredge of Wood Colony.

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**I'M MISSING THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS  
(TO ATTEND THIS MEETING). THIS IS FAR  
MORE ENTERTAINING THAN A LOW-POST  
PICK-AND-ROLL AND A FADE SHOT FROM  
THE CORNER.**

Lloyd Blackman, Turlock

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The mayoral majority ultimately decided to decide later. In two months, they'll reconvene to weigh

whether Beekman will have done enough to redeem himself and continue serving as a city representative on the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission, which rules on cities' annexation requests.

Beekman, who feels he did no wrong, remained puzzled Thursday morning at what the other mayors want, and frustrated that Wednesday night's fireworks seemed to accomplish little.

"We should have been able to figure it out, either way," he said, adding, "I don't feel like I got clear direction."

County Counsel John Doering advised the mayors that their sole duty as members of a selection committee was to choose who would represent them on LAFCO, not to give Beekman marching orders to save his LAFCO seat. The mayors largely ignored that, the majority voting to pursue a compromise and return in 60 days.

At the heart of the controversy was LAFCO's 3-2 approval in March of a formula for calculating how much money developers should pay cities when replacing farmland with homes or other buildings. Cities say the price is too high and the formula challenges their authority over land-use decisions, while farm advocates contend it's fair and represents only one of three options that cities can choose for preserving farmland.

Beekman joined county representatives to narrowly approve the formula, prompting the mayors to call for Wednesday's meeting to consider replacing him on the commission. Some mayors said the LAFCO vote should be reversed; others said it's water under the bridge, but wanted



to address Beekman's failure to follow the direction of most mayors.

"We selected you thinking you would fairly represent us," Riverbank Mayor Richard O'Brien told Beekman. "When seven cities say, 'Don't go forward with this,' and you did, it shows disregard for our opinion, that you'd already made up your mind."

Waterford Mayor Mike Van Winkle said, "Having this rammed down our throats is what I'm upset about. There should have been more discussion."

"People were saying, 'Time out; we need to slow down,' " agreed Patterson Mayor Luis Molina. "That's not what happened."

Two audience members agreed, but they were outnumbered by 24 people standing up for farmland preservation, Beekman or both. The room broke into applause at comments supporting the mayor of Hughson, the county's smallest city.

"God bless you, Mayor Beekman; thank you for representing all the cities and citizens," said Katherine Borges of Salida.

"No one has the right to take those convictions away from him - no one," said Hughson's Marie Assali.

Modesto's Christopher Aggers said, "If you vote to remove him, you're feeding that cynicism in the community."

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**TO SEE SOMEONE WITH INTEGRITY AT THIS LEVEL IS EXTREMELY MOVING. TO SEE THE**

## **CURTAIN PULLED BACK AND POLLUTION OF THE PUBLIC PROCESS IS EXTREMELY DISTURBING.**

**Dan O'Connell, American Farmland Trust**

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Mayors of the county's two largest cities - Modesto's Garrad Marsh and Turlock's Gary Soiseth - also defended Beekman.

"Here we have someone who did not do anything illegal, immoral or unethical and is very qualified to represent all cities on LAFCO, and he made a judgment call," Soiseth said.

Marsh noted that "angry emails" were "flying" among "perturbed" mayors "the day after the vote."

"I believe Matt and the LAFCO body were following the law," Marsh said. "They saw a major loophole (in farmland preservation policy) and were trying to give a remedy for that, though it may not have been reached in a collaborative process. I think it could have been done better."

Beekman acknowledged that going slower may have been wiser, as did County Supervisor Terry Withrow, a LAFCO member who spoke from the audience.

"This is a bad spot we've gotten to. It's become emotional and way past the issues," Withrow said.

"If we had known there was that much angst and more time would have eased it ... I would have been willing to put this off," he said, adding that a

delay might not have changed his vote.

Several speakers said the ugliness of the high-level skirmish overshadows progress made by leaders.

"These are pretty dark days for us," Ceres Mayor Chris Vierra said, pondering how to patch hurt feelings.

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**SUPERVISOR (JIM) DEMARTINI DOESN'T AGREE WITH ME. HE TOLD ME TO MY FACE HE AGREES WITH ME; BEHIND MY BACK, HE SAYS OTHER THINGS.**

**Ed Katen, Mayor of Newman**

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County Supervisor Vito Chiesa said the mayors' group had gone from "most functional" to "most dysfunctional" with an economic price to pay.

"This is going to be a black eye for the community as we're trying to attract business," he said.

"It seems absurd," said Amanda Sorensen of Salida, comparing the mayoral majority to "a 16-year-old girl who got a BMW instead of a Mercedes for her birthday."

Barbara Swier of Hughson said, "To find out this great idea devolved into this embarrassing fiasco is too sad for words."

Rhett Calkins of Hughson had a different take. "This is what politics is supposed to be about; we're supposed to disagree and have it out in public," he said.

[Print This Article](#)

## Beekman remains as LAFCO representative, for now

Elizabeth Arakelian  
earakelian@turlockjournal.com  
209-634-9141 ext. 2015

May 14, 2015

Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman will continue to serve as a member of the Stanislaus County Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCO, at least for the next 60 days as the county's mayors decided they needed more time to determine if he is fit to represent their collective interests.

Thirty community members took to the podium at the nearly four hour long Stanislaus County City Selection Committee Wednesday night to vocalize their concerns about Beekman being bumped from his appointment on LAFCO. LAFCO is composed of various city and county representatives and though often regarded as nebulous by the general public, one central goal of the commission is to preserve agricultural land while also promoting orderly growth.

Beekman's role on the commission came under speculation after a deciding vote he cast on land mitigation efforts at the March 25 meeting left some of the mayors feeling misrepresented.

LAFCO convened in March to discuss refining the language of its in-lieu fee methodology, one tactic aimed at achieving 1:1 land mitigation. This ratio ensures that if land is developed, an equal amount is also preserved for agricultural use, thus retaining the region's resources.

In a 3-2 vote Beekman voted with Stanislaus County Supervisors Jim DiMartini and Terry Withrow to amend the LAFCO agricultural preservation policy to set an in-lieu fee methodology of 35 percent plus a five percent endowment. The item was opposed by Turlock City Council member Amy Bublak and LAFCO public representative Brad Hawn.

As chair of the Stanislaus County City Selection Committee Beekman governed Wednesday's agenda with the only item for the mayors' consideration being his removal as the LAFCO representative.

"Frankly, we shouldn't be here tonight," said Beekman, who listed his experience and perfect attendance as a testament to his eligibility as the LAFCO representative. "The reason why I'm being asked to step down is because of one vote, not because of a

voting pattern."

A central concern of many of the mayors was that Beekman did not take into consideration the impact that his vote would have on the diverse communities he represents on LAFCO: Waterford, Newman, Ceres, Oakdale, Hughson, Turlock, Riverbank and Patterson.

"The City Selection Committee is supposed to select a member that fairly represents the diversity of the cities," said Riverbank Mayor Richard O'Brien. "We selected you thinking you would fairly represent us. When you have seven cities saying 'don't go forward with this' and you did, that shows us that you have a disregard for our opinion when you've already made up your mind."

However, not all of the mayors were willing to hold Beekman singularly accountable. Turlock Mayor Gary Soiseth vocalized support not necessarily for Beekman's decision, but rather his right to make it.

"Here we have someone who did not do anything illegal, immoral, or unethical. He did his homework, is very qualified to represent us — not only the cities but the county residents on LAFCO — and made a judgment call. I think that there were mistakes made, I think we could have had a lot more communication, and that was admitted by Mayor Beekman and that is something I think he will work on," said Soiseth. "This is just a disagreement on a policy and I'm not diminishing that at all, but I'm saying that we do not have to remove Matt Beekman tonight. We do not have to remove him from LAFCO because we disagreed with him."

Stanislaus County Supervisors Vito Chiesa and Withrow took to the podium during public comment and urged the mayors to consider the long-term ramifications of their vote as well as the perception it lends the public.

"This is dividing our community," said Chiesa. "It is not right. It is going to be a black eye for our community. I hope that you will reconsider."

"Decisions that are made emotionally are usually the worst decisions," Withrow cautioned. "I ask you to redirect your angst towards me if that is what it takes because I'm the one that initiated the vote on this thing and I'm as much to blame as anybody... I would not have changed my vote, but if I had understood that there really was this confusion out there amongst everyone, and more time would have helped ease that, I would have done it in a heartbeat if it would have kept Matt."

An overwhelming majority of the 30 individuals that made public comments vocalized their support for Beekman, many noting that his vote is a sign of his commitment to his community and farmland preservation. Others took a less personal approach and suggested the mayors focus on the issue at hand.

"LAFCO is legally bound to fully fund one-to-one mitigation, period. It has to be done. This has nothing to do with Mayor Beekman or any other mayor, this is the legal responsibility of LAFCO," said Jeani Ferrari.

Others felt differently, such as Ceres resident and former LAFCO member Edward Persike who said Beekman did not take into account all of the communities for which he is beholden to represent.

"Mayor Beekman did not represents his constituency. He represented a constituency, but not the constituency that elected him and for that infidelity, really, he has one of two choices: He can resign or I believe that he will be removed and another person will take his place," said Persike.

Persike said Beekman's removal "would be a breath of fresh air and a chance for this LAFCO to reorganize and re-look at some of the things that it's doing."

While the opinions of the public at the podium and the elected officials at the dais were as diverse at the communities represented, several participants in Wednesday's discussion took a moment during their comment to reflect that being able to publicly discuss the issue was valuable.

"This is America in its purest form," remarked community member Lloyd Blackman.

The mayors ultimately decided in a 2-7 vote to table the discussion of removing Beekman from the committee and will reconvene in 60 days to reevaluate his position on LAFCO. The only dissenting votes were Beekman and Waterford Mayor Michael Van Winkle who also opposed Marsh's first motion of keeping Beekman on the LAFCO committee which failed by 3-6.

<http://www.turlockjournal.com/section/14/article/29320/>

# Our View: Mayors need a graceful retreat plan

Stanislaus mayors need to resolve LAFCO board dispute

By the Editorial Board, The Modesto Bee, May 14, 2015

It doesn't make sense to die on a molehill. Yes, we've smashed two cliches, but it seems a fitting description for the latest episode of "The Angry Mayors of Stanislaus County." They worked themselves into a lather over a vote on the LAFCO board in March concerning the calculation used to determine the value of agland easements in annexation requests. The calculation is one of three methods available to homebuilders contemplating new housing projects.

