

20 February 2008

**2007-08
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The Honorable Dave Cox, Vice Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, California 95814

OPPOSITION TO SB 1131

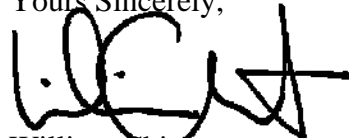
Dear Senator Cox:

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions has taken an oppose position to SB 1131 which would change the composition of the Calaveras Local Agency Formation Commission.

While the Board of Directors appreciates the value of flexibility to meet local conditions, CALAFCO has long opposed the recomposition of a LAFCo which alters the balance of powers or creates a special status for any individual agency. The Board focused its opposition on two principles. First, their belief that commissioners are appointed to represent the public at large and not individual agencies. The legislature identified this in Government Code §56325.1 which states, “*Any member appointed on behalf of local governments shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the appointing authority.*” SB 1131 creates language in the law that specifies that a particular special district should have a greater voice in LAFCo affairs. Second, the Board is concerned that this legislation will disrupt the balance of powers typical of all other LAFCos by giving one group of local agencies – special districts – a greater vote than the county or city, despite the addition of another public member.

Because of the principles of representation of the public and balance of powers, CALAFCO must oppose this bill. We appreciate the interest and support you have given to other LAFCo-related legislation and look forward to working with you on other bills in the future.

Yours Sincerely,



William Chiat
Executive Director

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c: Members and Staff, Senate Local Government Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Senate Republican Caucus