

April, 2009

Climate Change on LAFCo Horizon

By Elliot Mulberg, Senior Environmental Planner, Michael Brandman Associates

As we all know, one of LAFCo's primary functions is to discourage urban sprawl. Without land use authority, LAFCo's ability to do so may not be that obvious. Similarly, the role of LAFCo in the climate change debate may be equally obscure. It

may be easier to understand how climate change can affect municipal service delivery rather than how LAFCo can have an impact on climate change.

LAFCo Role Recognized

The May 2008 report to the California Air Resources Board by the State's Land Use Subcommittee of the Climate Action Team (LUSCAT) recognized the role and responsibility of LAFCo in addressing the issue of climate change. The report discusses potential legislation to require LAFCo to consider infill capacity and GHG emissions prior to granting approvals for expansion

of spheres of influence or annexations*.

It has been well documented that some of the effects of climate change include increased wild fires due to lack of rainfall, shortfalls in water supply due to lack of snowpack, and a rise in sea level due to melting of the ice caps. A recent study by the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force (*Sacramento Bee, April 20, 2008*) predicted a rise in sea level ranging from 28 to 55 inches by 2100 in the Delta. A change of that magnitude would severely stress and

possibly overwhelm many of the levees maintained by reclamation districts. Water shortages due to drought would affect the ability of water agencies to serve their customers. The increase in wildfires would stress the ability of fire districts to provide fire suppression services.

Example of a LAFCo Application

To understand how LAFCo actions relate to climate change, let us suppose LAFCo is asked to process a Sphere of Influence amendment and/or an annexation proposal that ultimately will result in building an office building. The proposed development will take place adjacent to and outside the sphere of a city in an area where there are currently no municipal services. Let us also suppose the applicant wants to build a "green" building to gain support from the environmentalists for the application.

We can use the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) 2009 Green Building Rating System Workbook to evaluate the carbon footprint of the building. The proposed building includes 135,000 square feet, with 540 employees, operates from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday. Let's also assume the building uses potable water for irrigation of 1 acre of landscaping. The carbon footprint will be quantified in terms of an estimate metric tons of CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted per year. The sources of GHG, or the emission inventory, consist of the building system, construction materials, land cover change, solid waste, water, and transportation.

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* **NOTE:** Senator Pat Wiggins has introduced SB 215 which adds adopted sustainable communities strategies or alternate planning strategies to the factors a LAFCo must consider in reviewing applications. See related article on CALAFCO legislation on page 7.

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The Sphere

CALAFCO Journal

April, 2009

The Sphere is a quarterly publication of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions.

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To submit articles, event announcements, comments or other materials noteworthy to LAFCo commissioners and staff, please contact the Editor at 916-442-6536 or info@calafco.org.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of CALAFCO, its members, or their professional or official affiliations.

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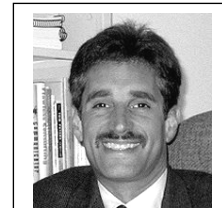
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cost-Effective Educational Resources for Members

The mission of CALAFCO is to provide our members with educational opportunities and resources. Those services range from the conferences and workshops to the list serves, website and CALAFCO U courses. LAFCo law and the issues faced by staff and commissioners are unique, and there are few local resources to assist with expanding knowledge of LAFCo policy and procedures. As we continue to confront new and challenging applications and situations, the need for an educational resource is more important than ever.

We are in dire financial times. Local agencies struggle to balance their budgets and maintain local services. Many LAFCos are now fielding questions about dissolution, consolidation, disincorporation, and bankruptcies as communities and local agencies toil with shrinking financial resources. At the same time commissions and local agencies are carefully scrutinizing budgets and looking for opportunities to cut costs. A number of our members report staff cuts, furloughs and holding positions open as they deal with fewer applications, reduced income from fees and pressure to reduce costs.

During these tough economic times it's hard to find the time and funding for commissioner and staff professional development. But it's just in these times that it is most profitable for your LAFCo to take advantage of CALAFCO educational services. Research shows that individuals and organizations which continue to expand their knowledge capacity – especially in difficult times – are in a better position to respond to change, ambiguity and new challenges. With our small staffs and limited opportunity to share



Bill Chiat
Executive Director

expertise, it makes CALAFCO educational resources even more valuable.

CALAFCO staff and volunteers are working hard to make value-added, cost effective educational opportunities available to commissioners and staff. Here are just a few of the things we're doing:

◆ Conference and Workshop.

The program committees for both the Staff Workshop (29 April – 1 May) and the Annual Conference (28 – 30 October) have set goals to make the program content timely, practical and focused specifically on LAFCo issues. Look for sessions on LAFCo role in coping with agency fiscal stresses, growth in unincorporated areas, emerging role of regional governance, agricultural preservation, and the new world of water availability to name a few. We are making these cost effective too: registration fees are being held at the same level as previous years without compromising quality.