But officials in the county's smaller cities – Patterson, Newman, Ceres, Oakdale and Riverbank – felt the formula infringed on their civic prerogatives. It didn't seem to matter if adopting an inadequate formula, as Patterson and other cities were considering, would likely have resulted in annexations being denied.

What the mayors found intolerable was that the key vote in LAFCO's decision was cast by their appointee – Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman – after most of the mayors had specifically told him to vote the other way. The mayors wanted the concept of "majority rule" to bind Beekman, but not to bind them when they were no longer in the majority.

The problem is that once you appoint someone to a board – as the mayors with Beekman – it is up to the *appointee* to vote how he sees fit. That's the law. You can question it and get angry about it, but unless there is evidence of wrongdoing there is no basis to have an appointee thrown off that board. That didn't stop the mayors from arranging their meeting Wednesday night. It's safe to say it blew up in their faces when almost 100 people came to Turlock, the vast majority to protest their action and defend both the LAFCO process and Beekman.

In the face of such opposition, the mayors set aside any motion to remove Beekman. They'll reconvene in 60 days. In that time, we hope that things cool off. Though the adopted mitigation policy is entirely fair, there might be a better way of determining fees for small parcels. Modesto Mayor Garrad Marsh made a few suggestions, as did others.

Apparently, some of the mayors – most specifically, Richard O'Brien of Riverbank – felt misused by The Bee. But the mayors charted their own course up this little mountain; it's up to them to find a way off without tripping.

Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/opinion/editorials/article21118929.html#storylink=cpy>

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[Print this page](#)Published **May 20th, 2015**

## ConFire-AMR Partnership Forges Ahead

*By Nick Marnell*

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District moved another step closer to providing emergency ambulance service in Contra Costa County on May 12 when the Board of Supervisors, acting as the ConFire board of directors, authorized fire chief Jeff Carman to execute an agreement between the district and American Medical Response, the current provider of county ambulance service. The agreement details the relationship between the district and AMR if ConFire is awarded the 5-year Contra Costa County emergency ambulance service contract effective Jan. 1, 2016. The county regions up for bid exclude the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, which provide their own ambulance transport service.

After a district consultant reported in 2014 that it would be financially feasible for ConFire to provide ambulance service for the county, AP Triton, LLC, a fire consultant, advised the district that the most suitable and cost effective way to provide that service was to partner with a private ambulance company. Through a competitive bidding process, ConFire chose to partner with AMR, under a subcontractor agreement with the district.

Should the county award ConFire the ambulance contract AMR, as the ambulance subcontractor, will provide the district its own personnel and equipment and will also be responsible for maintaining and upgrading the ambulance fleet. Over the five years of the deal ConFire will pay AMR not more than \$188 million for this service, which Carman explained would be the district's maximum financial exposure. ConFire will bill and collect patient fees and charges, reimbursements from healthcare providers and other emergency ambulance transport revenue to cover those expenses.

"Even at the maximum costs, this proposal will make financial sense to the district?" asked John Gioia, board chair.

"Absolutely," said Carman.

Carman later pointed out indirect benefits of the relationship with AMR, including consolidation of personnel and other potential costs savings. "AMR has huge buying power for medical supplies," he said. "At the same time, we have better buying power for fuel since we use so much, and they can take advantage of that."

Erik Rohde, AMR general manager for Contra Costa County, discussed the synergy of merging dispatch personnel. "ConFire's dispatch center is in Pleasant Hill and ours is in Sacramento," he said. "By putting them in the same room, the dispatchers will have the ability to communicate real time, face to face, rather than over a phone or computer."

And one of Carman's top frustrations will frustrate him no longer. "We won't send a fire company and an ambulance to everything anymore," he said. "Now we can send just what is needed and closest. This adds capacity to our response reliability."

The Board of Supervisors plans to approve the new county ambulance contract in July. If ConFire is awarded the deal, and the district successfully enters into the subcontract with AMR, it will have joined forces with its long-time rival.

"We will share mission and vision," said the chief. "Instead of competing, we will be working as a single team."

"Truly this relationship will be better for the agencies and the customer."

Reach the reporter at: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# Dublin water district reduces rates as a reward for saving

By Denis Cuff [dcuff@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:dcuff@bayareanewsgroup.com)

Posted: 05/20/2015 04:51:44 PM PDT Updated: about 3 hours ago

DUBLIN -- About 80,000 people in Dublin and San Ramon are getting lower water rates right away because they have saved the resource so well in the drought.

The price break isn't huge -- about \$2.55 a month for many households -- but any cut in rates is unusual in a dry year when many California water districts are imposing or renewing steeper rates as an incentive to save.

Officials at the Dublin San Ramon Services District said they have some flexibility because their customers have done an admiral job of saving water aggressively.

"This is good news," said Richard Halket, a water board member who voted Tuesday with the 5-0 majority to reduce rates immediately. "This is rewarding customers for what they have done."



A woman takes an afternoon bike ride past the plastic-shrouded fountain heads at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin ON Nov. 9, 2014. The fountain has been shut down for the duration of the drought. (Jim Stevens/Bay Area News Group)

District customers in Dublin and San Ramon's Dougherty Valley slashed water use nearly 25 percent last year to cope with sharp cuts in state supplies to the Tri-Valley area, including Pleasanton and Livermore. The savings, among the highest in California last year, left many lawns brown.

This year, the state water board ordered urban water districts in California to cut use by amounts averaging about 25 percent below 2013 levels. But the board said the Dublin San Ramon district only has to reduce use 16 percent because it has a low per-capita residential water use rate -- just 84.7 gallons per day last summer -- and customers continue to save.

With conservation habits ingrained, the district can ease up a little and still meet the 16 percent target, district managers said.

"Our message to our customers is, 'Keep it up and we should be able to get through this year okay,'" said Sue Stephenson, a district spokeswoman. "We may need every drop we save this year if next winter is dry."

Board members said the district still faces an emergency, but not quite as severe as last year.

Households will continue to face harsh financial penalties if they use more than 4,480 gallons per week -- an average of 640 gallons a day. Washing down pavement still is banned.

And the district's tiered water rates -- though lower now -- are still higher than they were in 2013.

Under the rate reduction, a household using 200 gallons per day will see its monthly water charges drop from \$44.92 to \$42.37.

The district also relaxed its outdoor watering restrictions slightly to match the statewide limit of irrigating lawns and plants no more than twice a week. The district previously banned outdoor water in wet winter months, and had a once-a-week limit in spring months.

And the board agreed to drop a ban on washing cars at home as long as a shutoff nozzle is used on the water hose.

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## New Ambulances Rolling in to MOFD

*By Nick Marnell*

At its May 6 meeting the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously approved a \$425,000 expenditure for two new 2016 International TerraStar Leader ambulances, which will give the district a fleet of six ambulances, including two reserve vehicles. MOFD last purchased ambulances in 2008.

"Our two most active ambulances have been out of service 27 percent of the time," said fire chief Stephen Healy. "We're burning through transmissions, motors and brakes, and a cracked frame, in one case. We are very tough on our ambulances."

The district apparatus committee, headed by battalion chief Felipe Barreto, recommended the purchase of new vehicles as opposed to remounting the current district modules on new chassis. "For one thing, we then wouldn't have reserve ambulances," said Healy. The chief noted that the new ambulances should last up to 15 years, while remounted modules onto new chassis will last maybe half that long. The cost of remounting was presented as about half the cost of a new purchase.

Healy explained that the new apparatus have beefier chassis, stronger power trains and are larger and heavier duty than the models being replaced. He allayed concerns that the new ambulances were so much bigger than the current units that they could not navigate all of the district roads. "Our fire engines can get to every street in the district," he said. "These are much smaller than our fire engines."

Barreto said that the ambulances should be delivered in the fall, and that the two new vehicles will likely be deployed at station 41 in Moraga and station 44 in south Orinda. One reserve ambulance will remain at station 41, the other stored at Moraga's station 42.

The new Internationals will be purchased through the National Joint Powers Alliance, a Minnesota-based municipal national contracting agency. The district plans to send out a request for proposals this month for the lease financing.

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U.S.

## Some California Farmers to Cut Water Use to Ease Drought

By JENNIFER MEDINA [MAY 22, 2015](#)

LOS ANGELES — Ever since the Gold Rush, California farmers have staked their claim to water and ferociously protected the rights to use it to irrigate the crops that have made the state the grocer for the nation.

But on Friday, in a sign of how the record-setting drought is shaking up established ways here, state officials accepted an offer from farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to give up a quarter of their water this season, by leaving part of their land unplanted or finding other ways to reduce their water use.

The deal is an important concession from growers that officials hope will prompt similar agreements throughout the state's agricultural industry, which uses 80 percent of the water consumed in the state in a normal year.

"We're in an unprecedented drought, and we have to exercise the state's water rights in an unprecedented way," said Felicia Marcus, the chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board. "This is a breakthrough in what has long been a rhetorical battle. It's a significant turning point to have people say, 'We know this is complicated. We want to do something early in good faith that is a pragmatic solution for everyone.'"

In the weeks since Gov. Jerry Brown announced across-the-board cutbacks for urban water systems, the state's farmers have become something of a scapegoat. Residents who are timing their showers and letting their lawns turn brown have angrily accused the agricultural industry of not doing enough to curb its own use of

water, although many growers have faced dramatic cuts for the last two years.

Farmers up and down the state feel besieged, and they have fought back with public relations campaigns to emphasize their conservation efforts and explain how their produce feeds much of the country.

While the deal made on Friday is unlikely to have a dramatic effect on food prices or the water supply, the concession by the farmers was a pre-emptive effort to limit potentially steeper cuts.

The state has not moved to restrict water use for the growers with the oldest, most established water rights since the 1970s, but it seems inevitable that those growers will be limited this year. For many farmers, a fear that the worst is yet to come convinced them that they would be better off giving up water before they began planting for the season.

