

# News from the Board of Directors CALAFCO QUARTERLY

September 2015



## CALAFCO Board and Volunteer Staff Changes

At the September Board meeting during the Annual Conference, the CALAFCO Board said goodbye to several Board members and welcomed new ones. We said farewell and thank you to Julie Allen (Tulare), Mary Jane Griego (Yuba), Juliana Inman (Napa) and Roger Welt (Santa Barbara). We welcomed Bill Connelly (Butte), John Marchand (Alameda), Anita Paque (Calaveras) and Sblend Sblendorio (Alameda). David Church was also reappointed as CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) representing the Coastal region, for another two years.

At the July 31 Board meeting, we said goodbye to Marjorie Blom (Stanislaus), CALAFCO's Executive Officer representing the Central region, as she retires, and welcomed Kris Berry (Placer) as the new DEO representing the Central region. We also congratulated Steve Lucas (Butte) who took over as the new EO for CALAFCO.

CALAFCO wishes to thank Julie, Mary Jane, Juliana and Roger for their service to the CALAFCO Board, and to Marjorie for the outstanding work she has done representing the Central region and for her contributions to CALAFCO.

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP WERE A SUCCESS

### 2015 Staff Workshop

After the Gold Rush



This year's Staff Workshop was held April 15 - 17 in Grass Valley. Our host was Nevada LAFCo and the theme was *After the Gold Rush...Forging the Future and Preserving the Past*. The program was a solid mix of professional/technical course topics and personal/leadership development topics. The overall program rating was 5.3 out of 6.0. Financially, the

Workshop was also a success, netting a 32% net profit (over \$8,800). CALAFCO wishes to thank our Host, Nevada LAFCo, (*SR Jones, Deborah Gilcrest and Kate Duroux*) and the Program Committee under the leadership of Chair *Paul Novak* for all of their hard work. All program presentations are on the CALAFCO website.

### 2015 Annual Conference

Approximately 280 commissioners, staff, associate members, guests and speakers attended the annual conference held in Sacramento earlier this month. The theme was *Confluence...LAFCo Merging Ideas With Solutions!* There was a good representation of LAFCos present, with 48 of the 58 member LAFCos in attendance. Evaluations are still being tabulated but initial comments indicate an interesting and value-added program was provided. People seemed to really enjoy the Mobile Workshop and the newly formatted LAFCo 101 session again had well over 100 in attendance. The Conference officially kicked off with a presentation by the Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums. CALAFCO wishes to thank our Host, Sacramento LAFCo (*Peter Brundage, Don Lockhart and Diane Thorpe*), the Conference Committee Chair *Gay Jones*, and the Program Committee Chair *David Church* for all of their hard work on this conference. A full report on the attendee experience along with a financial accounting of the Conference will be provided to the Board at the November 6 meeting. All program presentations are on the CALAFCO website.

CONFLUENCE...



CALAFCO 2015 CONFERENCE  
\* SACRAMENTO \*





## CALAFCO Congratulates the 2015 Annual Achievement Award Recipients

CALAFCO wishes to congratulate all of this year's nominees, and especially those who received the 2015 Achievement Award.

- ❖ Outstanding Commissioner – *Matthew Beekman* (formerly of Stanislaus LAFCo)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFCo Clerk – *Terri Tuck* (Yolo LAFCo)
- ❖ Outstanding LAFCo Professional – *Sam Martinez* (San Bernardino LAFCo)
- ❖ Distinguished Service – *Mary Jane Griego* (Yuba LAFCo)
- ❖ Project of the Year – *Formation of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 38* (Ventura LAFCo) and *2015 San Diego County Health Care Services five-year sphere of influence and service review report* (San Diego LAFCo)
- ❖ Government Leadership – *The Cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon, the Dublin San Ramon Services District and the Zone 7 Water Agency*
- ❖ Most Effective Commission – *Butte LAFCo*
- ❖ Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member – *Michael Colantuono, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley*
- ❖ Outstanding CALAFCO Member – *Marjorie Blom* (formerly of Stanislaus LAFCo)
- ❖ Lifetime Achievement – *Jim Chapman* (Lassen LAFCo) and *Chris Tooker* (formerly of Sacramento LAFCo)
- ❖ Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Leadership – *Yuba County Water Agency*
- ❖ Legislator of the Year – *Assembly member Chad Mayes*



## CALAFCO Board Actions

The Board met in May and took the following administrative actions:

- ❖ Adopted the FY 2015-16 annual budget
- ❖ Appointed two Board members to fill vacancies: *Shiva Frentzen* (El Dorado, County Member) and *Gerard McCallum* (Los Angeles, Public Member)
- ❖ Adopted the 2015-16 Strategic Plan
- ❖ Adopted the 2015 Legislative Policies
- ❖ After receiving lengthy updates, the Board directed the two groups working on the outstanding retreat items of the annual conference model and contract/volunteer staffing matters to come back in July with additional information.