◆ **CALAFCO University.** These one day classes provide a cost effective, professional growth opportunity for LAFCo commissioners, staff and stakeholders. They are targeted on specific and timely issues and provide an opportunity to dig deeper into the practical aspects of LAFCo policy and operations. In March two sessions of *SB 375: What does it mean to LAFCo?* were held in Los Angeles and San Jose. Upcoming classes include *Fire District Consolidations* on 5 June in San Diego and *Developers and Annexation Agreements* on 24 August in Sacramento.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Holds Strategic Retreat

The CALAFCO Board held its biannual strategic retreat in Irvine on 12 February 2009. The retreat provided the Board with an opportunity to examine achievements and disappointments over the last two years and identify strategic goals for the next two to three years.

The Board began with assessment of the organization today. That was followed by a conversation on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that are expected to be seen by both LAFCo and CALAFCO in the next few years. The Board concluded the day with a discussion of potential strategic goals and priorities, including an examination of how to better structure the governance of CALAFCO to reflect the range of interests and perspectives from around the state.

Preliminary Notes

Members recorded their thoughts throughout the day on flipcharts. The notes below are excerpts from the conversations. The Board is interested in comments from CALAFCO members. These draft notes and preliminary priorities will be reviewed and finalized at the Board's next meeting on 15 May.

Comments and suggestions can be sent to the Board via the executive director (wchiat@calafco.org).

Achievements and Disappointments

Among the achievements were:

- ◆ Legislative program
- ◆ Professionalizing the organization
- ◆ Increasing services to members
- ◆ Annual conferences
- ◆ Financial Strength
- ◆ Good CALAFCO Board working relations
- ◆ Better communication: website and newsletter
- ◆ CALAFCO U courses
- ◆ Board debate—positive approach

Among disappointments identified were:

- ◆ More special district representation
- ◆ Not universal participation in CALAFCO: Tehama LAFCo
- ◆ Disparity of representation: Need more balance
- ◆ Need to increase access to CALAFCO and reduce isolation
- ◆ Better balance of competing interests (regional)
- ◆ CALAFCO staff – volunteers from only a few LAFCos – financial constraints
- ◆ Lack of Board Member outreach to other LAFCos
- ◆ Few regional meetings

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

The Board continued its strategic discussion with a SWOT analysis of both LAFCo and CALAFCO. In small groups, participants analyzed their perspectives of LAFCo. A summary of their discussion was captured on flipcharts:

LAFCo Strengths

- ◆ SOIs
- ◆ Ability to ensure services
- ◆ Ability to condition
- ◆ Clear legislative direction
- ◆ Ability to guide development
- ◆ Credibility
- ◆ Ability to influence good government
- ◆ Enforce standards
- ◆ Authority to reorganize
- ◆ Facilitation role
- ◆ Staff and their expertise
- ◆ Neutrality (hopefully)

LAFCo Weaknesses

- ◆ Unable to moderate conflict between cities, county, and districts – not respecting LAFCo
- ◆ Disconnect between policy responsibility and enforcement ability
- ◆ Haven't taken the initiative to influence land use
- ◆ Ineffective use of MSRs



Simón Salinas, Jerry Gladbach, Roger Anderson and George Lange in discussion at retreat

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO CALAFCO BOARD

At the CALAFCO Annual Meeting a number of new members were elected to the Board of Directors. New elected members include:

- ◆ **George Lange**, Ventura LAFCo commissioner. George is a member of the Conejo Park & Recreation District Board of Directors.
- ◆ **Simón Salinas**, Monterey LAFCo commissioner. Simón is a member of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.
- ◆ **Allen Settle**, San Luis Obispo LAFCo commissioner. Allen is a member of the City of San Luis Obispo City Council.

Two members were appointed by the Board of Directors due to vacancies created when members lost their local elections:

- ◆ **Kay Hosmer**, Colusa LAFCo commissioner. Kay is a member of the City of Colusa City Council.
- ◆ **Cheryl Brothers**, Orange LAFCo commissioner. Cheryl is a member of the City of Fountain Valley City Council.

Several current Board members were re-elected to two year terms:

- ◆ **Roger Anderson**, Santa Cruz LAFCo (public)
- ◆ **Jerry Gladbach**, Los Angeles LAFCo (district)
- ◆ **Gay Jones**, Sacramento LAFCo (district)
- ◆ **Denise Rushing**, Lake LAFCo (county)
- ◆ **Sepi Richardson**, San Mateo LAFCo (city)
- ◆ **Chris Tooker**, Sacramento LAFCo (public)

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its first meeting after the elections, the Board elected the following officers:

- Chair:** Roger Anderson
Vice Chair: Susan Vicklund Wilson
Treasurer: Jerry Gladbach
Secretary: Sepi Richardson

