



# CALAFCO

# NEWSLETTER

December, 2022 Edition

January 11, 2023  
Agenda Item 16c

Happy Holidays!

## BOARDROOM Brief

**OCTOBER** found us in Newport Beach for the annual conference, the regional elections on October 20th, and the October 21st Board meeting.

Regional elections saw a return of all directors except for Directors Blake Inscore (Northern) and Daron McDaniel (Central), who chose not to run again. Our sincere thanks to them for their service and many contributions to CALAFCO.

Taking their places are new Directors, Tom Cooley, our new city member for the Northern Region (Plumas), and Rodrigo Espinosa, the new County rep for the Central Region (Merced). Welcome!

With the elections completed, the CALAFCO Board members for the next year are:

### Central:

**Rodrigo Espinosa** (Merced)  
**Gay Jones** (Sacramento)  
**Anita Paque** (Calaveras) and  
**Daniel Parra** (Fresno)

### Coastal:

**Chris Lopez** (Monterey)  
**Mike McGill** (Contra Costa)  
**Margie Mohler** (Napa) and  
**Shane Stark** (Santa Barbara)

### Northern:

**Bill Connelly** (Butte),  
**Tom Cooley** (Plumas)  
**Debra Lake** (Humboldt) and  
**Josh Susman** (Nevada)

### Southern:

**Mike Kelley** (Imperial),  
**Jo MacKenzie** (San Diego)  
**Derek McGregor** (Orange) and  
**Acquanetta Warren** (San Bernardino)

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## New Gold Associate

Thank you to RSG, Inc. for upgrading to a Gold Membership!

RSG performs fiscal and reorganizational studies for LAFCOs and applicants with the goal of

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## CELEBRATING EXTRAORDINARY!



Left to Right: Don Saylor (Yolo), Carolyn Emery (Orange), Christine Crawford (Yolo), and Amanda Ross (Southfork Consulting) and Erica Sanchez (El Dorado)

On October 20, 2021, CALAFCO held its much anticipated Achievement Awards Dinner in the glittering Pacific Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency John Wayne hotel in Newport Beach, California. The prestigious awards are given annually as a way of highlighting exceptional people or projects that have advanced the principles and goals of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act over the past year.

Honoring extraordinary efforts, the awards begin as nominations submitted by members from among eight categories. Those nominations then undergo a thorough consideration by the Achievement Awards Committee, with the final award recipients unveiled during the Awards Dinner at the annual conference.

CALAFCO wishes to extend congratulations to this year's phenomenal winners:

♦ *Outstanding Commissioner:*  
**DON SAYLOR (Yolo)**

♦ *Outstanding LAFCo Professional:*  
**CAROLYN EMERY (Orange)**

♦ *Mike Gotch Excellence in Public Service Award for Innovation (two-way tie) between:*

**CHRISTINE CRAWFORD (Yolo),**  
and the dynamic duo of **ERICA SANCHEZ (El Dorado)** and **AMANDA ROSS (South Fork Consulting, LLC).**

**Congratulations to all!**



## A Message from the Executive Director

Whirlwind Journey

There is something about December that soothes my soul. Maybe it's the changing weather, the holiday sights and sounds, the children oozing with excitement, or maybe it is just knowing that the upcoming change of years allows a little downtime and an opportunity to reflect, rejuvenate, and regrow. That is particularly true this year as December also marks my tenth month as the CALAFCO Executive Director. It has been a bit of a whirlwind journey, but I have been SO glad to have you all by my side.

With the disruption of the pandemic, it's no wonder that the last two years have been challenging for CALAFCO – as with many nonprofits across the country. However, the experience caused us not only to re-examine how we conduct business but to streamline some areas. While it was a painful period, we survived, adjusted, and even developed some new offerings – all in spite of the global conditions.

Then, just when we thought we were normalizing, the year took a bumpy turn due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. That not only forced the cancellation of the spring workshop but also transferred some of its financial obligations to the fall conference. However, despite that, we ended up hosting a successful and well-received conference. Simply put, that success is due to the army of volunteers who assisted in the planning, the presentations, the staffing, and the fundraising that all helped get us there. Because of those combined efforts, we actually made a small profit of approximately \$5,000 on the conference – something I did not think possible back in May. Truly an astounding success, this was a stellar example of the teamwork that made the dream work! Thank you to everyone who offered a helping hand to make it work. (I don't dare try to name you all for fear of missing someone!)

