



# News from the Board of Directors **CALAFCO QUARTERLY**

February 2021



A  
message  
from the  
Executive  
Director

Greetings from your CALAFCO Board of Directors and Executive Director. It seems that our collective hope for an uneventful start to 2021 was met with laughter and resistance from the universe. However, we remain undaunted and resolute to move forward in partnership with our members to make great things happen in 2021.

This Quarterly Report will begin by highlighting the good news in our CALAFCO family first, followed by Association updates. Happy reading!

## LAFcos in the News

### **Santa Clara LAFCo Receives State APA Award for Communication and Outreach Plan**

After receiving the American Planning Association - California Northern Chapter's "Award of Excellence - Communication Initiative", **Santa Clara LAFCo's** project then received the State Chapter's 2020 Award of Excellence.

### **San Bernardino and San Diego LAFcos Awarded Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grants**

**San Bernardino LAFCo**, in partnership with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD), were awarded a SALC planning grant for \$220,475. The planning grant project aims to create a local tool for the preservation of agriculture lands, which does not currently exist in San Bernardino County. The goals of this project would be to encourage the long-term preservation of agricultural lands within San Bernardino County and develop local mitigation tools to provide a way for municipalities to preserve agricultural lands while continuing to address housing and growth needs.

**San Diego LAFCo**, in partnership with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego, the San Diego County Farm Bureau, the County of San Diego, and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) were also awarded a SALC planning grant for \$250,000. The purpose for the funding is to develop a community vision and strategic plan to increase and preserve San Diego region's agricultural lands and preserve its economic viability in semi-rural and rural communities. The plan of action is to identify and monitor agricultural lands and uses to inform future preservation and enhancement opportunities.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) added LAFcos to the list of eligible entities to apply for SALC grants in January 2019 after many years of CALAFCO trying to get LAFcos eligible for state-level grant funding. Since then, **San Bernardino** and

**San Diego LAFcos** are the first two LAFcos to initiate a grant application.

CALAFCO congratulates **Santa Clara, San Bernardino and San Diego LAFcos** on their achievements!



## Welcome to Our Newest Associate Member

CALAFCO welcomes our newest Silver Associate Member, **Holly Owen**, Certified Planner. Holly's services include Municipal Service Reviews and planning and feasibility studies. To contact Holly, you can email her at [holly.owen@gmail.com](mailto:holly.owen@gmail.com).

## CALAFCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **CALAFCO BOARD CHANGES**

The Board recently welcomed three new Board members. In late October, two new members were elected to the Board. Representing the Coastal region county seat is **Christopher Lopez**, **Monterey LAFCo** Commissioner and County Supervisor. The central region county seat also has a new representative, **Merced LAFCo** Commissioner and County Supervisor **Daron McDaniel**. In January, the Board appointed a new member to fill the unexpired term of recently re-elected Board member Cheryl Brothers (who unfortunately lost her home election). Filling that unexpired term for the southern region city seat is **San Bernardino LAFCo** Commissioner and City of Fontana Mayor **Acquanetta Warren**.



The Board also gratefully acknowledges the outgoing Board members whose dedicated service to CALAFCO had a great impact: former **Monterey LAFCo** Commissioner **Jane Parker** (coastal region county rep); former **El Dorado LAFCo** Commissioner **Shiva Frentzen** (central region county rep); and former **Orange LAFCo** Commissioner **Cheryl Brothers** (southern region city rep).

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In November, the officers of the Board for 2020-21 were seated as follows:

**Chair** – *Michael Kelley*, Imperial LAFCo (southern)  
**Vice Chair** – *Anita Paque*, Calaveras LAFCo (central)  
**Secretary** – *Bill Connelly*, Butte LAFCo (northern)  
**Treasurer** – *Margie Mohler*, Napa LAFCo (coastal)  
**Immediate Past Chair** – *Michael McGill*, Contra Costa LAFCo (coastal)

During their November meeting, the Board made the following Committee appointments:

### Legislative Committee

Bill Connelly (North)  
Gay Jones (At-Large)  
Jo MacKenzie (South)  
Mike McGill (Coastal)  
Anita Paque (Central)  
Michael Kelley (a) (South)  
Chris Lopez (a) (Coastal)  
Daron McDaniel (a) (Central)  
Tom Murray (a) (At-Large)  
Josh Susman (a) (North)

### Elections Committee

Blake Inscore  
Gay Jones (Chair)  
Chris Lopez  
David West

### Awards Committee

Daron McDaniel  
Jo MacKenzie  
Margie Mohler  
Anita Paque (Chair)  
Josh Susman

### 2021 Annual Conference

David Couch  
Tom Murray  
Daniel Parra  
David West (Chair)

The CALAFCO Board met virtually for their biennial strategic planning session on January 21, followed by a regular Board meeting the next day on January 22 (also virtual). The full meeting packet for both sessions is located on the CALAFCO website (and accessible to all CALAFCO members). During the strategic planning session the Board discussed several topics of critical importance to the Association, including the current dues structure and population cap used, the ongoing practice of using 15% net profit from the Annual Conference to balance the budget, and the issue of extension of services as it relates to local agencies not always seeking LAFCo authorization of exemption or approval to extend services.

