



# News from the Board of Directors

## CALAFCO QUARTERLY

March 2014

### 2014 Staff Workshop Update

The 2014 Staff Workshop is scheduled for **April 23 - 25, 2014** at the



*Building Bridges to the Future: Collaboration and Cooperation*

DoubleTree by Hilton in the Berkeley Marina. Our host for the workshop is Alameda LAFCo with support from the Bay area LAFCos, and the theme is *Building Bridges to the Future: Collaboration and Cooperation*. The program is strong with a special luncheon speaker, Dr. Frances Malamud-Roam, co-author of the book titled, *The West without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us about Tomorrow*. Registration is open and can be accessed through the CALAFCO website. Early registration discounted rates are available through March 21<sup>st</sup>, and hotel reservations should be made by March 31<sup>st</sup> for the best rates.

### 2014 Annual Conference Update

Mark your calendars for **OCTOBER 15 - 17, 2014** in Ontario! The host and program committees are under way beginning to plan another great annual conference. The theme for the conference is *LAFCO The Next 50 Years: Shaping Communities of Tomorrow - Innovative Ideas Today*. Under the leadership of San Bernardino LAFCo's Commissioner Jim Curatalo, Executive Officer Kathy Rollings-McDonald, and Asst. EO Sam Martinez, the host committee is busy planning an exciting mobile workshop, pre-con activities, and even a few special surprises! The program committee, led by Marjorie Blom and Paul Novak, have begun the work of searching out speakers and selecting the highest value topics for another fantastic program. More information will follow.



### CALAFCO U Courses for 2014

On February 13 in Ontario, CALAFCO held its first of four sessions for 2014. The session's topic was *Navigating the New Protest Provisions: Charting Future Changes*. The schedule for the rest of the year is noted below (and can be found on the 2014 Calendar of Events, located on the CALAFCO website). All remaining sessions will be held at the CALAFCO offices in Sacramento:

- ◆ **June 16** - *LAFCO Best Practices*
- ◆ **August 11** - *Ag Mitigation*
- ◆ **December 8** - *Legal Interpretations of C-K-H*

### CALAFCO Board Actions

During their regular meeting on February 7, the Board addressed several administrative issues including:

- ◆ The Board considered the 2014-15 dues. CALAFCO Bylaws call for the dues to automatically increase annually by the state CPI, unless the Board takes action otherwise. After careful consideration, the Board did not take any action on this matter, which means the LAFCo member dues for the FY 2014-15 will be increased by the projected CPI of 1.5%.

- ◆ The Board adopted the CALAFCO 2014 Legislative Policies with the amendments as recommended by the Legislative Committee. The policies are available on the website. The Board also ratified the policies adopted by the Legislative Committee that codified existing practices of determining which legislative bills CALAFCO will track, and the respective priorities given to those bills.
- ◆ Accepted the 2014 Conflict of Interest Statements from all appropriate Board and staff.
- ◆ The Board began a conversation regarding the events sponsorship and Associate Member models currently in place within CALAFCO, and further discussion and consideration will be given to these two areas in the future.
- ◆ The November 7, 2014 scheduled Board meeting has been changed to November 14, 2014 and will be in Sacramento.
- ◆ The Board gave great consideration to the Legislative Committee's recommendations regarding the prioritization of CALAFCO's 2014 legislative platform, including potential future legislation regarding §56133 (service outside boundaries), Protest Provisions Phase II, Rev & Tax Code Section 99, Disincorporations, and JPAs. After much discussion, the Board made the decision to move forward with the exploration of legislation to address the antiquated legislation that governs disincorporations through an already-established sub-committee of the Leg. Committee; directed the Leg. Committee to explore potential legislative options around JPAs having greater accountability for public service delivery through LAFCo; and approved a sub-committee headed by Mike Ott and San Diego LAFCo to begin exploring the continuation of cleaning up the protest provisions within C-K-H. The Board determined that CALAFCO is not the appropriate entity to lead the changes needed in the Rev. & Tax Code, and suggested the Leg. Committee seek out the most appropriate entity. Furthermore, the Board, after much dialogue, decided that it was in the best interest of the overall membership of the Association to leave §56133 in its current form and not seek any amendments. The Board directed the Executive Director and Legal Counsel to draft a letter to the membership explaining this decision in detail, which will be completed and distributed by mid-March.

### Legislative Activities

The legislature is in full swing of year two of the current two-year cycle. The deadline for bill introduction has passed and bills are now moving through the committee process. The draft C-K-H Omnibus bill is being prepared for stakeholder review, and contains ten items that address non-substantive issues within C-K-H. CALAFCO tracked bills are all located on the CALAFCO website and the report is updated daily. Top bills being tracked include:

- **AB 1521** – VLF - (Fox) *CALAFCO Support* – This bill addresses inhabited annexations, making whole those addressed currently in SB 69 (Roth) and future annexations. Eventually SB 69 is to be amended to address only incorporations, and at some point both bills will be joined.
- **AB 1527** – Drinking Water - (Perea) *CALAFCO Watch* – This bill mirrors AB 2238 (Perea, 2012), in its amended format of June 20, 2012, at which time CALAFCO had a Support position. Per the author's office, this bill is being used as a placeholder as a vehicle for something that takes a stronger stand on the consolidation of water districts. Given the uncertainty of the intention, CALAFCO's current position is Watch.
- **AB 1961** – Sustainable Farmland Strategy – (Eggman) *CALAFCO Watch* – this bill requires counties with at least 4% of their land designated as ag land to create a sustainable farmland strategy (SFS), and requires these counties to work with LAFCOs to assure plans/policies are compatible to the SFS. The bill further requires OPR to create guidelines for LAFCOs on their role in the preservation of agriculturally zoned lands when considering annexations.
- **AB 2156** – JPAs - (Achadjian) *CALAFCO Watch* – This bill would include JPAs among the agencies that LAFCo can obtain information from and include in MSRs. CALAFCO is working with the author's office on potential language that aligns with what the Leg. Committee approved as potential legislation.
- **SB 69** - VLF – (Roth) *CALAFCO Support* – This bill contains the same language as SB 56 which stalled in the Senate in 2013. SB 69 was a gut/amend late on the last night of the 2013 session, and as a result CALAFCO did not take a position until the most recent Leg. Committee meeting.
- Spot bills being watched include **AB 1729** (Logue) and **SB 1001** (Knight).

The next meeting of the Leg. Committee is scheduled for March 21 in Ontario.