# California drought: Can we learn from Australia's 'Big Dry'?

By Kristen Gelineau and Ellen Knickmeyer Associated Press

Posted: 05/25/2015 09:05:15 AM PDT Updated: about 3 hours ago



FILE - In this March 3, 2015, file photo, a flock of sheep drink from a dam at the edge of dried-up Lake George, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) southwest of Sydney. On the world's driest inhabited continent, drought is a part of life, with the struggle to survive in a land short on water a constant thread in the country's history. The U.S. state of California is looking to Australia for advice on surviving its own drought. (AP Photo/Rob Griffith, File) ( Rob Griffith )

**SYDNEY --** California's longest and sharpest drought on record has its increasingly desperate water stewards looking for solutions in Australia, the world's driest inhabited continent.

The struggle to survive with little water is a constant thread in the history of Australia, whose people now view drought as an inevitable feature of the land poet Dorothea Mackellar dubbed "a sunburnt country."

Four years into a drought forcing mandatory 25 percent water cutbacks this year, Californians have taken a keen interest in how Australia coped with its "Big Dry," a torturous drought that stretched across the millennium, from the late 1990s through 2012. Australia's city dwellers had to accept tough water restrictions as cattle collapsed and died in barren fields, monstrous wildfires killed 173 people, and scores of farms went under.



FILE - In this July 13, 2002, file photo, sheep wander parched land near a dry reservoir on a Condobolin property, 460 kilometers (285 miles) northwest of Sydney. On the world's driest inhabited continent, drought is a part of life, with the struggle to survive in a land short on water a constant thread in the country's history. The U.S. state of

California is looking to Australia for advice on surviving its own drought. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft, File) ( Rick Rycroft )

But by the time the rains returned, Australia had fundamentally changed how it handles water, following landmark reforms to more carefully mete out allocations and cutbacks. Today, Australia treats water as a commodity to be conserved and traded. The system also better measures what water is available, and efficiency programs have cut average daily water use to 55 gallons, compared with 105 gallons per day for each Californian.

The hard-earned lesson is that long droughts are here to stay, says drought-policy expert Linda Botterill of the University of Canberra.

"We can expect longer, deeper and more severe droughts in Australia, and I believe the same applies in the U.S.," Botterill says. "As a result, we need to develop strategies that are not knee-jerk responses, but that are planned risk-management strategies."

That's why California water officials routinely cite Australia's experience and invite Australian water ministers to come speak. It's also why Felicia Marcus, who runs California's Water Resources Control Board, can talk in minute detail about the stormwater-capture system watering soccer fields in Perth.

But Californians may find Australia's medicine tough to swallow. Australians are accustomed to living in a dry land, expect government intervention in a crisis and largely support making sacrifices for the common good. For much of their history, many Californians have enjoyed abundant water, or were able to divert enough of it to turn deserts green, and highly paid lawyers ensure that property rights remain paramount.

"The outstanding feature of the California drought is the way in which it's been allowed to become incredibly serious, with -- from an Australian perspective -- an absolutely pathetic and nominal sort of response," says Daniel Connell, an environmental policy expert at The Australian National University. "The main difference between California and Australia is they're dominated by a legalistic approach and dominated by rights, and we've got a much more public-policy approach."



In this April 29, 2015 photo, rain clouds form in the sky over a desalination plant in Sydney, Australia. On the world's driest inhabited continent, drought is a part of life, with the struggle to survive in a land short on water a constant thread in the country's history. The U.S. state of California is looking to Australia for advice on surviving its own drought. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft) ( Rick Rycroft )

Australia hardly has all the answers. Some of its drought responses faced sharp criticism, and some experts believe Australia already is losing some of its gains. Still, Americans suffering their own "Big Dry" may benefit from some comparisons:

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## WHOSE WATER IS IT?

**AUSTRALIA:** Too many water entitlements had been allocated for Australia's main river system, which winds thousands of miles across four states that produce a third of the nation's food. Overuse and drought so depleted the Murray-Darling Basin that by 2002, the mouth of the Murray had to be dredged to keep it flowing into the sea.

Australia responded by capping entitlements, canceling inactive licenses and buying back hundreds of billions of gallons from irrigators to restore the rivers and sell to other users when rain is plentiful. Water use is strictly metered to ensure license holders use only what they are allocated. Precise measurements also track the availability of water, which affects its price as shares are bought and sold on a water trading market worth \$1.2 billion a year in U.S. dollars.

The amount of water represented in entitlements doled out to farms, industries and towns depends on what's in the river; in drought, it can dwindle to virtually nothing. This is where water trading becomes critical. License holders can buy or sell their entitlements to others, keeping agriculture afloat. A farmer of a thirsty crop like cotton might not profit when both water and cotton prices are low. But if an orchard grower in desperate need buys that water, the cotton farmer can live off the sale while the orchard owner reaps a profitable harvest.

CALIFORNIA: Gov. Jerry Brown calls the state's system of divvying up water rights, which dates to the Gold Rush of the mid-1800s, "somewhat archaic." The largest state economy in the U.S. still follows the maxim "first in time, first in right," which gives overarching priority to nearly 4,000 so-called senior water rights holders who staked claims before 1914 or own acreage abutting a river or stream. In drought, authorities must completely deny water to most other claimants before they touch the water of senior water-rights holders. San Francisco, for example, has stronger water rights than many other cities because in 1902, Mayor James Phelan hiked up the Sierra Nevada and tacked a water claim to an oak tree along the bank of the Tuolumne River.

"Revising the water-rights system is a thermo-nuclear issue in California," John Laird, California's secretary for natural resources, said last month. If the state's water shortages go on long enough, however, at some point "almost everything has to be on the table."

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#### WATCHING THE FLOW

AUSTRALIA: Marcus says California should follow Australia's example in measuring and publicly declaring how water is used. Thousands of gauges across Australia measure rainfall, authorities in each state and territory measure surface water at stream gauging stations, and underground water is monitored through a complex process involving the drilling of bores and controlled pumping tests. Water data collection agencies report to the federal Bureau of Meteorology, which makes the data available online.

CALIFORNIA: California has been one of the most lax U.S. states in tracking water use, but the drought is changing this. Legislation enacted last year requires the state to gradually phase in monitoring, for the first time, of how much groundwater Californians are pumping. Meanwhile, roughly a quarter-million California households and businesses still lack water meters; state requirements to have them don't apply until 2025. The state has relied on an honor system, with rights holders self-reporting what water they have withdrawn from rivers and streams every three years. Gov. Brown's budget proposed last week would require rights holders to install monitors and report water usage to the state annually.

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#### TIGHTENING THE TAP

AUSTRALIA: During the Millennium Drought, all major cities imposed limits or bans on watering lawns and washing cars, and inspectors fined people who broke the rules. The restrictions, public-service campaigns and installation of water-saving appliances reduced Australians' household water use from 85 gallons per person per day in 2000 to 55 gallons today.

CALIFORNIA: After some regions all but ignored calls for voluntary cutbacks, Brown's administration mandated a statewide 25 percent cut in water use by cities and towns, and ordered more farmers to stop pumping from rivers and streams. Marcus said the one piece of advice that seemed universal in both Australia and California "was conserve, conserve, conserve, as early as you can, because it's the cheapest, most economical way to buy time" while tougher water-saving measures are phased in. California still is struggling with enforcement, however.

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## DO MORE WITH LESS

AUSTRALIA: Years before the Big Dry, Australians were encouraged to use less water. In 1995, Sydney's water authority was ordered to slash per-capita demand by 35 percent by 2011, and it met that target by reducing pressure and leaks in pipes, boosting businesses' water efficiency, and offering low-cost, water-saving technologies in homes, such as dual-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and rainwater tanks for gardens, toilets and laundry. When the drought struck, government rebates became so widespread that such devices are now common in many Australian homes.

Such efficiency measures can be implemented quickly, economically and easily, says Stuart White, an Australian sustainability expert who has advised Californians on drought response. "The water efficiency program is the unsung hero of this whole thing," says White, director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney. "In some cities, it's quite possible we would have reached death's door if it hadn't been in place."

CALIFORNIA: Communities across California offer rebates on drought-friendly plumbing and appliances. But the rooftop-rain collectors, stormwater cisterns and bathwater-recycling for gardens, all commonplace in parts of Australia, are rarities here. Increasing numbers of communities are rewriting ordinances to allow families to recycle water from rains and from showers.

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## MIRACLES OF TECHNOLOGY

AUSTRALIA: Billions were spent on desalination plants in major cities -- a decision that remains hugely divisive. Many of the plants are not currently operating because cheaper water is available for now in Australia, prompting critics to dismiss them as expensive and power-hungry flops that will create greenhouse gases and worsen the continent's climate-change woes. Supporters say the plants will protect the country from the next inevitable drought.

CALIFORNIA: While calling for conservation, Brown has pinned his drought focus on an ambitious infrastructure project -- a \$17 billion plan, opposed by environmental groups, to build 39 miles of tunnel to take Northern California water to Southern California's bigger farmers. Desalination plants in the works include one, for San Diego, that will be the biggest such operation in the Western Hemisphere.

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Knickmeyer reported from San Francisco.

# Bay Point: Ambrose Parks chief signs new contract

By [Sam Richards srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com)

Posted: **05/27/2015** 12:46:07 PM PDT Updated: about 22 hours ago

BAY POINT -- Ambrose Recreation and Park District General Manager Doug Long has signed a new one-year contract to lead the local park district -- one that will pay him \$90,000 for a baseline 30-hour workweek.

By a 4-1 vote, the Ambrose board on May 14 approved the new contract that also, in subtle ways, gives Long something else he wanted: more autonomy in doing his job.

Both Long and board Chairwoman Mae Cendana-Torlakson said in April that was the key issue that prompted Long to submit his now-rescinded resignation in February. Both told this newspaper his decision then was driven in large measure by a lack of autonomy on the job, specifically micromanaging by trustee Lloyd "Lee" Mason. Long also said he didn't believe he had the ringing endorsement of other directors.

Long stayed on while his contract was reworked. The new document has only very minor language changes about how he needs to report various district happenings to the board, and no changes specifically dealing with how board members deal with him, but Long is confident the majority of the board members have his back.

"The sentiment on the board has changed considerably" since February, Long said Wednesday. The full support of four of the directors is more important than the lack of support from the fifth one, he said.

This week, Cendana-Torlakson said the minor tweaks in the contract, plus reassurances from various board members, should mean Long and the board will move ahead together.