But, that's behind us and we are already looking forward to building on that success in 2023. Of course, we have our next Staff Workshop planned for April 26th-28th in Murphys, California. The planning committee is currently being formed and we will, again, need many hands. Please contact Michelle McIntyre if you would like to help out. Similarly, if you have an idea for a session, please send that to Michelle and me as soon as possible so that the committee has ample time to consider it. Emails to Michelle should be sent to [mmcintyre@placer.ca.gov](mailto:mmcintyre@placer.ca.gov) while those to me should go to [rlaroch@calafco.org](mailto:rlaroch@calafco.org). Look for a flyer for that workshop to go out in January.

Other things expected to occur in 2023 are the selection of a new accountant for CALAFCO, and the build-out of a new website. The need to identify a new accountant rose in June of this year when Jim Gladfelter, our current C.P.A., informed us that he is partially retiring and will no longer be preparing tax returns after this year. Since that preparation is a substantial portion of what he does for CALAFCO, the Board approved an RFP seeking a new accountant with nonprofit expertise. That RFP was issued on December 11th and is currently open. The RFP was transmitted to the EOs who, in turn, have distributed it to their networks and I'm pleased to report

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## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear  
CALAFCO members,

As the newly elected Board Chair, let me first say how honored and proud I am to have been selected as your Board Chair. I have always recognized the importance of the work that LAFCOs do and, by extension, the importance of the support that CALAFCO provides.

Secondly, I want to offer my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members who elected me to this position. Your trust is appreciated and I, of course, will always do my best to be a thoughtful leader and good steward for CALAFCO.

And, lastly, I want to take a moment to recognize Anita Paque, our former Board Chair, for her leadership. While all of the Board positions come at the expense of one's time, the Board Chair position is more intense, so thank you, Anita, for your service to the Association during a difficult year!

As we close the door on 2022, I want to wish Happy Holidays to everyone. I look forward to a rewarding 2023 at CALAFCO!

Bill Connelly





## CONFERENCE CANDIDS

Newport Beach, October, 2022





## FAREWELL to Two Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioners - Rob Schroder and Tom Butt

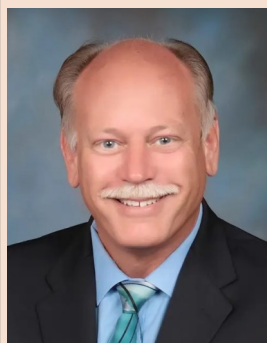
*Submitted by Contra Costa LAFCo*

Following 20 years as a Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioner, six years as Martinez City Council member, and 20 years as Mayor of the City of Martinez, Rob Schroder is retiring. During his tenure, Rob served on various committees and regional government agencies and boards, including the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) (22 years), Central Contra Costa Identification Bureau (19 years), Marin Clean Energy (MCE) (3 years), and was an active member of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference. Commissioner Schroder began his LAFCo career in 2003 and is currently one of our longest serving Commissioners. During Rob's tenure, LAFCo processed 330 applications, including four district formations and seven district dissolutions, and most recently, a large fire district reorganization. LAFCo also completed 1st and 2nd round municipal service reviews (MSRs)/sphere of influence (SOI) updates covering all municipal services.

Commissioner Schroder attended many CALAFCO conferences and says "serving as a LAFCo commissioner gave me an opportunity to understand the relationship between various governmental agencies and how the services they provide intertwine and rely on each other. The MSR process, although confusing when we first started the process many years ago, became a valuable tool in analyzing the efficient delivery of service and identifying deficiencies, areas, and entities that need to be improved or dissolved. Being a LAFCo commissioner made me a better Mayor with the knowledge of the annexation process and the efficient delivery of services."

Following nearly 12 years as a LAFCo Commissioner, 27 years as City of

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## IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Riverside LAFCo Commissioner, Phil Williams, on November 20th.

Commissioner Williams was a Special District Member from the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and had served on that board since 2001. He was also a local real estate broker and lifelong resident of Lake Elsinore.

Known for his servant heart, he worked tirelessly with local, state, and federal agencies on behalf of his community.

