

# Santa Barbara LAFCO

## Legislative Issues

May 4, 2017

# Legislative Issues and Policies

- The Santa Barbara LAFCO Legislative Committee held its first meeting on April 12, 2017 and identified a number of pending bills that could have an impact on LAFCO's statewide and SBLAFCO in particular. Since the Commission held its Regular meeting the next day on April 13<sup>th</sup>, staff was directed to return at the next meeting with recommendations.

# Legislative Issues and Policies (Cont'd)

- **Consider Approval of Recommended Positions on Pending Legislation:**
- ***Assembly Bill 722 (Limon) re: County appointments to Isle Vista CSD Board - Consider Legislative Committee recommendation that the Commission send a letter of opposition.***  
The bill deals with determining that a member of the Board of Supervisors would be allowed to sit on the Isla Vista Community Services District Board of directors without it being an incompatible office.
- ***Senate Bill 448 (Wieckowski) re: Inactive Districts – Recommend Oppose, Unless Amended:*** Would require a local agency formation commission to dissolve any special district that is an inactive district. The bill would additionally require a local agency formation commission to initiate proceedings for the dissolution of idle districts, as specified. This bill would define the terms “inactive district” and “idle district” for these purposes. By increasing the duties of local officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

# Legislative Issues and Policies (Cont'd)

- **Assembly Bill 1725 Local Government Omnibus – CALAFCO Sponsored- Recommend Support:** The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, among other things, authorizes a local agency to make descions on local govenement changes of organization and reorganizations. This is the annual CALAFCO Omnibus bill. The bill currently has one item and will be amended soon to include five (5) additional items, that clarify the act and make non-substantive changes.
- **Assembly Bill 464 (Gallagher) – Annexations- CALAFCO Sponsored - Recommend Support:** Under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, current law requires that an applicant seeking a change of organization or reorganization submit a plan for providing services within the affected territory that includes, among other requirements, an enumeration and description of the services to be extended to the affected territory and an indication of when those services can feasibly be extended. This bill would specify that the plan is required to also include specific information regarding services currently provided to the affected territory, as applicable, and make related changes.

# Legislative Issues and Policies (Cont'd)

- ***Assembly Bill 979 (Lackey) Special District Seating on LAFCOs - CALAFCO Sponsored - Recommend Support:*** Current law dissolves redevelopment agencies and community development agencies, as of February 1, 2012, and designates successor agencies, as defined. Current law requires each successor agency to have an oversight board that is composed of 7 members who meet certain qualifications, including one member appointed by the independent special district selection committee. This bill would additionally require the executive officer to call and hold a meeting of the special district selection committee upon receipt of a written request by one or more members of the selection committee notifying the executive officer of a pending vacancy for the member representing independent special districts on an oversight board.

# Legislative Issues and Policies (Cont'd)

- ***Senate Bill 365 (Dodd) – Creation of a Parks and Recreation District – Circumvents LAFCO – Recommend Oppose:*** Current law authorizes proceedings for the formation of a regional park and open-space or regional open-space district in specified counties in the state to be initiated by resolution of the county board of supervisors adopted after a noticed hearing, and specifies the contents of the resolution. This bill, in addition, would authorize the formation of a regional district in the County of Solano to be initiated by resolution of the county board of supervisors after a noticed hearing. The bill would specify the contents of the resolution, including the calling of an election, as prescribed.

# Legislative Issues and Policies (Cont'd)

- ***Senate Bill 634 (Wilk) – Creation of the Santa Clarita Valley Water District – originally circumvented LAFCO, now LAFCO is included – Recommend Oppose, unless amended:*** Current law, the Castaic Lake Water Agency Law, created the Castaic Lake Water Agency and authorizes the agency to acquire water and water rights, including water from the State Water Project, and to provide, sell, and deliver water at wholesale for municipal, industrial, domestic, and other purposes. This bill would repeal the Castaic Lake Water Agency Law. This bill contains other related provisions and other current laws.

# CALAFCO 2017 Legislative Policies as a Guide to SBLAFCO

- It would be extremely helpful to have a set of guidelines to direct staff and commissioner regarding legislative proposals. Many LAFCO's have adopted CALAFCO's Legislative Policies either on a permanent basis or until local policies are developed and approved.
- Staff requests that the Commission review CALAFCO's 2017 Legislative Policies and approve them as a Guide for Santa Barbara LAFCO.
- It is recommended that the Commission approve CALAFCO's 2017 Legislative Policies as a Guide to Santa Barbara LAFCO. The policies are attached to the staff report as **Exhibit H**.



# Authorization to the Executive Officer to send Position letters on Pending Legislation

- In many instances, CALAFCO requested that letters of support or opposition for legislation affecting LAFCO be sent to State Legislators. Staff offers the following language to be added to the Commission's legislative policies to enable staff to respond in a timely manner:
- ***“The Executive Officer is authorized to submit position letters that do not support unfunded mandates in accordance with the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions’ (CALAFCO) annual legislative platform upon consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair when time does not allow approval by the Commission at a regular meeting.”***

# Update on Little Hoover Commission

- The Little Hoover Commission (LHC) continues to meet to discuss the status of inactive special districts. Some of the items of discussion include the following:
- The Legislature should curtail a growing practice of introducing and passing bills that override existing LAFCO processes and authority; (2) Streamline the process for LAFCOs to dissolve inactive districts; (3) Consider fixed terms for LAFCO Commissioners (to avoid random removal); (4) Update the principal act for CA Housing and Community Development (HCD); and (5) Require HCDs to create community needs assessments, annually report their progress of meeting those needs, and file all reports with LAFCO for inclusion in MSR.

Questions?