"We believe he will be left alone to do his work," said Cendana-Torlakson, adding that Long will also be given more specific direction in helping carry out the district's long-term strategic plan, which will be an ongoing venture.

What has changed in the new contract is the 30-hour workweek. His employment agreement did not specify the number of hours he was expected to work each week, though both the new and old ones acknowledge the general manager often works extra hours each week, sometimes a substantial number as situations arise.

That 30-hours-a-week number bothers Mason, who believes the old contract assumed a 40-hour minimum workweek. The \$90,000 annual salary (unchanged from Long's original contract) bothers him, too. Others have criticized Long, including members of the community group West Pittsburg for Progress.

Mason, who denies ever "micromanaging" Long, said he is waiting for change to come, possibly with the November 2016 board election. In the meantime, he said, Long's new contract "doesn't address anything, really, I believe."

Contact Sam Richards at 925-943-8241. Follow him at [Twitter.com/samrichardsWC](https://twitter.com/samrichardsWC)

# California farmers' 'senior' water rights under siege

By Lisa M. Krieger lkrieger@mercurynews.com

Posted: 05/28/2015 03:03:17 PM PDT Updated: about 3 hours ago



A view of Rudy Mussi's almond field that is irrigated with water from the Middle River, which has supplied water since the property was purchased from the state in 1872. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group) ( Dai Sugano )

STOCKTON -- A 143-year-old piece of paper proves that Rudy Mussi has a legal right to water from the gently meandering Middle River that nourishes his family farm.

But the same piece of paper -- a "certificate of purchase," signed in florid 19th-century handwriting and faded to near illegibility -- also is proof to a growing number of critics that California has outgrown its water rights system.



A portrait of Rudy Mussi, a Stockton farmer and "senior" water right holder under California's byzantine water rights law, at one of his water pumps at Middle River that he uses for irrigation, on May 19, 2015, in Stockton Calif. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group) ( Dai Sugano )

The venerable "senior rights" enjoyed by Mussi and about 4,000 other farmers, companies and public agencies -- some dating back to the Gold Rush --

could soon become the latest casualties of the historic drought.

More than a century ago, the state essentially guaranteed unlimited water from California's rivers and streams to pioneers who struggled to turn wilderness into fertile fields that supported a young and hungry California. The rights then were passed down to the pioneers' heirs or to the land's new owners -- who now use more water annually than Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco and Sacramento combined.

Once thought inviolable, these water rights holders now face their first real challenge in California history -- and they are the focus of the latest installment in this newspaper's series "A State of Drought."

"If we were designing the California water system today, it would look very different from what we had," said Peter Gleick, co-founder of the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based think tank that focus on water issues.

"The system of senior water rights might have made sense 100 years ago," he said. "But given our new realities, it is not going to work in the long run."

The current approach "neither protects the environment nor ensures efficient use of our limited water," he added. "It just clarifies who was there first."

Gov. Jerry Brown has said that if the dry conditions continue, the state's entire water rights system could be up for examination. And this month, the state for the first time ordered property owners to provide proof of these rights, triggering anger and a flood of historic and hastily retrieved documents from hundreds of farms, cities and irrigation districts.

Under the threat of a complete cutoff by the State Water Resources Control Board, Mussi and other "riparian" Delta growers -- those who live adjacent to a river -- agreed last week to use 25 percent less water than they did in 2013. And other senior rights holders in other parts of the state soon may be forced to completely turn off their pumps.



Farmers are firing back, hiring attorneys to assert that the state is defying statutes that honor their seniority. The water board's order exceeds the scope of the state's authority, the lawyers contend.

"Water always existed here -- before statehood, before the state water board," said Mussi, 62, driving his pickup along the miles of high earthen levees that protect his tomatoes, alfalfa, grapes and other crops from being drowned by the Middle River.

Unlike most others in the Central Valley, Mussi said, the Delta farmers can't just drill wells to make up for fewer water allocations. That's because their groundwater is so salty that it's

lethal to crops.



Rudy Mussi, a Stockton farmer and "senior" water rights holder under California's water rights law, holds an 1872 certificate of purchase from the state, granting him water rights under its Swamp and Overflowed Land Act. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News group) ( Dai Sugano )

As the state stretches into its fourth year of drought, the pain of cutbacks is being felt across California. Cities and towns are being required to cut water use from 8 percent to 36 percent beginning in June, or face steep fines. And about 9,000 holders of "junior" rights -- the newer farms -- already have been curtailed for the second consecutive year.

State officials contend that it's only fair to require senior rights holders to cut back. "It allows growers to share in the sacrifice that people throughout the state are facing because of the severe drought," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the water board.

But Mussi called the state's "take it or leave" approach "extortion," noting that he's already tilled the soil, signed contracts with canneries and planted crops -- an investment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars -- trusting the time-honored system of water rights.

"It's like me pointing a gun at your head and saying, 'You don't have to give me your wallet,'" he said.

Here in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta -- home to generations-old family farms amid a network of man-made islands and channels in the nation's largest freshwater estuary -- water is considered a private property right. Rivers drain onto the farmers' fields, then back out again.

Water is almost a birthright in the Delta, where settlers dammed, diked and drained wetlands described as "nothing better than rotting turf and waving rushes ... worthless in their natural condition" by a 19th century New York Times correspondent.

While most Eastern states recognize riparian rights, California and Oklahoma are the only states west of the Mississippi River that continue to recognize them -- and they are governed by few laws and frequently litigated.

A second type of senior right -- called a "pre-1914" right because that's the year California established an official permit process for its chaotic and litigious water rights landscape -- is equally historic. And, until now, it also has been subject to minimal state oversight.

Plumas County alfalfa farmer Robert Forbes contends that the state lacks the authority to take away his water. His family's right to a ditch on a small Quincy reservoir dates back to 1870. It also supplies water to 11 neighbors.

While he's voluntarily made big cutbacks, Forbes said, "My water rights are written into the deed, then passed on."

The junior rights holders, who planted in the arid grasslands and deserts in the southern and western parts of the San Joaquin Valley after 1914, are even farther down the pecking order and have already had their water cut.

A UC Davis analysis shows that California's water is heavily oversubscribed, with five times more water committed to these rights holders than flows through all the state's rivers and streams combined.

Because the state promised more water than it can deliver, farmers such as Mussi -- who shares the farm with his brother, son, nephews and their families -- are angry that their generations-old rights are being eroded.

"To entice people to come here, the state issued a patent, and the water rights came with it," he said. "Now, it's like me coming to you and saying 'Hey, you have a house. One of those bedrooms, I'm going to use it.'"

Who, where and what rights will be curtailed in coming weeks remains to be determined, water officials say. Cutoffs will be based on flows in the watershed -- and how long rights have been held.

To defend their place in line, senior rights holders have rushed their ancient documents to analysts in the Division of Water Rights in Sacramento.

Oroville's Richvale Irrigation District asserted rights dating back to the 1870s for construction of flumes and pipes for long-gone Cherokee Mines. Yolo County's water district rights dates back to the diversion of Cache Creek in 1856.

In the Sierra Nevada foothills, the Kelsey Cattle Ranch's rights were secured by an 1859 ditch dug by Erastus Kelsey. Granite Bay's San Juan Water District traces its rights to an 1853 gold mine on the North Fork of the American River.

The vast irrigation districts in and around Turlock and Modesto also hold senior rights. So does the city of San Francisco, whose mayor hiked into the Sierra in 1902 to nail a claim to an oak tree along the Tuolumne River.

The struggle for California is how to monitor, balance and enforce 19th and 20th century rights that are more abundant than 21st century water.

"The rights system is manifestly archaic and absurd in 21st century California, when the lowest-value uses have at the same time the highest legal priorities," said Wade Graham, an adjunct professor at the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy.

When Australia was faced with a 12-year drought beginning about the turn of the 21st century, Graham said, its governments agreed to manage their water in the national interest rather than on local rights. Graham said he thinks California could create new legal and economic incentives to improve its existing allocation system, rather than a "seizure" of rights, "which is politically and perhaps legally untenable."

The state has a constitutional obligation to "the reasonable use of water and the public trust -- this is above water rights seniority," said Jay Lund, director of UC Davis' Center for Watershed Science.

Lund thinks the fundamental system still works. What needs fixing, he said, is its administration. There's no timely system of reporting usage, and there's too little funding to enforce penalties for overuse, he said.

All the political struggles and financial uncertainties are a far cry from Mussi's childhood, when water was abundant and assured.

"We jumped in ditches to catch catfish. We helped with irrigation, starting the small siphon pipes. We worried about flooding and kept an eye on the levees," he said. "We got inner tubes and jumped in the canal, floating from one end to the other.

"Here in the Delta, we always knew we would have water," he said. "It's always been here."

Always, that is, until now.

Contact Lisa M. Krieger at 650-492-4098. Follow her at [Twitter.com/Lisa M. Krieger](https://twitter.com/LisaM.Krieger).

# With no one serving, rural district might dissolve

Posted: Thursday, May 28, 2015 6:56 pm

A financially troubled San Benito County water district might dissolve because no one is willing to serve on the elected board.

The Pacheco Pass Water District, in existence since 1931, is both tiny and enormous at the same time. It covers more than a half-million acres of farmland, about three-quarters of it in northern San Benito County but partly in Santa Clara County as well. Since it is largely rural, though, the district serves fewer than 900 people.

On the heels of financial troubles and non-compliant financial reporting over the past dozen or so years, the Pacheco Pass Water District is on the verge of dissolving.

The district has failed to file required audit reports—mandated every five years—since the 2003-04 fiscal year, according to planning documents. It has been unable to cover annual operating costs in recent years and faces depleting reserves. For context on its budget—from the most recent fiscal year with reports available—the district generated revenue of about \$25,000, according to Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County documents from 2011.

