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11 June 2011

The Honorable Lois Wolk, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
California State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 912 (as amended): Special District Dissolution – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions, I write to express our support for AB 912 by Assembly Member Gordon. This legislation provides LAFCo additional authority to dissolve special districts which have been recommended for dissolution under specified circumstances.

Several Legislative committees have recently held hearings on the issues of consolidation and dissolution of local agencies. CALAFCO testified that some of the obstacles relate to the lengthy and expensive process, particularly when the subject agency supports the action. In a manner similar to the island annexation provisions in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, this bill would allow a commission to order a dissolution without an election and in certain circumstances without a protest hearing.

We have appreciated the opportunity to work with the author on clarifying the process, specifying the types of local agency formation commission studies or action that may be considered, and limiting the parties who may file applications under this provision. All of these have been resolved and we believe the result is a sound public policy.

Because AB 912 would add a valuable tool for commissions, CALAFCO respectfully urges your Committee's support of the bill and requests an "Aye" vote when it is heard in your Committee.

Yours sincerely,



William Chiat,
Executive Director

- c: Members, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
Peter Detwiler, Principal Consultant, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Honorable Richard Gordon, California State Assembly