



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Pamela Miller, Executive Director
California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions
916-442-6536
pmiller@calafco.org
Date: August 31, 2017
Release Date: IMMEDIATE

Long-Awaited Little Hoover Commission Report on Special Districts Released

'Help LAFCOs Exercise Their Authority' is among the recommendations by the state oversight agency.

Sacramento, CA (Aug. 31, 2017) – The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) welcomes recommendations by the Little Hoover Commission to bolster the effectiveness of LAFCOs, the regional planning agencies that oversee creation, expansion and reorganization of special districts.

The Commission's final report, "Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Transparency," was released Aug. 30 following a year-long investigation that included two public hearings and two roundtable discussion forums. Eight of the report's 20 recommendations focus on the Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) throughout the state.

Most notably, the Commission recommended one-time grant funding by the Legislature to LAFCOs. The infusion of \$1 million to \$3 million to initiate the most urgent dissolutions and consolidations of special districts should save taxpayer dollars in the long run, according to the Commission.

The Commission also urged state lawmakers to curtail special legislation that bypasses LAFCO or divests the local agency of authority.

"The LAFCO process may not be working as it could and should in every corner of the state, but special districts remain best served by local decision-making," Commission Chairman Pedro Nava writes in the cover letter to the Governor and legislators. "To that end, the Commission recommends the Legislature curtail its practice of bypassing the local process. Additionally, the Commission offers a number of common-sense recommendations to help LAFCOs exercise their authority."

CALAFCO, which worked with the Commission and its staff on the study, lauded the suggestions.

"This has been a long and thorough study by the Little Hoover Commission. CALAFCO appreciates the Commission supporting the idea that local governments are best served locally. Further, we are pleased to see an acknowledgement and support of LAFCOs' need for additional resources," said Pamela Miller, CALAFCO's executive director. "We look forward to working with our members and stakeholders on follow-up strategies to implement the recommendations."

CALAFCO assists LAFCOs in each of the state's 58 counties with educational and technical resources, coordinates LAFCO activities, serves as a resource to the Legislature, and supports information-sharing among LAFCOs and other governmental agencies.

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions, or CALAFCO, was founded in 1971 and is a 501(c)3 membership association. It is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 16 LAFCO Commissioners representing cities, counties, special districts and the public. The membership of CALAFCO consists of all 58 LAFCOs in California, and associate members from firms, agencies and organizations throughout the state.

The CALAFCO offices are located at 1215 K St., Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814.

###