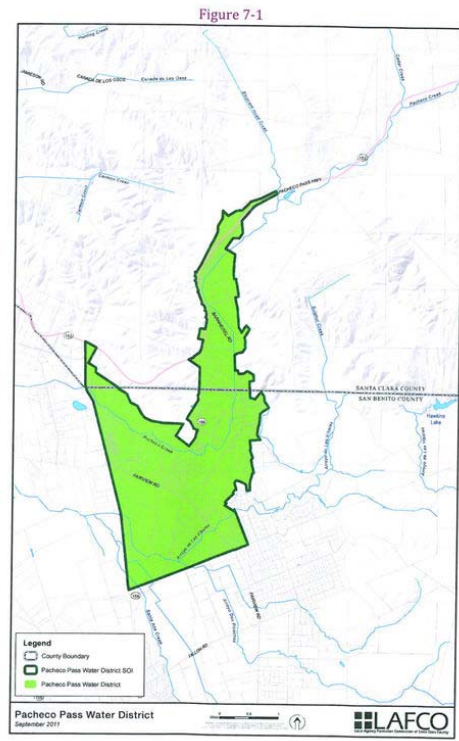
The Pacheco Pass Water District serves a population of 863, according to those planning documents, and it had three (of five possible) active board directors whose four-year terms expired in late 2012. The other two seats had been vacant at that time. It is managed by a part-time secretary and staffs two part-time water masters who submit their hours once annually.

Other agencies, such as LAFCO in San Benito County and the San Benito County Water District, are discussing how to move forward and whether to take on the Pacheco district's customers.

Jeff Cattaneo, manager of the San Benito County Water District, said his agency may well work with the Santa Clara Valley Water District in taking over the existing Pacheco Pass district customers and obligations. Another option is that the Pacheco district be turned over to the county board.

“We’re trying to figure out all the liabilities,” he said.

The San Benito County Water District's board has discussed options in recent months after realizing there was no one willing to serve on the Pacheco district board.



Pacheco Pass Water District



“They are lacking any governance,” he said. “There are no directors anymore for that water district. They can’t continue to function without governance.”

District dissolution is “not common but not horribly rare,” he said.

Cattaneo explained the Pacheco district boundaries stretch from an area near Los Viboras Road out toward Comstock Road and then out toward Fairview north to State Route 156 toward Casa de Fruta.

*Look back for more.*

**OAKDALE** **MAY 28, 2015**

# Stanislaus farmland preservation flap may be resolved soon

## HIGHLIGHTS

Mayors will decide July 8 whether Hughson's Matt Beekman will keep his LAFCO seat

LAFCO may have been deceived by Oakdale Irrigation District's 2013 promises, some LAFCO members fear

Holy Family Catholic Church can get Modesto water for future complex north of town



Riverbank Mayor Richard O'Brien, left, and Modesto Mayor Garrad Marsh at the Stanislaus County Mayors' City Selection Committee for Local Agency Formation Commission representation meeting in

Turlock on Wednesday. | **Garth Stapley** -  
[gstapely@modbee.com](mailto:gstapely@modbee.com)

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BY GARTH STAPLEY  
[gstapely@modbee.com](mailto:gstapely@modbee.com)

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Mayors of Stanislaus County's nine cities will reconvene July 8 to resolve the divisive question of removing one of their own from a regional growth-guiding panel.

Meanwhile, some members of the panel - the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission - want to look into accusations by some farmers who say the Oakdale Irrigation District deceived LAFCO to win annexation approval for an almond conglomerate two years ago.

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**THIS IS NOT WHAT LAFCO WAS TOLD WHEN  
WE ALLOWED THAT ANNEXATION.**

**Stanislaus County Supervisor Jim  
DeMartini**

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The mayors two weeks ago delayed deciding whether to oust Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman from LAFCO because he voted in March to amend a farmland preservation policy opposed by a majority of mayors. After a lengthy and emotional hearing in Turlock, where most audience members defended Beekman, the mayors opted for time to mend broken fences.

The mayors' committee will gather at 6 p.m. July

8 in the council chamber in Newman, 938 Fresno St.

On Wednesday, LAFCO commissioners heard complaints of some Oakdale farmers upset that OID is providing water to Trinitas Farming despite the drought. Its 7,234 acres east of Oakdale were annexed to OID services in 2013 when LAFCO was assured that doing so would not harm OID's existing customers.

The drought is forcing OID to limit water deliveries for the first time in its 105-year history, yet the board agreed to give Trinitas, and another new customer's 812 acres, a third of the amount going to established customers. Some have circulated petitions, saying they and LAFCO were deceived two years ago by a bait-and-switch strategy that will force longtime customers – not Trinitas – to pump extra groundwater.

This morning, three LAFCO members said the farmers could have reason to be angry.

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**I THINK (PROTESTING FARMERS) HAVE A VALID POINT.**

**Hughson Mayor Matt Beekman**

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“LAFCO was told (in 2013) that Trinitas was in second position and would not get any water till everyone else was satisfied,” said County Supervisor Jim DeMartini, a farmer himself. “I don't think we would have passed it,” he added, if the panel had known that terms would be

changed.

“Those (farmers) raised some good issues,” agreed County Supervisor Terry Withrow, who was not on LAFCO in 2013, but is now. He asked that LAFCO staff get OID’s side of the story.

On the other hand, keeping water in this area is better than selling it to wealthy out-of-county buyers, as was OID’s practice before the drought, Beekman and DeMartini said.

The issue could become important because OID could approach LAFCO with more annexation requests in a few months. OID board approval, expected in June, to absorb 1,069 acres would prompt environmental studies and a formal request to LAFCO in the fall.

Beekman and DeMartini said LAFCO will pay extra attention to details of any such applications.

“It’s going to be a pretty hard sell, if they haven’t lived up to (terms of previous requests),” DeMartini said.

Also Wednesday, commissioners unanimously agreed to let Modesto extend a water pipe to a vacant parcel 500 feet north of the city limit, where Holy Family Catholic Church hopes to build a \$15 million complex in a few years. The site is northeast of Tully Road and Bangs Avenue.

“That’s better than having to drill a well, and the area will be annexed eventually,” DeMartini said.

**Garth Stapley: (209) 578-2390**

[contracostatimes.com](http://contracostatimes.com)

# Daniel Borenstein: Fire district of infamous pension-spiking chief faces \$79 million of retirement debt

By Daniel Borenstein, staff columnist © 2015 Bay Area News Group

Posted: 05/29/2015 04:00:00 PM PDT

Updated: a day ago



Moraga Orinda Fire District Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, 2006. (Contra Costa Times)

Six years after the Moraga Orinda Fire District drew national attention for its pension-spiking former chief, the agency continues to suffer a huge financial hangover from costly retirement benefits.

This is what happens when top administrators enjoy the same benefits they're supposed to oversee and elected board members are ignorant of the details, turn a blind eye for political expediency or even enable abuse. No one protects taxpayers.

Fortunately, four of the five district directors who helped former Chief Peter Nowicki spike his pension are gone. But one, tax attorney Fred Weil, remains as the district tries to dig out from under enormous debt.

In 1997, voters approved the district's formation to provide more cost-effective fire protection than they were receiving from the larger Contra Costa district. Now, less than two decades later, the Moraga Orinda district is buried in \$79 million of debt for underfunded pension and retiree health care programs.

For perspective, that's about 11 times the district's annual base payroll. It's 4.5 times the annual expenditures of the cities of Moraga and Orinda combined. It averages about \$6,600 for every district household.

The only thing keeping the district financially afloat is its large portion of property taxes. Of the base tax levy in Orinda, 23 percent goes to the fire district. For Moraga, it's 19 percent. Those are by far the highest rates for a fire district in the county, except for the tiny Kensington agency.

The debt results from promising costly retirement benefits and then failing to properly set aside money to fund them. Instead, future taxpayers will be stuck with the obligation, which, like a giant credit card bill, will be paid off through installment payments, some lasting for 25 years.

As a result, for every dollar the district spends on base salary, it now spends another \$1.14 to help pay down the debt and for new retirement benefits employees earn each year. Firefighters add another 26 cents out of each dollar of their base salary.

Those numbers are exorbitant. Traditional pension plans are great ideas, but only if the benefits are affordable and the plans are responsibly funded and managed.

This brings us to the importance of having managers who see beyond their pocketbooks. It brings us back to 2009, when Nowicki, then 50, retired after 27 years of service, including about three years as chief.

His base salary was \$194,000 a year. Under the fire district's and county retirement system's policies, his starting pension would have been \$201,000 annually.

But three days before Nowicki announced his retirement, fire district board members, knowing he planned to leave, approved changes to his contract enabling him to spike his pension an additional 20 percent, to \$241,000.

Today, after cost-of-living adjustments, his pension is about \$277,000 a year. Nowicki was the first of many public agency executives in Contra Costa whose heavily spiked pensions drew scrutiny.

Others included San Ramon Valley Fire Chief Craig Bowen, who swapped a \$221,000 salary for a \$284,000 starting pension; County Administrator John Cullen, who traded a \$245,000 salary for a \$240,000 starting pension; and Jim Kelly, general manager of the Central Sanitary District, who left a \$258,000 job for an annual pension the next day of \$270,000.

Pensions are calculated based in part on an employee's top salary and years of service. The spiking resulted from boosting one or both of those elements. The fire district has since changed its leave policies to reduce much, but not all, potential for pension abuse.

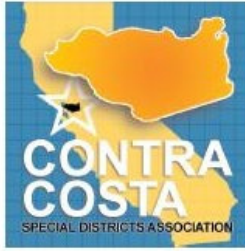
The problems were compounded by the county retirement system's misapplication of state law to include in pension calculations leave pay that should not have been counted.

Legislation in 2012 forced the system to start following past laws and court rulings. That legislation was upheld by a Contra Costa judge; the case awaits an appellate court hearing.

Meanwhile, the new state law mandates that the retirement system review pensions that might have been improperly inflated by final-year compensation adjustments. Those reviews are ongoing. Clearly, Nowicki should be high on the list.

As for Weil, the only remaining director from 2009, he has misled the public about Nowicki's last-minute contract change and ducked questions about his role. Voters should replace him in 2016.

Daniel Borenstein is a staff columnist and editorial writer. Reach him at 925-943-8248 or [dborenstein@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:dborenstein@bayareanewsgroup.com). Follow him at [Twitter.com/BorensteinDan](https://twitter.com/BorensteinDan).



## **Contra Costa Special Districts Association Newsletter**

**Contra Costa Chapter of the California Special Districts Association**

**Summer 2015**

**June 2015**

### **Is your district website in compliance with the new Law?**

Beginning January 1, 2015, a new law took effect that will require a local agency that maintains a website to update their website as follows: Provide a link to the State Controller's Officer public officials compensation online database ([publicpay.ca.gov](http://publicpay.ca.gov)); or Post the financial compensation data for the local agency's officials, as reported to the State Controller's Office, on the local agency website.