CALAFCO sends its condolences to our colleagues at Riverside LAFCo and to Commissioner Williams' family and friends.



## NEW Roles

### BRIAN SPAUNHURST, New Fresno EO

Departing EO, David Fey, reported that Brian Spaunhurst was appointed in late May as his replacement. Somehow Brian got missed in the August newsletter but we are rectifying that omission now! Brian has thrown himself into the role and CALAFCO, and has attended the conference (where he could be seen serving time at the registration desk), and has also volunteered to serve on the Legislative Committee. Welcome aboard, Brian!

### SHIVA FRENTZEN Appointed El Dorado EO

El Dorado LAFCo reported that its commission took action on September 28th to appoint Shiva Frentzen as Executive Officer. If Shiva's name is familiar, it's because she was previously an El Dorado LAFCo Commissioner who served on the CALAFCO Board of Directors. Welcome (again),

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## BOARDROOM

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The new members were seated during the October 21st meeting, followed by the election of the following Executive Officers:

**Bill Connelly** (Chair)  
**Margie Mohler** (Vice Chair)  
**Acquanetta Warren** (Treasurer)  
**Daniel Parra** (Secretary)

With **Anita Paque** rotating into the Immediate Past Chair position. Thank you to all for your service!

With those changes, the first "regular" Board meeting occurred on **December 9, 2022**, with Chair Connelly at the helm. At that time, the Board chose committee members for the new year (staff members for the Leg Committee had been appointed on October 21st.) Committees and members are:

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**Board Appointees** - Bill Connelly, Gay Jones, Mike Kelley, Chris Lopez, Jo Mackenzie, Mike McGill, Margie Mohler, Anita Paque, Daniel Parra and Josh Susman.

**Staff Voting Members** - Clark Alsop, Gary Bell, Mark Bramfitt, Scott Browne, Carolyn Emery, Steve Lucas, Kai Luoma, Jennifer Stephenson, and Gary Thompson.

**Staff Alternates** - Rob Fitzroy, Paula Graf, Joe Serrano, and Paula de Sousa.

**Advisory** - Tara Bravo, Crystal Craig, Brandon Fender, Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Priscilla Mumpower, Erica Sanchez, Jim Simon, and Luis Tapia.

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Mike Kelley, Debra Lake, Margie Mohler, Anita Paque, and Shane Stark.

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Rodrigo Espinosa, Chris Lopez, Derek McGregor, and Josh Susman.

*Continued in next column*

## CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gay Jones, Derek McGregor, Margie Mohler, Anita Paque (Chair), and Josh Susman.

Other matters on the Board's December 9th agenda included receipt of the Investment and Financial Reports for the First Quarter, adoption of the Board's meeting schedule for the next year, approval of an RFP for Accounting Services, and receipt of the Conflict of Interest forms, Legislative Committee report, and Conference Overview.

Speaking of the conference, we must express thanks and gratitude to Paul Novak (Los Angeles) and Carolyn Emery (Orange), for their extraordinary fundraising. Because of their efforts, the conference posted a small profit of approximately \$5,000 - despite the nearly \$32,000 in additional fees that we were obligated to pay due to the cancellation of the spring workshop. Hopefully, we can keep these efforts going next year!!

The last item of the meeting was a closed session evaluation of the Executive Director's (ED) performance. At it's conclusion, the Board announced that the term of the ED's employment contract was extended to June 30, 2026, that they had formally approved a 4.9% cost of living increase (the allocation for which had been approved in April with the adopted budget) and, due to security concerns at the current CALAFCO office, approved the ED working remotely from any location, subject to approval by the Executive Committee. For full particulars of public items, please see the agenda packet.

The biennial Strategic Planning session is scheduled for February 16th at the Sacramento offices of Best Best & Krieger located at 500 Capitol Mall. The Board meeting will be held the next day (February 17th) at the same location.