- ◆ No authority over federal, state and schools
- ◆ No “teeth” – no ability to enforce decisions
- ◆ Balancing competing interests
- ◆ Lack of staff



Allen Settle, Gay Jones and Cathy Schlottmann examine strengths and weaknesses

LAFCo Opportunities

- ◆ Use authority to reorganize agencies
- ◆ Facilitation role
- ◆ Outreach to other LAFCos
- ◆ Joint efforts (pooling resources)
- ◆ MSRs as a communication tool
- ◆ What role should LAFCo play in water, energy, transportation, renewables, etc. issues?
- ◆ To educate on LAFCo’s role in cities, counties, special districts, MSRs, etc.
- ◆ Current local government economy (an opportunity and a threat)
- ◆ Player at regional level
- ◆ Conditions for annexation and SOI

LAFCo Threats

- ◆ Funding; state and local revenues; local contributions
- ◆ Cost of litigation (private, public, all!!)
- ◆ Unfunded mandates (legislative and judicial)
- ◆ Impact on making choices
- ◆ Apathy?
- ◆ Involvement
- ◆ Transition of LAFCo role to other agencies (i.e. COGs)
- ◆ Low LAFCo profile
- ◆ Lack of education

The group then assessed the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of CALAFCO as an association:

CALAFCO Strengths

- ◆ Ability to educate: Conferences, CALAFCO U and Workshops
- ◆ Being recognized with CSDA, CSAC and League of Cities – collaboration
- ◆ Diverse Board – balance of public agencies
- ◆ Use resources of LAFCos
- ◆ Legislative Process
- ◆ List-serve, etc. – communication
- ◆ CALAFCO’s organizational structure

CALAFCO Weakness

- ◆ Communicating CALAFCO’s role
- ◆ Limited resources, \$ and staff
- ◆ Reliance on volunteers, board members and staff
- ◆ Lack of special district representative
- ◆ Balance needs of various LAFCos
- ◆ Outreach to LAFCos
- ◆ Lack of geographic diversity
- ◆ Lack of venues for participation
- ◆ Lack of process to build consensus
- ◆ Personal lack of transportation
- ◆ Improved proactive recruitment



Joyce Crosthwaite, Cheryl Bothers, Simón Salinas and Susan Wilson discuss strategies

CALAFCO Opportunities

- ◆ Web Link
- ◆ Proactive outreach to commissioners
- ◆ Role as facilitator among LAFCos – contracts
- ◆ Regional forums
- ◆ Proactive legislative advocacy
- ◆ Use individual LAFCo agendas for CALAFCO
- ◆ Proactive on broad issues, i.e. transportation, energy and water
- ◆ Collaborate and build consensus
- ◆ More visibility at peer group events: i.e. League exhibits, BIA
- ◆ Commissioner List-serve

Potential Goals and Strategies

The Board then identified potential goals for consideration:

- ◆ Improve LAFCos: workshops, conference, CALAFCO U, education
- ◆ Website: Sphere, White Papers
- ◆ Executive director be a circuit rider to LAFCos on state issues
- ◆ Legislative program: monitor legislation for its effect
- ◆ Maintain structure as a 501(c)(3)
- ◆ Build consensus among LAFCos
- ◆ Prioritize activities within budget: measurement/evaluation
- ◆ Outreach to LAFCos on CALAFCO functions
- ◆ Coordinating body among LAFCos for administrative functions
- ◆ Regional responsibilities regarding volunteers

Next Steps

The Board took three steps in its focus on the future:

1. Established a **Structural Options Committee** to examine and prepare recommendations on governance structure options that support better statewide representation on the Board. Members include Susan Wilson, Cheryl Brothers, Simón Salinas, and Jerry Gladbach. The committee established a meeting schedule and will present its recommendations at the May Board meeting.
2. Reconstituted the **Recruitment Committee** and directed it to be proactive in recruiting commissioners to serve on the Board. The goal is to ensure that Board candidates represent the breadth of interests and geography of the state. Members include Chris Tooker, Mary Jane Griego, Allen Settle, and Jerry Gladbach.
3. Solicit feedback and **input from members** prior to finalizing goals and strategies.

The Board would like to hear from you! Please send your thoughts and comments on CALAFCO services and strategies to the Board via Executive Director Bill Chiat at wchiat@calafco.org by 31 April.

New County Service Area Law Now in Effect

SB 1458 Clarifies LAFCo Role in CSA Oversight

By Holly O. Whately, Colantuono & Levin, PC.

Several changes to the state's County Service Area law were put into place when SB 1458 took effect on January 1, 2009. County Service Areas (CSAs) are a tool routinely used by counties to finance and provide public facilities and services to unincorporated territory. SB 1458 is a comprehensive revision of the CSA statute and makes formation or reorganization of a CSA subject to the Cortese-Knox- Hertzberg Act. Although most LAFCo lawyers believe CSAs were subject to LAFCo authority under existing law, there is no room to argue otherwise now. As a result of the law, LAFCos throughout the state have responsibility to evaluate proposals to create and reorganize CSAs or to change the services a CSA provides.