The new requirements were created by Assembly Bill 2040 (Garcia) and apply to special districts, cities, and counties. CSDA opposed earlier versions of the bill that would have required each local agency to create individual online databases, updated continuously, that included salary, benefits, and reimbursement information for elected officials, staff, and consultants.

### **California Special Districts Association Public Affairs Field Coordinator**

The Public Affairs Field Coordinator serves as CSDA's local liaison to special districts, key decision makers, the press and the public-at-large, providing a strategic link between CSDA's activities in the State Capitol and the local region/network.



Dane Walde introduced himself to the chapter at the April chapter meeting.

He provided the Legislative report. Dane is the Public Affairs Field Coordinator for the Northern California Region of CSDA.

The Public Affairs Field Coordinator reports to the Advocacy & Public Affairs Director

### **Los Medanos Community Healthcare District Recognized for Tobacco Prevention**

Los Medanos Community Healthcare District was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Tobacco Prevention in Contra Costa at the 30 Year Celebration of the Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention Coalition held in Pleasant Hill, California on January 26, 2015.

More than a dozen nonprofits, businesses, community groups, educators, and individuals were recognized and honored for their efforts towards tobacco prevention. The celebration concluded with a video presentation that highlighted 30 Years of Tobacco Prevention in Contra County from 1984 – present day. The video emphasized rallies, campaigns, council meetings, and adoption of ordinances and laws against smoking and secondhand smoke.

The award celebration recognized cities that adopted policies in the last 5 years and honored hardworking community members and organizations that advocated for stronger tobacco control policies in the County over the last 5 years.

### **CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase 9/21/2015 - 9/24/2015**

The CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase is the one conference special district Leaders can't afford to miss! It is the most densely packed educational and networking experience available to special districts. Come together with other special district leaders from across the state to meet with industry suppliers, hear from the best in special district-specific topics with over thirty breakout session options, network with your peers and more at the leadership conference for special districts. The conference will be in Monterey at the: Marriott Monterey  
350 Calle Principal  
Monterey, CA 93940



## **CSDA Webinars**

**CSDA has a variety of webinars full of information for board members and staff, \$69 for CSDA members, \$99 for non-members.**

### **Webinar: Harassment Prevention Training - AB 1825**

**Presenter:** Williams & Sorensen LLP Receive your AB 1825 compliance training for special districts with this webinar. AB 1825 makes sexual harassment prevention training mandatory for supervisory employees of special districts and other organizations. This legislation requires employers to ensure that all managers/supervisory employees receive at least two hours of sexual harassment prevention training every two years. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on 6/10/2015

### **Webinar: Managing Personal Device Use: Data Theft, Hacking**

**Today agencies are faced with employees increasingly using their personal technology for work purposes. This can create serious problems when Public Records Act requests require these devices to be searched. Additionally, there is an increased security risk from data theft, hacking and virus infiltration. These issues can be disastrous and costly. Proper policies must be in place to assist the agency in dealing with allegations that staff, or others have used technology to hack the network, view pornography, engage in harassment, or otherwise act inappropriately. This session will provide an overview of various issues that impact technology use for public agencies, such as privacy rights, search and seizure, first amendment rights, e-discovery, open meetings laws and public records requirements. Participants will learn legal requirements and best practices for responding to these technology related issues. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on 6/18/2015**

**Webinar: Legislative Round-Up** **Presenters:** CSDA Advocacy & Public Affairs Department. Each year the State Legislature introduces thousands of bills; hundreds have potentially serious implications for special districts. Hear from CSDA's advocacy team about the most significant bills and how they will impact your ability to deliver core services, maintain and build infrastructure, raise and protect revenue sources, manage personnel and more. Ask your questions directly to CSDA's lobbyists walking the Capitol halls and learn how your district can join the advocacy effort. 10:00 am - 12:30 pm on 7/30/2015 **Free to CSDA Members**

**Webinar: Maximize Your CSDA Membership - Website Resources** **Presenter:** CSDA Member Services As a CSDA member, you have an array of resources at your fingertips. From sample policies to job postings to downloadable publications and more, you can find it on the CSDA website. This demo will take you step by step through all the online resources we have to offer. 10:00 am - 11:00 am on 8/6/2015 **There is no fee for this webinar**

### **Webinar: Board Member & District Liability Issues**

**Presenter:** Dennis Timoney, Special District Risk Management Authority Having a complete understanding of the potential liability issues in your district can prevent problems in the future and even assist with efficiency and communication protocols. This webinar is a discussion of the legal role of the Board in the management and operation of a public agency and the role of individual Board members acting within the course and scope of their official duties. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. on 8/12/2015

### **Webinar: Understanding the Brown Act: Beyond the Basics**

**Presenter:** Thomas Jexl, Burke Williams & Sorenson Agency staff and officials familiar with the Brown Act recognize that while the principle of open meetings initially seems simple, the application of the law can prove to be quite complex. This webinar provides advanced training for California's open meeting law. This interactive session will cover some of the more complex aspects of the Brown Act: from serial meetings, to open and closed session agenda and reporting out requirements, to teleconferencing, email and social media considerations. Participants will work through hypotheticals to apply their knowledge of the law. Common mistakes made under the Brown Act and practical tips to avoid violations will also be covered. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on 8/20/2015

**Webinar: The Power of Alliance** **Presenter:** CSDA Member Services Have you heard about the California Special District Alliance? This partnership between CSDA, the CSDA Finance Corporation and SDRMA provides the services and resources you need to run your agency effectively and efficiently. Learn more about the risk management services, financing options and other exclusive benefits available to CSDA members through the Alliance partners. 10:00 am - 11:00 am on 10/2/2015 **There is no fee for this webinar**

### **Webinar: Best Practices-Managing Special District Investments**

**Presenters:** Lyle Defenbaugh, Wells Capital Management/CalTRUST Special Districts are challenged with meeting constituents' need to earn higher yields without taking on excess liquidity risk or risk to principal preservation. In this difficult rate environment many investors are choosing to avoid markets entirely, maintaining significant balances in deposit accounts. We will discuss cash balance forecasting, the investment process, how to implement investment strategies, California Government Code Section 53601, where professional money managers are finding value, updates on Agency issuance, and how to invest in a rising rate environment. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on 11/10/2015

**Visit CSDA at <http://www.csda.net/>**

## PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY CENTER WINS AWARD

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District (PHRPD) Community Center received the 2014 Award of Excellence for Outstanding Facility by the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS). This year marks the second straight year that the District has garnered an award for facility excellence by CPRS. The new Senior Center won the same award for 2013. The CPRS's Awards Program recognizes the outstanding achievements of agencies and individuals on a statewide level in the areas of community improvements and programming, facility design and park planning, marketing and communications and professional and citizen leadership.

"After the long journey to make our new Community Center a reality, receiving the CPRS awards is the frosting on the cake," said Bob Berggren, General Manager, PHRPD. "This award is much more than recognition of an excellent building design. It represents the culmination of incredible collaboration efforts between our District Board of Directors, our dedicated staff, the Dahlin Architecture Group, DL Falk Construction and the entire Pleasant Hill community."

Following the passage of Measure E in 2009, The PHRPD, in collaboration with community partners, met the challenge to fund and construct a new elegant and highly functional Community Center. Upon its completion in January 2014, the new Community Center continued the legacy of its predecessor by providing a central place for the community to come together, socialize and engage in enrichment programs, recreational activities and special events.



**Henry Perezalonso, CPRS Region 1 Representative formally presenting the CPRS state award to Sandra Bonato, Board Chair at the March 26th Board of Director meeting.**

The CPRS Outstanding Facility award recognizes excellence in design of completed aquatic, recreation and/or cultural facilities intended for public use. The project may be either new construction or a rehabilitation project that demonstrates high standards of planning, design, community involvement, operation and maintenance, quality of aesthetics, usability, and accessibility and versatility. The award recognizes design and construction or significant rehabilitation of buildings, structures and facilities used primarily to support park and recreation purposes.

## CSDA and Other Local Government Associations Partner with Institute for Local Government

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) is the research and education affiliate of the California Special Districts Association, the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

ILG is a non-profit dedicated to promoting good government at the local level. Its program areas include: collaboration and partnerships, ethics and transparency, local government basics, public engagement and sustainable communities.

ILG supports California's local governments as they work to establish and implement good governance policies and practices to better serve their communities. We conduct research and provide education through technical assistance, trainings, webinars and online and print resources in an effort to: foster ethical, transparent local governments; create active and engaged communities; and ensure elected officials have the tools they need to make informed, ethical decisions.

2015 marks ILG's 60th anniversary. The new partnership with CSDA and ILG is one great way to mark this milestone and continue supporting all of California's local governments.

## Urban Farm Kickoff Event in Martinez

Non-profit AgLantis (510c-3) celebrated a free urban farm kickoff party on Friday, May 8, 2015. The farm is on Central Contra Costa Sanitary District land directly across from 5501 Imhoff Drive, Martinez, (the farm does not have its own street address yet). Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla supporters of this urban farm for many years attended the event to discuss the drought and recycled water along with other local elected leaders. Bethallyn Black, the farm's organic farmer, Master Gardeners, Beekeepers, and local farmers attended the event.

Many Contra Costa County gardeners, farmers, and residents gathered to learn about this sustainable urban farm and high tech greenhouse that will be created on 14.8 acres of Central San buffer land, using recycled water.



## Send Photos from Your District to CSDA!

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) would like to highlight photos from our districts in the California Special District magazine! Send them interesting photos of your district sites and facilities, from events you have held, or of activities in which you take part. Any photos that make your district stand out - they want!



Send your digital photos to Nicole Dunn, email: (nicoled@csda.net) editor and you could see them in an upcoming issue of California Special District!

## California Special Districts Association District NetWorks FAQ

### What is District NetWorks?

District NetWorks is an initiative designed by local special district leaders to connect special districts across California.

The heart of District NetWorks consists of district leaders inspiring and catalyzing action and collaboration in their own communities. District NetWorks helps special districts across the state connect and take action on local and statewide issues.

### Why is it important?

District NetWorks facilitates several strategic goals. First, it maximizes CSDA's advocacy and outreach potential. Second, it increases CSDA's member and non-member outreach. Third, it helps promote public awareness of special districts and provide unified messaging.

