

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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April 5, 2007 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Report re Commissioner Stipends

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Commission increase the amount of the per diem payments from \$100 per meeting to \$150 per meeting, effective July 1, 2007.

DISCUSSION

On March 1 we were appointed as an *ad hoc* committee to review the matter of per diem stipends for attendance at LAFCO meetings and related activities. This became a topic of consideration since Commissioners are now to receive stipends as “employees” with payroll withholding as compared to the previous method of payment.

We determined the amount of the stipend is not adjusted on a regular basis. In fact the amount of the fee has been unchanged for more than 10 years. With the proposed change it will be unnecessary to consider revising the amount again for a few more years.

The recommended stipend amount of \$150 per meeting is similar to stipends paid by other urban and suburban LAFCOs. Other Commission stipends are Contra Costa \$125, Los Angeles \$150, Nevada \$150, Riverside \$125, and San Bernardino \$150.

The appropriation for stipends this year is \$15,400 (or 5.8%) of a LAFCO budget of \$265,838. The budgeted amount is based on 11 members attending 14 meetings; in reality significantly less is spent each year since not every Commissioner chooses to take a stipend nor do all Commissioners attend each meeting. A change to \$150 per meeting will increase the budgeted account to \$23,100, or about 8.7% of the total appropriation.

If the Commission wishes to amend the stipend amount, the following change is needed in the “Budget and Financial Procedures” section of the Commissioner Handbook:

“Per Diem Stipends for Commission members

“Members and alternative members are eligible to receive a stipend of \$150 ~~\$100~~ for attendance at the following meetings

1. Regular and special meetings of the Commission.
2. Meetings of standing committees, ad hoc committees and governmental agencies and commissions when appointed to such entities by the Commission or the Chair of the Commission.
3. Meetings of the Board of Directors of the California Association of LAFCOs when the Commissioner is a member of the Board of Directors.

“Payment of stipends is limited to no more than five (5) per member in any month.”

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions about this matter.

Very truly yours,

JOE ARMENDARIZ
Commissioner

BOB ORACH
Commissioner