To prepare to take on this new responsibility, the statute required each LAFCo to establish the services authorized by every existing CSA in its jurisdiction as of January 1, 2009. A LAFCo should have consulted with the county and attempted to reach agreement on this point by the end of 2008. This baseline will allow LAFCo to evaluate whether future change in the services provided by a CSA require LAFCo approval. As of January 1, 2009, all proposals to activate latent powers of a CSA require LAFCo approval. If LAFCo determines that another local agency provides substantially similar services or facilities to the area to be served by a CSA, SB 1458 prohibits LAFCo from allowing the CSA to exercise its latent powers. Presumably if a reorganization eliminates the duplicate service provider's services to the area in question, the CSA could be permitted to activate latent powers.

SB 1458 also tasks LAFCos to act on proposals to form or reorganize a CSA initiated by petition. As with other reorganizations, a proposal to form or reorganize a CSA may proceed either by petition or via resolution of an affected city, county or district. If LAFCo determines a petition or resolution to be sufficient, then, with certain exceptions, it must act on the proposal as it would with respect to the proposed formation of a special district or incorporation of a city. LAFCo may not approve a proposal where it determines the CSA will not have sufficient revenue to serve its purposes. However, LAFCo may approve a proposal involving insufficient revenues on condition that voters or landowners approve a revenue measure to provide the necessary funds, such as a special tax, benefit assessment or property-related fee.

By requiring LAFCo review of the formation or reorganization of CSAs, SB 1458 enables LAFCos better to meet their legislative mandate to encourage orderly growth and development. In particular, inclusion of

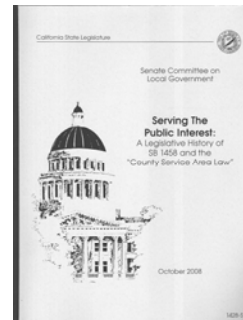
CSAs within LAFCo's jurisdiction provides LAFCos the broad authority they need to ensure the services and facilities of proposed new CSAs do not overlap with those of existing local agencies or foster development in unincorporated areas better left to non-urban uses.

In other words, the law is a new tool to help LAFCos prevent sprawl.

Holly O. Whately is Senior Counsel in Colantuono & Levin's general litigation department. Colantuono & Levin is a CALAFCO Gold Associate Member. Visit them at www.cllaw.us.

Committee Issues New CSA Report: Serving The Public Interest

Nearly 900 County Service Areas (CSAs), run by county boards of supervisors, deliver different county services and facilities to residents and property owners. Recognizing that the 1953 CSA Law was outdated, the Senate Local Government Committee authored Senate Bill 1458 which rewrote the "County Service Area Law." The bill cut the statute's bulk from 166 separate sections to just 50 sections.



Based on the diligent work of an 18-member Working Group—including several LAFCo and CALAFCO staff—SB 1458 carefully spells out the CSAs' policies, powers, procedures, and oversight duties. CALAFCO supported SB 1458.

Serving The Public Interest documents the Committee's 129-page report, reprints the statute's actual text and provides authoritative commentary on each section. Detailed "source" and "disposition" tables tell reviewers where the new CSA Law's language came from and where substance of the 1953 statute went.

Serving The Public Interest is available to download from the CALAFCO website (click on Special District Resources on the "resources" tab) or order from:

Senate Publications & Flags
1020 N Street, Room B-53
Sacramento CA 95814

Single copies cost \$7.27, including shipping and sales tax. Discounts are available for multiple copies. Make checks payable to the *Senate Rules Committee*. Credit cards not accepted. Ask for stock number 1428-S.



TRACKS Around the State

News and Best Practice Tips

SANTA BARBARA: No Automatic Detachment from County Service Areas

The legislature recently overhauled the CSA law (Government Code Section 25210 et seq). One change eliminates automatic detachments. As a result, when a city annexes land that is in within a CSA, unless the city desires an overlap of boundaries, the City Council resolution of application should include the concurrent detachment from the CSA.

Santa Barbara LAFCo recently sent a letter to all cities alerting them that the new CSA law no longer allows automatic detachment from CSAs. Here's what the Santa Barbara LAFCo sent out to its districts:

A County Service Areas (CSA) is a type of special district governed by the Board of Supervisors. Government Code Section 25213 provides that:

"A county service area may provide any governmental services and facilities within the county service area that the county is authorized to perform and that the county does not perform to the same extent on a countywide basis, including, but not limited to, services and facilities identified in the section"

For many years State law provided for the "automatic" detachment of territory from a CSA when land is annexed to a city. Section 25210.9, which no longer exists, stated:

"Whenever any territory in a county service area is included within a city by reason of incorporation, annexation or otherwise that territory shall be automatically excluded from the county service area upon the effective date of its inclusion in the city... ."