### How does it work?

CSDA's Board of Directors is elected from six networks or regions within California. Each network is represented by three delegates (CSDA Board Members). Each delegate is assigned his/her own service area within his/her network. The goal of District NetWorks is to facilitate direct, peer-to-peer contact. With personal knowledge of local issues and challenges, each delegate can help deliver CSDA information and resources, such as membership

services, professional development opportunities and crucial advocacy information.

### What are the benefits?

There are two levels of benefits of District NetWorks. There are direct, short-term benefits and long-term benefits. The immediate benefits include:

- Direct contact with local special districts;
- Knowledge of local issues;
- Peer-to-peer collaboration;
- Grassroots action on statewide issues;
- Effective delivery of CSDA resources;
- Unified special district voice.

### The long-term benefits include:

- Greater influence over key policy issues;
- Growth in CSDA membership;
- Increased public awareness of special districts.

### When did District NetWorks debut?

District NetWorks debuted in April 2014. We encourage you to get to know your delegate better and keep him or her updated on local opportunities to connect.

### What do network delegates do?

A network delegate serves as CSDA's local liaison to special districts, key decision-makers, and the public-at-large, providing a strategic link between CSDA's activities in the State Capitol and their local area. It's not always easy for network representatives to get to Sacramento or to facilitate effective communication from their agency to the Capitol. The network delegate can help make sure districts are up-to-date on key issues and ensure each agency's voice is heard.

## CCSDA Elects Two New Officers

At the April 20th chapter meeting Stanley Caldwell was elected to fill the vacancy of Vice President, and Mike McGill was elected to the Member at Large position. They will serve until the annual election of officers in January 2016.

## CCSDA Dues

Dues invoices will be sent out soon to those districts that have not prepaid their dues for 2015-2016. For those of you that have paid your dues for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 thank you. If you have not please watch your mailboxes for the dues invoice.

## Associate Member - Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson

Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson is a professional law firm that specializes in representing public agencies.

The firm provides counseling on public finance and conflict of interest matters, as well as providing advice on water and environmental matters to public and private clients alike.

The firm also maintains a general civil practice, representing a wide variety of individuals and business entities in transactional and litigation matters. The firm also provides comprehensive estate planning services, including probate and trust litigation.

Bold, Polisner, Maddow, Nelson & Judson  
500 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 325  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Office Tel: (925) 933-7777

## Associate Member - Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority dba RecycleSmart

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority dba Recycle Smart is dedicated to developing and delivering high quality, cost effective solid waste reduction, recycling, and refuse programs that provide and promote sustainability in our communities. Recycle Smart provides solid waste services for Central Contra Costa County residents and businesses. Recycle Smart has contracted with Republic Services for the collection, transfer and disposal of residential and commercial garbage, recycling and organics and Mt. Diablo Recycling for the processing of residential and commercial recyclable materials. Recycle Smart services 64,000 homes per week with a population base of approximately 200,000 and recycled 63% of the communities waste away from the landfill.



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority  
Recycle Smart  
1850 Mt Diablo Blvd # 320,  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(925) 906-1801  
<http://www.recyclesmart.org/>

## East Contra Costa Resource Recovery Hosts Japanese Clean Energy Delegation

Delta Diablo Sanitation District was proud to host a delegation of 10 business and government representatives from Japan on April 8, 2015. Travelling around the United States under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, discussions centered on the collaborative efforts between local governments to generate reliable, renewable, and sustainable energy.

The objective of the delegation's visit to the San Francisco Bay Area was to engage on clean energy at the local level by bringing forward looking and influential prefectural, municipal, private sector, and non-governmental organization representatives together with counterparts to see and learn firsthand how local communities and state governments have implemented green energy policies.

This help to further the objectives of the Tohoku Green Communities Alliance established by President Obama and Prime Minister Noda in 2012. Particular focus of the meeting with Delta Diablo executives, including Board Member and Pittsburg Mayor, Pete Longmire, were discussions on their lead agency role with the Bay Area Biosolids to Energy Coalition who is spearheading resource recovery collaboration efforts to convert biosolids to energy on a regional scale involving 19 public agencies which represent four million residents.

## CSDA Bay Area Network Board Member Appointment

At the April 17, 2015 CSDA board of director's meeting Shane McAfee was appointed to fill the remainder of the term for the Bay Area Network CSDA Board Seat A. The term ends December 31, 2015.



Shane McAfee is the General Manager for the Greater Vallejo Recreation District. He has also served in other capacities within the community such as board member for the Chamber of Commerce and the Vallejo Convention and Visitors Bureau. He is also the Immediate Past President for the Vallejo Rotary Club.

## Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian Honored as Legislator of the Year by the California special districts

CSDA named Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian its Legislator of the Year and President Steve Perez presented him with the award at CSDA Legislative Days May 20, 2015.



*Assembly Member Achadjian has clearly demonstrated his knowledge and respect of the special district governance*

Katcho Achadjian was selected because of his non-partisan spirit, support of local control, and close work with the local service specialists responsible for delivering water, fire protection, parks, healthcare and other essential services, according to a press release from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

CSDA and special districts across the state invite state legislative representatives and the public to get to know their special district leaders.

### July 20, 2015 Chapter Meeting

The San Ramon Fire Protection District will be our program for July 20th.

The program will show how to use the Automated External Defibrillator devices that are present in many public buildings and in many buildings of Special Districts. These devices are truly remarkable! Their use increases the success rate of saving lives from below 10% to over 60%! We'll have a demonstration of the device and how to use it. Each of us will also have hands-on instruction on how to do compressions for CPR correctly using a simulation dummy - a truly audience participation program. I'm sure that each of us will come out of the meeting better prepared to save a life, should the opportunity arise.

## George H. Schmidt, West County Wastewater District Board Member

George H. Schmidt, a longtime member and former president of the West County Wastewater District's Board of Directors, died recently from complications due to cancer.



**George Schmidt**

**Nov. 3, 1929 - May 6, 2015**

**George served Contra Costa Special Districts as the LAFCO Alternate member.**

Schmidt, 85, was a retired PG&E executive and had been a District board member since 1992. He served on numerous committees through his tenure, and as Board president, he helped shape the District's current Strategic Master Plan, which runs through 2017, and the industry recognized District-wide Master Plan, which runs through 2034.

"George was an integral part of this organization and his many contributions over the past 23 years have been vital to the evolution of the District's business operations and its focus on delivering the best customer service possible to its diverse communities," said E.J. Shalaby, WCWD general manager. "He will be sorely missed."

A rosary and funeral mass was held on Tuesday, May 12, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Pinole.

A donation was made on behalf of Director Schmidt to the Friends of the El Sobrante Library in lieu of flowers by Contra Costa Special Districts Association.

## INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

On May 8th, LAFCO staff sent out a notice informing special districts of George's passing and that LAFCO staff will conduct an election in conjunction with the July 20, 2015 CCSDA meeting.

Through the LAFCO election process special districts will be selecting one Special District Member (Alternate seat) to fill the unexpired term of office on LAFCO to May 2018

## **EBRPD Recognized for Communications Excellence**

The California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) Award of Excellence Winners Announced in Long Beach at April 15 Awards Gala During a beautiful evening at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, the best of the best in public communications programs were awarded during the Awards Gala on Wednesday, April 15.

Each year the statewide organization receives entries in the categories of communication and marketing campaigns, newsletter production, new media, photography, special events, writing, website development, video production and innovative programs.

"The CAPIO Excellence in Communications Awards just gets better and better each year. We had over 140 entries this year and the work was exceptional," said Scot Crocker, 2014 -2015 CAPIO Awards Chair. "We love giving these awards, but even more important, the real achievement is the work of PIOs and government communicators who work tirelessly to keep the public educated, informed and connected."

The East Bay Regional Park District was recognized with an Award of Excellence for Marketing Communications, for the anniversary campaign, "80 Years of Connecting Parks to People."

## **Message from Chair Bette Boatman**

We all are well aware that California is in the fourth year of drought. Governor Brown has declared a state wide emergency and has prompted state agencies to issue mandatory restrictions and conservation for water goals. Local water agencies in the area have prepared for drought conditions but must also meet the state requirements.

The state's mandatory conservation goals include nine tiers ranging from 4% to 32%.

In Contra Costa County alone there are five tiers. A bit confusing! Bottom line is we need to conserve water. We don't know when this drought will end but water saved now will be available for the future.

It is essential that Special Districts do as much as possible to save water and to let the public know that you are doing it.

## **CONTRA COSTA LAFCO UPDATE**

In July, LAFCO will host an Agricultural & Open Space Preservation Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to engage 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. As part of the workshop, we will hear from a range of speakers representing agriculture, open space, homebuilding and economic development interests. The speaker lineup includes representatives from the American Farmland Trust, Brentwood Agriculture Land Trust, East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development, County Farm Bureau and farming community, California Rangeland Trust, Greenbelt Alliance, Save Mt. Diablo, Sierra Club, Building Industry Association, East Bay Leadership Council, Contra Costa Economic Partnership, and Contra Costa Association of Realtors. The workshop will be held on July 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development Hearing Room - 30 Muir Road, in Martinez

LAFCO recently announced a vacant special district alternate seat on Contra Costa LAFCO created by the recent passing of George Schmidt. We are seeking nominations to fill the unexpired term on LAFCO ending May 7, 2018. Nominations for the vacancy must be submitted to the LAFCO office by June 26, 2015. The election will be held on July 20, 2015, in conjunction with the Contra Costa Special Districts Association meeting.

LAFCO is currently working on its 2nd round Municipal Service Review (MSR) covering reclamation districts. The Public Review Draft report is expected to be released in July 2015.

In the fall, LAFCO will embark on its 2nd round MSR EMS/Fire services. A Request for Proposals to assist in preparing the MSR will be released later this summer.

## **CCSDA Associate Members**

Organizations and businesses that are not independent special districts can also participate in CCSDA as Associate Members. Associate Members will receive invitations to meetings and other CCSDA activities. They will be featured in the newsletters; and will be listed on the CCSDA webpage. It will be a great way for them to stay up-to-date on local governance issues and engage directly with special districts.