In July, the Board had an all-day meeting and at the Annual Conference on September 4 had a short meeting. During the July meeting, the Board addressed several organizational issues on which they had been working since their retreat in January. After long deliberations, they took the following actions, all of which were reported to the membership during the annual business meeting held September 3, 2015:

- ❖ Approved the contract with Matson & Isom Technologies for the new web and email services.
- ❖ Accepted reports including the final Staff Workshop report and the FY 2014-15 year-end budget report.

- ❖ Appointed *Stephen Lucas* as CALAFCO's Executive Officer (replacing the retiring *Marjorie Blom*) and *Kris Berry* as the new Central Region representative and CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee (EC) to double the stipends paid to the LAFCo whose staff volunteers for any of the four CALAFCO regional volunteer positions, effective July 1, 2015.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the EC to increase the average hours paid of the Association's Executive Director from 24/week to 32/week, effective January 1, 2016.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the EC to increase the compensation of the Executive Director accordingly, and to increase member LAFCo dues over the next two years by seven percent/year beginning in FY 2016-17.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the Conference working group to transition from a local LAFCo host model to a CALAFCO host model for the annual conference effective 2017, and have CALAFCO assume all of the host responsibilities.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the Conference working group to hire an outside firm to assume the responsibility of generating annual conference sponsorships and to create an effective branding and marketing message for CALAFCO.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the Conference working group to increase annual conference registration rates by \$95 over the next three years.
- ❖ Unanimously approved the recommendation of the Conference working group to start a trial program in which CALAFCO will offer partial complimentary registrations to those LAFCos whose staff volunteer to work onsite during the annual conference, and to implement this in a gradual manner as the budget allows.

At their September 3 meeting, the Board reviewed and approved the corporation's annual 990 tax filings and adopted their 2016 meeting calendar. They also elected new officers as follows:

CHAIR - *John Leopold* (Coastal – Santa Cruz) will remain Chair for another year  
VICE CHAIR – *Jim Curatalo* (Southern – San Bernardino) was elected to move into the Vice Chair seat  
SECRETARY – *Gay Jones* (Central – Sacramento) will remain Secretary for another year  
TREASURER – *Josh Susman* (Northern – Nevada) will remain Treasurer for another year.

This unusual rotation was unanimously agreed to by the Board because of the vacancy left on the Executive Committee earlier this year with the resignation of then Vice Chair Stephen Tomanelli (representing the Southern region).





## CALAFCO Legislative Update

The CALAFCO Legislative Committee met in May, June and July and responded to a number of bills that impacted LAFCo. Additionally, much effort was focused on the two CALAFCO Sponsored bills, **AB 1532** and **AB 851**.



CALAFCO was also asked to continue the dialogue with the Administration on the concept of water system consolidations.

Unfortunately, those conversations ended up in a last-minute budget trailer bill that gave the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) the authority to mandate consolidations of water systems. CALAFCO joined other statewide stakeholders in opposition to **AB 115** and **SB 88**, the budget trailer bills that granted this unprecedented authority. After many follow up meetings and several letters, **SB 88** was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. CALAFCO continues to meet with the SWRCB and OPR to review the planned implementation of this legislation.

Below is a summary of each of the top CALAFCO tracked legislative bills, all of which were discussed in detail during the Legislative Update at the Conference. CALAFCO wishes to thank all of the members of the Legislative Committee who volunteer their time and efforts. Thanks also to Vice Chair **Steve Lucas** (Butte) and Omnibus lead **Paul Novak** (Los Angeles) for their efforts, as well as those who participated on the Disincorporations and Water Consolidation working groups this year.