After spending time connecting as a group, the strategic planning session began with a dashboard review of the Association's work in 2020. Highlights included the cancellation of both the Staff Workshop and Conference (and the fiscal impact to the Association as a result of the Conference cancellation due to the reliance of the 15% net profit to balance the budget); the creation and delivery of a series of webinars offered at no cost to CALAFCO members; a new section on the CALAFCO website that houses these

webinars for on-demand viewing; updates to the CALAFCO website; and the legislative year that wasn't. Additional work accomplished that was not part of the strategic plan for 2020 included a successful transition of the two primary contractors to employees and the retention of the Executive Director (originally set to retire in the fall of 2020). The full 2020 dashboard review can be found on the CALAFCO website.

The Board spent a great deal of time discussing the member LAFCo dues issue after receiving a full report from the dues ad hoc committee. After reviewing the various models considered by the ad hoc committee (16 in total), the Board received one additional model that had updated population figures from the Department of Finance (using the existing FY 2020-21 model as the base). Again, after much discussion, the Board gave unanimous consent to maintaining all of the existing variables in the FY 2020-21 dues model, using the required updated population estimates and not adding the CPI increase (estimated at 3%) for the FY 2021-22 dues. This decision was formally ratified with unanimous approval during the Board meeting on January 22. An announcement regarding the FY 2021-22 dues was distributed February 9, and you can find the dues on the CALAFCO website.

The Board then discussed the ongoing structural deficit and dangerous fiscal practice of using an unreliable educational event net profit to balance the budget. They gave unanimous consensus to no longer using any net profit from any education event to balance the budget. Underscored this year without a Conference, the loss of that budgeted net profit created a structural deficit. That decision was also formally ratified with unanimous approval during their Board meeting on January 22.

Later that afternoon there was a discussion about the problem of local agencies not seeking LAFCo authorization to extend services. The Board brainstormed non-legislative ideas for consideration this year as an interim solution to a legislative fix in 2022. The day ended with a brief conversation about SMGA and the relationship between LAFCo and investor-owned utilities.

The Board will consider adopting the next two-year strategic plan (for 2021-22) at their April 30 meeting.

During their January 22 meeting, in addition to ratifying the decisions noted above, the Board received the second quarter financial reports and directed the Executive Director to create a rolling two-year budget going forward (beginning with the draft FY 2021-22 budget) and adopted the 2021 legislative policies with the recommended amendment of the Legislative Committee.



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### CALAFCO EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

#### 2021 STAFF WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

##### Staff Workshop

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CALAFCO's Staff Workshop was once again cancelled. The workshop was scheduled for March 17-19 in Newport Beach.

CALAFCO staff successfully negotiated a revision in the facility contract for 2022 at the same rates as 2021. We are still working with the mobile workshop vendors to try and roll over the deposits for that event and will keep you posted.

We wish to thank our Workshop hosts, *Imperial* and *Orange LAFCos* who have graciously agreed to host in 2022 - third time is a charm they say!

CALAFCO is currently polling LAFCo staff on their desire to have something offered for staff only in a virtual format. Watch for updates soon. *If your LAFCo staff have not provided us that feedback, please do so by the deadline of February 12.*

*Mark your calendars for the Staff Workshop on March 23 - 25, 2022.*

##### Annual Conference

The Annual Conference, hosted by CALAFCO, is currently scheduled for **October 6 - 8** at the *Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport*. We are hopeful by that time we will be able to safely meet in person, and the Conference planning committee will begin their work very soon. Watch for a call for program planning volunteers.

#### CALAFCO UNIVERSITY

We were pleased to offer six virtual sessions in 2020 between August and December. This year, CALAFCO is planning several virtual CALAFCO U sessions for the first half of the year. Once again, these sessions will be offered to our members at no cost to you. *Watch for save-the-date announcements coming very soon.* As a teaser, we are planning for a three-part session on Fire and EMS Agency reorganizations in March and another session on Hiring Best Practices in May.



#### CALAFCO ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

CALAFCO staff are working on the annual updates of the Membership Directory. It's requested you respond to the request for updates when you receive them from us.



### CALAFCO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The new two-year legislative session is in full swing and it is anticipated to be another interesting year. As the deadline to introduce legislation nears (Feb. 19), we are seeing a large number of bills relating to COVID-19 response, wildfire prevention, education, healthcare and bridging the equity divide.