Despite this general prohibition, a section of LAFCo law allows the Commission to permit an overlap of a city and a CSA.

From: Bob Braitman, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara LAFCo

CALAFCO U – End the Chaos!

By Elizabeth Valdez, Secretary, Riverside LAFCo

In January we began to *End the Chaos!* at our first Access CALAFCO University training class. The course was geared towards using Microsoft Access to track proposals and contact information. The day was spent with hands-on training, making tables, queries, forms and reports. We had a full class of 14 clerks and staff from many LAFCos that attended.

I was excited to both share what I know and help my fellow clerks create a way to not only process their work faster but to do so with ease. My goal was to teach everyone the basic tools needed to create their own database that can be customized to meet the needs of their LAFCo. I know Access is a tough program to learn in one afternoon so *Great Job* to all of you that attended!



Instructors Elizabeth Valdez (Riverside LAFCo) and Candice Bozzard (Marin LAFCo)

I want to thank those that helped with planning the workshop and Candice Bozzard, Course Moderator, Marin LAFCo; SR Jones, Nevada LAFCo; and Jamie Szutowicz, CALAFCO.



Diane Thorpe (Sacramento LAFCo) enjoys *Chaos!* class

LAFCo STAFF ADVENTURE: Something Fishy After the Conference

A group of LAFCo staffers, friends and family went on a fishing trip following the Conference in September.

The boat departed in the wee hours from Patriot Sportfishing in Avila Beach and returned the same afternoon with happy anglers and full sacks of fish. Local boy **Paul Hood** did well, but the jackpot fish, a fat lingcod, was hauled in by water skier and now fisherman extraordinaire, **Greg Gatzka**.



From: George Spiliotis, Executive Officer, Riverside LAFCo

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CALAFCO Pursues Legislative Issues

By Bill Chiat, Legislative Chair

The CALAFCO Legislative Committee is working on a number of issues as the Legislature moves into high gear for the 2009-2010 session. The end of February was the deadline for the introduction of new bills, and, between the Assembly and Senate 2,607 bills were introduced!

The committee is made up of 19 members and five alternates including CALAFCO board members and LAFCo staff from around the state.



Typically, CALAFCO proposals include technical changes to Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg and several more significant items. 2009 is no exception. CALAFCO is currently supporting two bills, with another soon to be introduced. A number of other LAFCo-related bills have been introduced, and CALAFCO is monitoring them.

CALAFCO Sponsored/Supported Bills

[AB 528 \(Silva\)](#) **Financial Disclosure.** This bill cleans up the financial disclosure language in C-K-H and conforms it to the changes we made last year (AB 1998) to the Political Reform Act (PRA). We have been working with the Fair Political Practices Commission on several additional changes they requested and expect to amend the bill later in the month. The language moves responsibility to the FPPC but allows for a LAFCo to adopt policies which require additional disclosure requirements in addition to those required in the PRA. In such case the LAFCo would be responsible for managing the additional disclosure requirements.

[SB 113 \(Senate Local Government Committee\)](#) **Senate Omnibus Bill.** Both the Senate and Assembly local government committees sponsor annual omnibus bills which make technical, non-substantive changes to local government laws. Items in the bills are reviewed by local government stakeholders (including CALAFCO). Items remain only if there are no objections.

The SB 113 currently contains three items requested by CALAFCO. They correct citations or cross-references in State Law that affect LAFCo. We have submitted a proposals for additional items which would eliminate a 2010 sunset in Revenue and Tax law for the mediation/arbitration process for property tax exchange agreements, and would clarify notification requirements for CSD name changes.

The Assembly bill will be introduced later this month. It typically only contains changes to CKH. Currently the committee is circulating nine items that CALAFCO has requested. They include corrections to language and cross-references; adding a one-year window to establish an SOI for a new district; adding permissive language to R&T codes that would allow a LAFCo to proceed with processing an annexation when a master property tax exchange agreement is already in place; and clarification of

the protest process (recommendation from the San Mateo LAFCo decision upholding a protest process).