### CALAFCO Top Tracked Bills:

- ◆ **AB 1532 (Omnibus – CALAFCO Sponsor)**  
Contains 9 non-controversial items cleaning up CKH. Signed by the Governor July 15, 2015.
- ◆ **AB 851 (Mayes – CALAFCO Sponsor)**  
Cleans up outdated statutes relating to the disincorporation process. Went through extensive stakeholder review and collaboration resulting in six published amendments. The bill passed through the legislature unanimously and with no opposition and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- ◆ **AB 3 (Williams – CALAFCO Oppose Unless Amended)**  
Authorizes the formation of the Isla Vista Community Services District giving final formation authority to the voters rather than the local LAFCo. The bill was revised a number of times to include the LAFCo in a part of the process but still divests the authority to make the final determination. Also authorizes the CSD to impose a utility user tax. The bill passed on party lines and is now awaiting action by the Governor.
- ◆ **AB 402 (Dodd – CALAFCO No Position)**  
This bill creates a five-year pilot opportunity for Napa and San Bernardino LAFCo Commissions to authorize an extension of services outside boundaries and spheres to support existing or planned uses pending specific determinations by the Commission.
- ◆ **SB 239 (Hertzberg – CALAFCO No Position)**  
The bill concentrates specifically on the extension of fire services (within GC §56133) and requires LAFCo approval on any contract for the extension of fire services that transfers greater than 25% of the service area or changes

the employment status of more than 25% of employees of any affected agencies. Prior versions of the bill required union pre-approval of the agreement, with the current version offering an alternative to that requirement. The bill also contains a host of other provisional requirements including setting a precedent for a state agency to seek 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. CALAFCO's original position of **Oppose** was changed to one of **No Position** (due to lack of consensus on the core policy issue) after substantive changes were made by the author. The bill passed the legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

#### ◆ **AB 448 (Brown – CALAFCO Support)**

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. Although last year (as AB 1521) this bill unanimously passed the legislature and was ultimately vetoed by the Governor, this year it languished in committee where it died.

#### ◆ **SB 25 (Roth – CALAFCO Support)**

Identical to SB 69 (Roth) from 2014, which passed the legislature unanimously and was vetoed by the Governor, 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. The bill is awaiting action by the Governor.



A full detailed legislative tracking report can be found on the CALAFCO website in the Members Only section and in the Annual Report to the membership in the September 2015 edition of *The Sphere*.



### CALAFCO U Update

The final CALAFCO U for 2015 is set for Monday, October 26, 2015 in Sacramento. The topic is the implementation of SB 88 (water consolidations). Look for details coming soon!

Sessions for 2016 will be held in Ontario (DoubleTree by Hilton) the first part of the year and in Sacramento (CALAFCO offices) the latter part of the year.



## CALAFCO Associate Members' Corner

This section highlights our Associate Members. The information below is provided to CALAFCO by the Associate member upon joining the Association. All Associate member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.

### We want to welcome three new Associate members who recently joined the Association.

#### *Berkson Associates*

**Contact:** Richard Berkson

Berkson Associates provides clear, concise analysis for preparation of governance studies including district formation, consolidation and dissolutions. Extensive experience completing incorporation studies. Expertise also includes market analysis, public agency budget forecasting and demographic/housing analysis in support of MSRs.

#### *Marjorie Ollson Blom Consulting*

**Contact:** Marjorie Blom

LAFCo and/or planning agency staff support; preparation of Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Updates; application processing and grant writing assistance. With over 26 years of planning and/or LAFCo experience, personalized services are tailored to your Agency's needs.

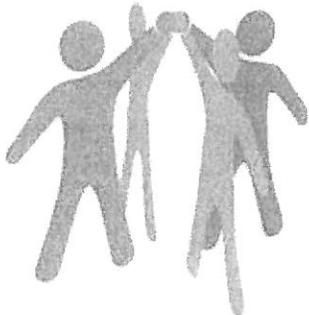
#### *Ukiah Valley Sanitation District*

**Contact:** Frank McMichael

Provides services within the unincorporated area of the Ukiah Valley and within part of the City of Ukiah's jurisdictional boundaries.

Congratulations to the first recipient of the Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member Award, *Michael Colantuono*, of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley!

CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate members for your support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlight our Associate Members in each Quarterly Report.



## Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO University course – October 26, 2015 in Sacramento. Topic is scheduled to be the Implementation of SB 88.
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting – November 6, 2015 in Sacramento
- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee organizational meeting – November 13, 2015 via conference call

The full CALAFCO 2015 Calendar of Events can be found on the CALAFCO website. Look for a 2016 calendar of events coming October/November.



## Upcoming CALAFCO Conferences and Workshops

### 2016 STAFF WORKSHOP

March 30 – April 1

Hilton Los Angeles at Universal City  
Universal City, CA

**Hosted by Los Angeles LAFCo**

### 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 26 - 28

Fess Parker DoubleTree by Hilton  
Santa Barbara, CA

**Hosted by Santa Barbara LAFCo**