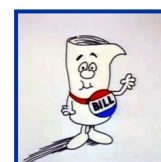
CALAFCO is sponsoring the 2021 Assembly Local Government Committee (ALGC) Omnibus bill and continues the work of the Protest Provision Rewrite Working Group as legislative priorities for 2021. The Working Group, consisting of 18 members (CALAFCO, CSDA, League, CSAC and reps from both local government committees) reconvened and has approved the submission of several obsolete special provisions relating to protests into the Omnibus bill. The group is also working on drafting language to consolidate all existing protest language into one section within CKH, and the subcommittee that is looking at the protest percentage threshold variances is reconvening.

CALAFCO has also been working closely since last fall with Senator Caballero's staff and the sponsors of SB 414 (2019-20) on a redo of that bill. Our conversations have included offering amendments to write LAFCos back into the formation process of the new water authorities. Although the new bill has not yet been introduced (as of the writing of this Report), it is expected before the 2/19 deadline.

The 2020 CKH Guide is now available to download from the CALAFCO website. We are also accepting orders for the hard copy version. Visit the CALAFCO website for details.

Full 2020 legislative reports from the ALGC and Senate Governance & Finance Committees are also available on the CALAFCO website.

All bills being tracked by CALAFCO can be found on the CALAFCO website inside the Legislation section of the site (log in with your member id first to access this section). The CALAFCO Legislative Committee meets regularly and all meeting materials are located in the Legislation section of the CALAFCO website.





### CALAFCO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' CORNER



This section is dedicated to highlighting 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.

#### City of Rancho Mirage

The **City of Rancho Mirage** has been a Silver Associate Member since July 2010. With a population of just over 18,000, the **City of Rancho Mirage** is located in the County of Riverside. The City offers an abundant amount of sunshine, great climate, and related resort-style living. For more information about the City, contact the Director of Development Services, **Jeremy Gleim**, at [jeremyg@ranchomirageca.gov](mailto:jeremyg@ranchomirageca.gov), or at 760-328-2266. Learn more about the City on their website at [www.ranchomirageca.gov](http://www.ranchomirageca.gov).



#### County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

**The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County** has been a Silver Associate Member since July 2005. They are a public agency focused on converting waste into resources like recycled water, energy and recycled materials. The agency consists of 24 independent special districts serving about 5.6 million people in Los Angeles County. The service areas cover approximately 850 square miles and encompass 78 cities and unincorporated areas in the county. For more information on the Districts, contact **Donna Curry** at [dcurry@lacsdc.org](mailto:dcurry@lacsdc.org), or visit their website at [www.lacsdc.org](http://www.lacsdc.org).



#### Rancho Mission Viejo

**Rancho Mission Viejo** has been a Silver Associate Member since June 2005. They are responsible for the development and management of a governance structure for a 23,000-acre, 14,000 home planned community. For more information, visit them at [www.ranchomissionviejo.com](http://www.ranchomissionviejo.com) or contact Michael Balsamo at [mbalsamo@ranchomv.com](mailto:mbalsamo@ranchomv.com).



#### QK

A Silver Associate Member since September 2010, **QK** (formerly Quad Knopf) provides planning, engineering, biology, environmental and survey services to public and private clients. Their planners have previous experience working for public agencies, including serving as LAFCo Analysts and Executive Officers. They specialize in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley regions. For more information on **QK**, visit their website at [www.qkinc.com](http://www.qkinc.com), or contact **Jerome Keene** at [jerome.keene@qkinc.com](mailto:jerome.keene@qkinc.com).



*CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlighting you in future Quarterly Reports.*

#### Did You Know??

##### CALAFCO 2020 Survey

**Did you know** we recently published the **2020 survey of member LAFCos relating to COVID?** The survey included questions about current and future operations, staffing models, commission meeting methods, and budget impacts.



##### Meeting Documents Online

**Did you know** that all **CALAFCO Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting documents are online?** Visit the Boards & Committees pages in the Members Section of the site. Board documents date back to 2008 and Legislative Committee documents back to 2007.

##### CALAFCO Courses Archived

**Did you know** that all **CALAFCO University course materials are now archived on the CALAFCO website?** Visit the CALAFCO website in the CALAFCO U Course Material Archive section.

#### Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee virtual meeting - 2/19
- ❖ CALAFCO Legislative Committee virtual meeting - 3/26
- ❖ CALAFCO Board of Directors virtual meeting - 4/30



The **CALAFCO 2021 Calendar of Events** can be found on the CALAFCO website.

*As we continue to face both known and unknown challenges, your CALAFCO Board and Staff wish all of you to stay safe and be healthy. We thank you for your continued dedicated service to the communities you serve. Be well.*