Other Legislation of Interest to LAFCos

CALAFCO is currently tracking nearly 30 bills that affect LAFCo law, policy or operations. Several "spot" bills have been introduced that affect LAFCo law. A common practice at the beginning of the session, these placeholder bills will change significantly over time but could still address LAFCo law. CALAFCO staff is in contact with all the authors and working with them on the issues. Bills include: AB 1109 (Blakeslee) on distribution of liabilities and services upon dissolution or reincorporation; AB 1232 (Huffman) on LAFCo role in forcing consolidation of non-performing or financially incapable districts; SB 163 (Cox) minor changes to C-K-H, and SB 194 (Florez) infrastructure and services for disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

SB 215: Conforming CKH with SB 375

In February Senator Pat Wiggins introduced SB 215 which intends to conform Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg to SB 375. Last year the Governor signed SB 375 which among many other provisions requires regional transportation agencies to adopt a Regional Transportation (RTP) plan that includes sustainable communities strategy (SCS) or an alternate planning strategy (G.C. §65080(b)(2)). During the process of the legislation CALAFCO raised concerns that the planning strategies included in a RTP may be inconsistent with the policies and spheres adopted by LAFCo. CALAFCO lobbied to include spheres as a consideration in the development of the SCS. As a result, the law requires consideration of adopted SOIs LAFCo in preparation of an SCS (§65080(b)(2)).

Early in 2008 the Senate Transportation Committee briefly considered legislation requiring LAFCos to consider "Blueprint Plans" in its review of proposals. CALAFCO suggested that such legislation was premature. Our position was to revisit this issue should SB 375 pass.

Now that SB 375 is law Senator Wiggins introduced SB 215 to help align the two laws. It will require LAFCo to consider consistency of a proposal with an applicable regional transportation plan. LAFCo can play an important role in the 375 process by assuring that local agency proposals are consistent with applicable RTPs. Further, it is only through LAFCo that special district boundary changes and service changes can be reviewed in light of an adopted STS or alternate strategy.

Rather than add a new factor, SB 215 simply adds regional transportation plans to §56668(g) which already includes consistency with general and specific plans. It eliminates §56668.5 which allowed a LAFCo to consider regional growth goals and policies; which SB 375 made obsolete.

The CALAFCO Board has adopted a SUPPORT position on this legislation.

ON-LINE LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

In February the Board of Directors updated and adopted its 2009 Legislative Policies. They are available on the web at: www.calafco.org/leg.

You can find current information on legislation, status of bills we are tracking, letters and more in the member's area of the CALAFCO website. For password information please contact your executive officer or CALAFCO.

From the Executive Director – Keeping Skills and Knowledge Current

(continued from page 2)

- ♦ **Professional Development Accreditation.** CALAFCO conferences, workshops and courses are accredited by the California Bar and the American Planning Association. This is an inexpensive opportunity for professionals to earn and maintain their professional accreditations. Attorneys may earn MCLE credits and planners may earn AICP credits.
- ♦ **Detailed White Papers.** CALAFCO continues to publish research papers on aspects of LAFCo policy and procedures. Recently released papers include Current Methods for Special District Consolidation, Dissolution, Subsidiary District Formation and Merger, and Guidelines for Transitioning to a New City following incorporation. Papers underway include an on-line library of typical LAFCo forms and resolutions (which will be a real time and cost saver for most LAFCos) and a research paper on LAFCo protest provisions.
- ♦ **Resource-full Website.** CALAFCO maintains a resource-intense website for members and stakeholders. Content includes a wide range of reports, legal decisions and opinions, survey results, current information, legislative updates, course and workshop materials, links, and much more valuable information. Materials are updated almost daily, and we are always open to new ideas and materials for the site.
- ♦ **List Serves.** There's no better way to find out how others have done something than to ask. And the CALAFCO List Serves are an easy and fast way to do that. No sense reinventing the wheel. CALAFCO maintains List -

Serves for executive officers, clerks, and counsel. If you're not on one, please send me an e-mail so we can get you connected.

CALAFCO is here to help you leverage your limited resources and expand knowledge, build capacity, and benefit from the expertise and experience of others. Take advantage of these opportunities – particularly now when we need to build on our shared capital more than ever.

CALAFCO University

UPCOMING COURSES

5 June 2009 – *Fire District Consolidations* (San Diego)

24 August 2009 – *Developer and Annexation Agreements* (Sacramento)

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- Dudek
- Emergency Service Consulting, Inc
- Incrementum Document Solutions
- The Irvine Company
- Christy Leighton
- Michael Brandman Associates
- Pacific Mutual Consultants
- Project Resource Specialists
- Rancho Mission Viejo

Thank You!

Climate Change on the LAFCo Horizon

Continued from cover

Table 1 shows three scenarios for typical office buildings. The first scenario shows the carbon footprint for an average office building in the United States. The second scenario shows applicant’s proposal of a highly energy efficient office building in the Sphere of Influence (Energy Star 90 rating), but outside the area with municipal services. The third scenario shows the carbon footprint for an infill development within city limits.

Table 1: Carbon Footprint
(metric tons of CO₂ equivalents per year)

Source	Typical Building	Energy Efficient Building Outside Municipal Service Area	Energy Efficient Building Within Municipal Service Area
Building Systems	2832	532	532
Transportation	1711	1711	604
Water	19	19	19
Building Materials	1	1	1
Solid Waste	55	55	55
Land Use	0	0	0
Total	4618	2318	1211

Source: U.S. Green Building Council LEED 2009 Credit Weighting Workbook, September 4, 2008.