**Send your District News and Press Releases!**

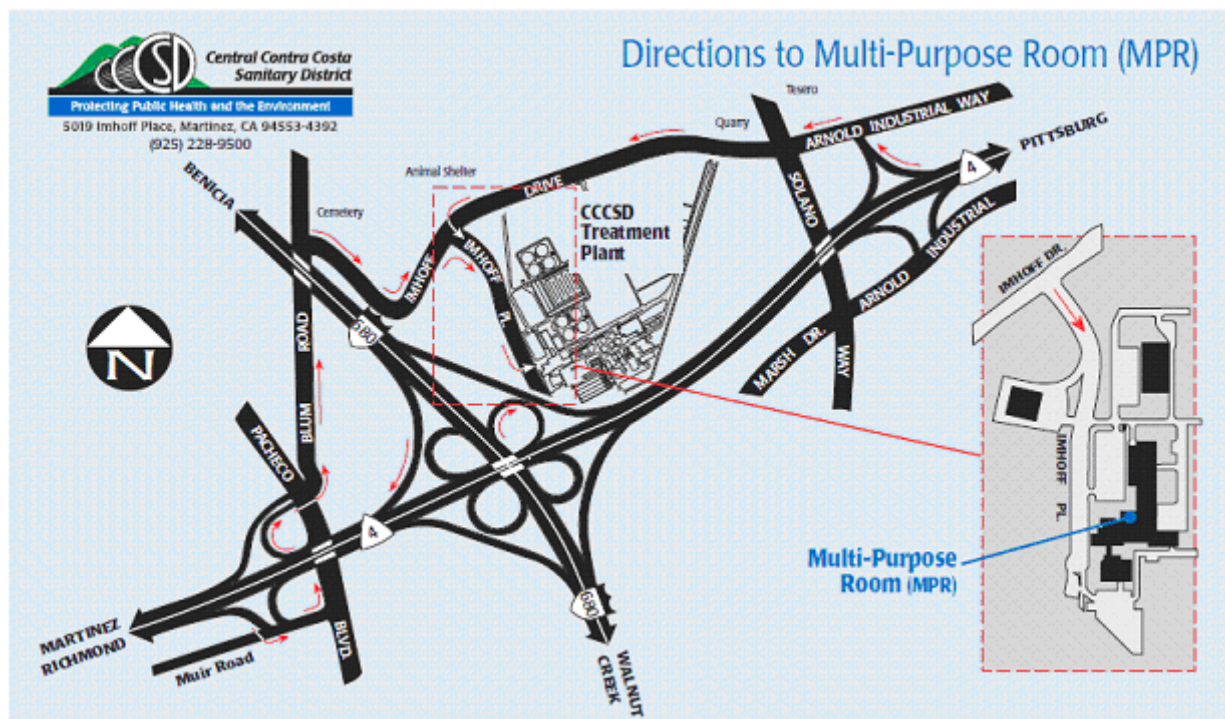
Please send your district news releases to Stan Caldwell at [stan\\_caldwell@comcast.net](mailto:stan_caldwell@comcast.net) and keep us informed on all of the exciting things your special district is up to. We welcome your news contributions to our newsletter.

**Mark your calendars with our future Chapter Meeting Dates:**

• July 20, 2015 • October 19, 2015 • January 25, 2016

Meetings begin at 10:00 AM – we are usually out by Noon

**We meet at Central Contra Costa Sanitary District,  
5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA.**



### **Contra Costa Special Districts Association**

C/o Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
5019 Imhoff Place  
Martinez, CA 94553

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## MOFD to Consider Enhanced Service

*By Nick Marnell*

How to adjust - thanks to its vastly improved financial situation - is the latest challenge facing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Administrative services director Gloriann Sasser presented the district's long-range financial plan to the MOFD board at its May 20 meeting. The document showed a general fund balance that exceeds 10 percent of budgeted revenue by 2019 and total revenue exceeding expenditures in each year of the 15-year plan. Though the projections called for the payoff of the \$22 million remaining on its pension obligation bond, not reported were the district's \$17 million in unfunded retiree health benefits or an estimated \$40 million in unfunded pension costs. Increased property tax revenue, a district-friendly labor contract and lower employee retirement costs contributed to the rosy forecast, which Sasser said projects to a \$100 million surplus in 15 years.

Director Fred Weil then threw down the yellow caution flag.

"I am uncomfortable that we are more focused on saving money than we are on how we are going to provide long-term service in this district," said Weil. "Critics say save money, return money to the taxpayers. But I've never heard of a movement in the district to cut services." Weil pointed out that, with the reduction in daily staffing from 19 to 17 firefighters and the closure of Contra Costa County Fire Protection District station 16, five fewer firefighters serve the area of north Orinda and western Lafayette. "Our financial position is improving," he said. "But will this service model be adequate?"

Fire chief Stephen Healy said that he has put together the framework of a strategic plan for the district, but that a decision on station 46 - a joint venture with ConFire to replace MOFD station 43 and ConFire station 16 - must be reached before he can continue. He said that by late this year or early next he plans to update the district standards of coverage, an operational plan defining levels of service.

"There are many competing interests for this money," said the chief. He noted the need for a competitive compensation package to hire and retain firefighters and for additional funds to beef up the fire prevention division, plus the demand for more ambulance coverage - in short, most of the things he could not do because of the recession. Those inactions ultimately helped the district stay afloat.

One of the competing interests staked claim to the fund surplus. "They asked us for a sacrifice based on projections, and now they see that the numbers were off," said Vince Wells, president, Local 1230 of the firefighters' union. "We'd like to see the firefighters paid comparably to other agencies. Maybe restore the salaries they took from us." MOFD firefighters agreed to a 3.5 percent pay cut in 2014, but have the opportunity to earn up to 16 percent more over the next three years. Wells advocated for not only a staffing bump to 19 but also an increase in the number of daily on-duty firefighters to 21. "If they have the money, they should staff another ambulance," he said. Orinda resident and MOFD watchdog Steve Cohn suggested that the district set specific goals for the use of the excess funds. "There is a lot of money on the table," he wrote in a letter to the board. "Hopefully you will not follow the path of the past 15 years and give it all to a few employees with no expanded service for the taxpayers."

"Service is what we should be all about," said Weil.

"I also have to be concerned about the district's sustainability," cautioned Healy, sounding not unlike Gov. Jerry Brown, who has preached fiscal restraint despite a surplus in the California state budget. "We are not in the business of hoarding the public's money," said the chief. "But we can't provide service if we're bankrupt."

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## ConFire County Ambulance Proposal on the Table

*By Nick Marnell*

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and American Medical Response submitted its joint proposal May 21 to Contra Costa County Health Services to acquire the available county ambulance contract beginning in 2016. ConFire chose AMR, the current county ambulance provider, as its partner in order to leverage their combined resources and experience in the emergency medical services industry. Contra Costa County Fire and EMS, together with AMR - known as the Alliance - submitted the only proposal to the county.

"I can't say we were surprised or not surprised," said Jesse Allured, county EMS program coordinator, of the sole submission. "We knew the response would be limited, based on what we saw at the bidders' conference." Besides ConFire and AMR, only two private ambulance companies attended that March conference.

Dale Feldhauser, chief operating officer of Paramedics Plus, a San Leandro EMS systems management organization, explained why his company did not bid on the contract. "The finances of the ambulance business have changed considerably," he said. "A partnership with a public entity is the only way to go now." Medi-Cal, a government health coverage provider, reimburses pennies on the dollar for ambulance transport, and through the federal ground emergency medical transport program, a public ambulance provider receives additional money to offset the losses incurred as a result of the low payment. "The federal money does not fully reimburse the lost revenue caused by the low reimbursement, but it is better than what a private ambulance transport system can currently collect," said ConFire chief Jeff Carman.

Feldhauser said that his company did not respond to ConFire's earlier request seeking a private ambulance partner. "I thought AMR was best for that system, and I wish them the best of luck," he said. "I think AMR will make this work."

Gary Tennyson, chief executive officer of Falck Northern California, a division of one of the world's largest healthcare organizations and a bidders' conference attendee, did not respond as to why his company did not submit a proposal to the county.

The document submitted by the Alliance lays out particulars of its experience, financial stability, available resources and commitment to the community. The 180-page presentation includes such minute details as how often ambulances will undergo an oil change (every 5,000 miles, page 114) and the size of the logos on the sides of the ambulances (4-inch letters, minimum, page 104).

Financial information was not publicized. "We don't want to have this information used for the wrong reasons, possibly by a competitor," said Allured. Citygate Associates LLC, a public sector consultant, will vet the financials to make sure that the proposed venture is realistic and sustainable.

"While we haven't won the bid yet, we are almost there," said Carman. The Board of Supervisors expects to award the contract this fall.

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## Local Fire Services Prep for Wildland Fire Season

By *Cathy Dausman*

Local fire services personnel gathered as part of a multi-agency mutual response area drill. Photo Cathy Dausman

adjacent to Orinda.

Firefighters sweated in low 50-degree temperatures as they attacked the "fire" in two teams clothed in full protective gear while toting 40-pound backpacks and hauling 100-foot lengths of hose and hand tools. Non-fire related hazards included working in an area known for the presence of poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes.

One team approached from the south; a second climbed a parallel route to attack the fire from the north. No one climbed the line empty handed.

Rein shakes his head when he hears people reassure each other with "don't worry; it's just a grass fire." He knows the cost each agency bears when it has to spread remaining crews thin and make do without equipment used on the call. He knows when an incident commander calls for air support it comes in as two helicopters, two fixed-wing aircraft and a fifth plane flying air tactical supervision.

Support like that doesn't come cheap. It's never "just a grass fire."

It might have seemed like a walk in the park for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and a host of other agencies participating in a series of recent multi-agency mutual response area drills in preparation for the 2015 wildland fire season. After all, it was daylight, temperatures were moderate, access was via paved public roads, manpower was rested and plentiful and, best of all, it was just a drill. But this was serious business, and it takes "a lot of resources to get the hose up there," Berkeley Fire Department Captain Tim MacIsaac explained.

"There" was a 3,000-foot hillside, with hoses laid out in 100-foot increments. Fire crews from Berkeley, Oakland, MOFD, Kensington, and East Bay Regional Parks were on hand the morning Lamorinda Weekly accompanied MOFD's Dennis Rein to the site.

MOFD sent a total of three different crews to each drill to battle an imaginary one-acre hillside grass fire along East Bay Regional Park's west slope

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