**All agendas, staff reports, and minutes can be found on the CALAFCO website at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org). Any questions should be directed to the Executive Director at [rlaroch@calafco.org](mailto:rlaroch@calafco.org).**

# 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May your New Year be filled with exploration, discovery, growth, and just enough challenge to be interesting. Happy New Year!*



## CONTRA COSTA FAREWELLS

(Continued from page 4)

Richmond Council member, and the past eight years as the City's Mayor, Tom Butt is retiring. Tom served on multiple boards and committees including MCE, CCTA, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee, Association of Bay Area Governments, US Conference of Mayors, Climate Mayors, League of California Cities, and was an active member of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference. Commissioner Butt notes that these regional and statewide appointments have been critical in bringing many benefits to the community including hundreds of millions of dollars in grants, public works projects, legislation, and a seat at the larger table. During Tom's tenure, LAFCo processed 95 applications, including numerous boundary changes/reorganizations, five dissolutions, and most recently, a large fire district reorganization and an out of agency service contract for fire services. During Commissioner Butt's tenure, LAFCo completed 1st and 2nd round MSRs/SOI updates covering all municipal services.

In 2019, both commissioners shared in receipt of CALAFCO's "Most Effective Commission" award. Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioners were recognized for their leadership, diligence, and endeavors to promote healthy and sustainable local agencies. Since 2010, Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioners assisted three special districts to improve their operations and transparency, encouraged several districts to revise its governance structure, reorganized one special district, and dissolved four special districts.

Congratulations and best wishes to Commissioners Schroder and Butt for their valuable and dedicated service to their communities and to Contra Costa LAFCo!

## ALAMEDA CONDUCTS MEASURE D STUDY

*Submitted By Rachel Jones, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCo*

Alameda LAFCO recently conducted a special study regarding ballot Measure D that was passed in November of 2000 and did the following:

- Amending the County's Urban Growth Boundary
- Increasing restrictions on building intensity, minimum parcel sizes and permitted uses in rural areas of the County
- Establishing that all County planning policies and zoning regulations must be consistent with provisions of Measure D, and
- Mandating that any changes to the land use designations, building intensity or minimum parcel sizes as established by Measure D be subject to a new vote of the County electorate

The study's purposes were to review how Measure D has affected agricultural and open space lands and the surrounding communities, and to consider how implementation of Measure D has or has not met its own LAFCO policies pertaining to agriculture and open space. The study found that since the measure's passing, the agricultural and equestrian communities of Alameda County argue that the strict square footage limitations hinders their business performance. Alameda LAFCO recommended proposed amendments to the County to allow equestrian centers, greenhouses and wineries more flexibility in their building plans.

This November, Alameda County voters approved the recommended amendments on Measure D, or the "Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands" initiative, that aimed at increasing profits for agriculture business while simultaneously preserving the county's open land.

For more information see: <https://dailycal.org/2022/10/31/preserve-open-land-alameda-county-to-vote-on-amended-measure-d>

## Upcoming EVENTS



### 2023 STAFF WORKSHOP

**April 26 - 28, 2023**

Learn technical topics in a scenic setting! Don't miss the Staff Workshop to be held on the beautiful grounds of Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys, California.

### 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**October 18-20, 2023**

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey, California



CALAFCO U explores topics of interest to LAFcos and are offered at no cost to our members.

**Feb. 23, 2023:** The Dirty Dozen: *Things I Wish I Knew About The Act*

### BOARD MEETINGS:

**Feb. 16, 2023** (Strategic Planning) LOCATION: Sacramento

**Feb. 17, 2023** LOCATION: Sacramento

**Apr. 21, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual

**Jul. 14, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual

**Oct. 20, 2023** LOCATION: Monterey

**Dec. 1, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

**Jan. 13, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual (9 AM)

**Feb. 24, 2023** LOCATION: Sacramento (10 AM)

**Mar. 31, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual (9 AM)

**May. 5, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual (9 AM)

**Jun. 16, 2023** LOCATION: San Diego (10 AM)

**Jul. 28, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual, as needed (9 AM)

**Aug. 25, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual, as needed (9 AM)

**Nov. 3, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual, as needed (9 AM)

**Dec. 8, 2023** LOCATION: Virtual, as needed (9 AM)

## ED WHIRLWIND

(Continued from page 2)

that we've already begun fielding questions from potential bidders.

The second large administrative undertaking for 2023 will be the website. We have known since March of this year that the platform on which our website has been built is being retired. So far, our vendor has been able to keep the website functioning at an increasing cost. However, the underlying computer language that it uses will not be supported at all after November, 2023. Given that we have no choice but to rebuild the website, it presents the ideal opportunity to upgrade it to an Association Management System (AMS) which will provide more features to the membership, while reducing some of the repetitive administrative things that Jeni does behind the scenes. We are currently in the process of comparing costs and features between available AMS systems and hope to be able to bring something before the Board in the first part of 2023.