The Table shows that building systems and transportation have a large effect on the carbon footprint. The value for building systems refers to the energy consumed in the building, while the value for transportation relates to emissions from cars, busses and other forms of transportation during the commute from home to work and back. These results are consistent with the 1990 greenhouse gas emission inventory developed by the CA Air Resources Board that shows transportation and energy generation account for 63% of the GHG emissions. For LAFCos it shows how the decision to extend services to undeveloped areas can affect greenhouse gas emissions. Expanding urban boundaries also places a burden on municipal service providers for more services. These added services may require additional facilities.

For example, water districts that add new water systems increase electricity consumption to pump water. Sewer service providers that add wastewater treatment facilities increase energy use and may emit GHGs such as methane and nitrous oxide. Sanitation districts that expand landfills have potential to increase methane emissions and the GHGs from service equipment at the landfill.

LAFCos do have a role in the climate change discussion. In taking another look at the charge of “discouraging urban sprawl” and its role in conducting Municipal Service Reviews, LAFCo has the potential to contribute to a more compact urban form, reduction in trip length and vehicle miles traveled, more efficient delivery of municipal services and the resulting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Contributors to this article included: Dr. Chris Pyke, Director of Climate Change Services for CTG Energetics, Inc. (a founding member of the US Green Building Council and LEED Certification program); and Stephen L. Jenkins, AICP (Former Director of Air Quality Services for Michael Brandman Associates).

CALAFCO Offices Move to New Location

In December CALAFCO moved to new offices in the Esquire Building in downtown Sacramento. The building is located on the K Street Mall across the street from the Sacramento Convention Center. It’s convenient to peer associations and the Capitol.

The move was required when our landlord, the Regional Council of Rural Counties, sold its building and moved to the new location. CALAFCO remains a tenant of RCRC and enjoys beautiful new offices in a great location. The Association is grateful to RCRC for their help with the move and the great partnership we have with them!

Please stop by and visit! Be sure and change your records to reflect our new address (phone numbers remain the same):

**1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**



Special District Leadership Foundation FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES SPECIAL DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT

In 1999, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) was formed to elevate the credibility, visibility and professionalism of special district management and governance.



The Foundation is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in local government and to elevating the profession of special district governance to the end that service to the public be enhanced and improved.

SDLF is a collaborative effort between eight special district organizations:

- ◆ Association of California Water Agencies
- ◆ California Association of Public Cemeteries
- ◆ California Association of Recreation and Park Districts
- ◆ California Association of Sanitation Agencies
- ◆ California Rural Water Association
- ◆ California Special Districts Association
- ◆ Fire Districts Association of California
- ◆ Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California

The Foundation offers three recognition programs that require various levels of continuing education and other items:

District of Distinction Program – An accreditation program that enables districts to demonstrate to their communities, the media and legislators their commitment to operate in a sound, responsible manner by providing financial audits, policies and procedures and training for executive staff and board members.

Special District Administrator Certification Program – SDLF’s certification program is a way for special district administrators to affirm – to their customers, to their board of directors, and to themselves – that they are competent and experienced in their profession.

Recognition in Special District Governance – The recognition is an opportunity for staff, board members/trustees to demonstrate to their constituents and fellow directors the extent of their commitment and dedication to providing the best possible service to the communities they serve.

Resource for LAFCoS

The SDLF recognition program is a resource to LAFCoS too. The accreditation and certification programs identify those districts committed to

professional and governance excellence. They are something to look for when conducting MSRs and an indication of a district’s commitment to service delivery excellence. In addition, as part of the MSR process, LAFCoS may recommend that a district seek these recognition levels as a part of its enhancement of service delivery.

To learn more about the Foundation or one of the programs, please visit the SDLF website at www.sdlf.org or contact Diana Zavala, SDLF Administrator, at (916) 231-2939.

CALAFCO Recognizes Outstanding Achievement at Annual Meeting

The 2008 CALAFCO Achievement Awards were proudly presented at the Annual Conference in September. Amidst red carpets, spotlights, black ties, and all the glamour of Hollywood, these people and LAFCoS were recognized for their contributions, long-time dedication to the profession, and CALAFCO and LAFCo principles.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Peter M. Detwiler


California Senate Local Government Committee 

MOST EFFECTIVE COMMISSION

Yuba LAFCo

OUTSTANDING COMMISSIONER

Dennis Hansberger

San Bernardino LAFCo 


OUTSTANDING LAFCo CLERK

Wilda Turner

Los Angeles LAFCo

OUTSTANDING LAFCo PROFESSIONAL

Michael D. Ott

San Diego LAFCo 

Martha Poyatos

San Mateo LAFCo

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Kings LAFCo

Comprehensive City & Community District MSR & SOI Update 

GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

San Bernardino Board of Supervisors 

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Assembly Member Anna M. Caballero 



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

C-K-H 2008 Update Now Available

The 2008 update of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 is now available from CALAFCO. Every year the Assembly Local Government Committee prepares an updated version of the law with all the changes made during the legislative session. The new update was published in November, 2008. It's available to download (in both a searchable pdf and Word versions) on the CALAFCO website. You may also order hard copies of the document from CALAFCO in bound or punched versions.

