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1 April 2009

The Honorable Dean Florez
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, California 95814

SB 194: Community Equity Investment Act of 2009

Dear Senator Florez:

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions has reviewed with interest your bill SB 194 which would create the Community Equity Investment Act of 2009.

We recognize and share your concern that residents of unincorporated communities in the state have access to efficient and sustainable municipal services and infrastructure. As you know, local agency formation commissions (LAFCo) are charged with both reviewing applications for annexation, formations and consolidations, and for preparing Municipal Service Reviews every five years on every local agency providing local services in the county.

While specific language is not currently in the legislation, we understand that part of your goal is to address service and infrastructure deficits through annexation, consolidation and regionalization, when appropriate. Because these are areas where LAFCo has responsibility under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, we are interested in SB 194 and would very much like to be part of the conversation as you continue to develop the language.

LAFCos have expertise to offer on the quality and efficiency of virtually all publically-provided municipal services in California. LAFCos are effective in working with local agencies to ensure that they have the capability and capacity – including financial resources – to provide services before authorizing annexations, formations or new powers. LAFCo is also the agency that manages the process and ultimately approves consolidations of agencies with the goal of improving services and service efficiency.

There appears to be the potential for synergy between the goals of SB 194 and the legislative mission of LAFCo. As you move forward with this legislation, therefore, we respectfully request to be part of discussions on this bill. We pledge to assist in any way we can. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing more about SB 194.

Yours sincerely,



William Chiat,
Executive Director

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