While that's a lot, we're also planning for the Fall Conference. Our October event was so successful that I have already begun hearing from sponsors who are interested in the Monterey conference.

Beyond that administrative matrix, we also foresee a busy year for the Legislative Committee who will be working through some of the back-end things needed to get the GC 56133 proposal moving. Now that our new White Paper has been published ("Planning for a Sustainable and Predictable Future: Clarifying LAFco Authority to Determine Government Code Section 56133(e) Exemption Eligibility"), we can begin the process of reaching out to stakeholders.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that at its December 9th meeting, the Board approved an extension to my employment contract through June 30, 2026. I am gratified beyond measure at the faith they, and you, have placed in me and I hope to continue to be worthy of it in the years to come.

Hopefully, you can tell that I am exhilarated by the opportunities and prospects before us. While the year has been a bumpy one, it has led to good friendships, great partnerships, and the start of some wonderful things. I call that a winning year!

Happy Holidays to each of you! May the season ahead bring you love and laughter. May the year to come bring you prosperity and contentment. Happy New Year, everyone!!





## CONNECTIONS

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Shiva!

### **J.D. HIGHTOWER takes the EO rein in San Joaquin**

J.D. Hightower has taken the EO reins in San Joaquin. Jim Glaser hung around for a month or two to assist with the transition (and even made an appearance at the conference) but is looking forward to indulging in some traveling.

Welcome aboard, J.D.!

### **KRIS BERRY now with San Benito**

Kris Berry has reported that she has accepted a contract to be San Benito's EO. This makes the second LAFCo in Kris' belt, as she is also EO for Amador LAFCo. Looks like lots of travel is in Kris' future. Congratulations, Kris!

### **STEVE ENGFER appointed Interim EO in Mariposa**

Long-time EO, Sarah Williams, has retired after

33 years with Mariposa County. In her place, the Board of Supervisors has appointed Assistant Planning Director Steve Engfer as both the Interim Planning Director and the Interim LAFCo EO. Welcome, Steve!

### **LORI ZINN hired as San Diego's new Clerk/Analyst**

San Diego LAFCo is pleased to welcome Lori Zinn who joined them as their new Clerk/Analyst. Her first day there was October 24th. Congratulations, Lori!

### **STEPHANIE PRATT welcomed as Marin Clerk/Jr. Analyst**

In August, Marin welcomed Stephanie Pratt to the LAFCo family. She comes to Marin from the private sector so is learning not just about LAFCo but the public sector. Hang in there, Stephanie, and welcome!

**Congratulations to you all!**

### **RSG, Inc.** Continued from page 1

establishing a factual, transparent and credible basis for our clients to make informed decisions. RSG prepared Placer LAFCo's comprehensive fiscal analysis for the 2017 incorporation proposal for Olympic Valley, the preliminary feasibility studies for a 2018 incorporation in Malaga (Fresno County), as well as several reorganization proposals and municipal service reviews.

To learn more about RSG, Inc, visit their website at [www.webrsg.com](http://www.webrsg.com) or contact Jim Simon at: [jsimon@webrsg.com](mailto:jsimon@webrsg.com).

## Associate Member SPOTLIGHT



### **CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE**

Located in the geographic center of the Coachella Valley, Rancho Mirage enjoys sunshine nearly every day with clean air. Resort living, superb dining, outdoor recreation, cultural and business opportunities all contribute to a superior quality of life.

To learn more about the City of Rancho Mirage, visit their website at: <https://ranchomirageca.gov/>



QK (formerly Quad Knopf) provides planning, engineering, biology, environmental, and survey services to public and private clients. Our planners have previous experience working for public agencies, including serving as LAFCo Analysts. We specialize in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley regions.

To learn more about QK visit their website at [www.qkinc.com](http://www.qkinc.com), or contact Trevor Stearns at [tstearns@qkinc.com](mailto:tstearns@qkinc.com)

*All information is provided by the Associate upon joining the Association. All Associate Member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.*

**CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for their ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to highlighting other Associate Members in future Newsletters.**