To order or download C-K-H, 2008 please visit www.calafco.org and click on the "Resources" tab. You will find links for downloading and ordering the 2008 C-K-H update. There is also find a handy summary of all legislative changes made to the Act from 2001 through 2008, summarized by year, which can be downloaded.

State Water Plan Draft Released for Comment

The California Department of Water Resources has released the Public Review Draft of the **California Water Plan Update 2009: Integrated Water Management**. The first three volumes were released in January and February for public review and comment.

The department has been preparing and updating the water plan for 50 years. This plan looks out to the year 2050. The first

three volumes include: The Strategic Plan; Resource Management Strategies; and Regional Reports.

Public comments are due by 5 June 2009. The reports may be viewed and downloaded, and comments posted at: www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2009.

CSDA Special Districts Legislative Days, May 5-6, 2009

The California Special Districts Association's Special Districts Legislative Days will be held on May 5-6, 2009 at the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento, and we encourage everyone to attend. CALAFCO is again serving as a co-sponsor of the event.

This legislative conference provides participants with the opportunity to learn more about the top legislative issues of the year, and hear presentations on the state budget crisis and the effects on special districts, and a panel titled *Engaging the Media and the Public*. Attendees also receive training on how to effectively communicate with your legislators, hosted by Assembly Member Mike Duvall (R-Brea).

This two-day event includes a reception in the Capitol Basement Rotunda, pre-scheduled small-group visits with your legislators, and networking opportunities. This year's legislative conference will focus on districts "Rising Above the Fiscal Crisis" and will feature budget experts like State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and California Forward.

As a co-sponsor of CSDA's Special Districts Legislative Days, we encourage CALAFCO members to attend and participate in this two-day

legislative conference. For more information, a list of speakers and to register, please go to <http://csda.net/events/slld/index.htm> or call CSDA at (916) 442-7887.

Committee Issues New Report: The Quick List 2009

Our phone rings. "Where do I look in state law to find the Brown Act?" asks the assistant executive officer. Later, a constituent sends us an email message asking, "What's the cite for the redevelopment law?" And, of course, there are the never-ending questions about LAFCos, Proposition 218, subdivisions, and more.

The Senate Local Government Committee's staff got tired of looking up the same answers to the same questions, so we wrote them down. **The Quick List** was born.

The Second Edition of **The Quick List** is an annotated glossary of local government statutes. Newly revised by Helen Ho, the 2009 version lists nearly 200 key state laws, their statutory citations, and handy references. Also included are step-by-step directions for retrieving public documents and a list of helpful websites.

Useful to LAFCo staff and many other researchers, **The Quick List** is now available on the CALAFCO website (click the "Resources" tab) or order from:

Senate Publications & Flags
1020 N Street, Room B-53
Sacramento CA 95814

Single copies are \$4.04, including shipping and sales tax. Make checks payable to the *Senate Rules Committee*. Credit cards are not accepted. Ask for stock number 1353-S.

The Sphere

CALAFCO Journal

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSIONS

1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

www.calafco.org



CALAFCO provides educational, information sharing and technical support for its members by serving as a resource for, and collaborating with, the public, the legislative and executive branches of state government, and other organizations for the purpose of discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, and encouraging orderly growth and development of local agencies.

Sharing Information and Resources

CALAFCO 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Highlights of the Annual Conference in Universal City

Over 280 CALAFCO members gathered in Universal City for the 2008 Annual Conference. The theme "LAFCo: California's Future is Our Business" provided the backdrop for three days of presentations, workshops and networking opportunities for LAFCo commissioners and staff. Special thanks to **Los Angeles LAFCo** and Executive Officer **Sandy Winger** for hosting the conference and gathering an excellent line-up of presenters and activities for all participants.



Distinguished Service Award Recipient Peter Detwiler admires his statuette



The outdoor luncheon and other activities provided opportunities for commissioners from around the state to network



Speakers covered a broad range of issues from disaster-driven decision-making to mutual water companies, the future of delta water, and transportation and traffic congestion



And a few special surprises! Commissioners Denise Rushing and Mary Jane Griego meet 2008 America's Got Talent winner Neal Boyd



The Red Carpet and Hollywood glamour greeted guests at the CALAFCO Awards Banquet. Black tie was optional!



Wilda Turner shows her pride as the recipient of the Distinguished LAFCo Clerk Award



CALAFCO Awards Committee presents annual Achievement Awards