

# LAFCO MEMORANDUM

## ***SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION***

105 East Anapamu Street • Santa Barbara CA 93101 • (805) 568-3391 + Fax (805) 568-2249

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March 7, 2024 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater  
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Receive and File a Report on 2024 CALAFCO Workshop & Quarterly Newsletter**

*This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary*

### DISCUSSION

The 2024 CALAFCO Staff Workshop will be held in Pleasanton, CA on April 24-26, 2024. Staff will be attending the Workshop and will report back to the Commission at the May 2, 2024 meeting. Copies of the Workshop Announcement and Registration Form are attached as Attachments B & C.

Registration for the Workshop is now open. Early registration rates are effective through March 10, 2024. Registration closes completely on April 5, 2024. Hotel reservation cut-off date is April 1, 2024. Payment may be made online using the LAFCO Credit Card which would include registration, hotel, travel and per diem expenses for staff attendees.

Attached is the CALAFCO Quarterly Report for January that provides more details about CALAFCO activities.

The 2023 CKH Act guide update are now available for download from the CALAFCO website at <https://calafco.org/>. An order form for three hardcopies have been placed for Commissioners and staff who have requested a 3-hole punch bound version.

### Attachments

Attachment A – Rene Announcement of 2024 Staff Workshop  
Attachment B – 2024 CALAF CO Staff Mobile Workshop Flyer  
Attachment C – 2024 CALAF CO Staff Workshop Registration Form  
Attachment D – CALAF CO January Newsletter

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

**mike.sblafco@gmail.com**

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**From:** Rene LaRoche <rlaroche@calafco.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 2:36 PM  
**To:** Info  
**Subject:** CALAFCO Workshop Registration Now Open!  
**Attachments:** 2024 MWS Flyer.pdf; CALAFCO 2024 Workshop Registration Form - fillable.pdf

**Here it is! The moment you've been waiting for....**



**Registration is now open for the 2024 CALAFCO Staff Workshop to be held April 24th-26th!**

**Connect with other LAFCO professionals in Pleasanton, California ~**

The Program Planning Committee is working hard to bring a stellar program to you at the 2024 CALAFCO Staff Workshop in Pleasanton. Learn and connect with other LAFCO professionals!

**Join us at the DoubleTree Inn by Hilton in Pleasanton, California for two days of training geared towards the needs of LAFCO staff. Workshop sessions include:**

- *LAFCO Trivia!* - Pit your knowledge about all things LAFCO against experienced EOs.

- *"Trust Me" - What's the big deal about trust? Learn about the art of building, repairing, and maintaining trust with other agencies to make LAFCO work go more smoothly.*
- *Write Like You Mean It - Learn to write with precision to inform stakeholders.*
- *Making Sausage - Curious about the recipe for changing the law? Then, this session is for you. Learn about the process from the ground up - including how legislators consider proposals.*
- *Back to the Basics of Staff Report Maps with GIS - Are you using your GIS effectively? Find out here, and learn some new tricks.*
- *Successful District Reorganization - What does it take? What does it entail? Learn about all of the parts that make it happen.*
- *Modernizing Fiscal Indicators - Pictures help simplify information. Learn why a picture is worth 1,000 numbers.*
- *Clerks 101 - Clerking is one of the oldest government roles out there. Learn what a career in the field entails.*
- *ADA compliance - It's more than ramps and parking spaces. Join the discussion as we discuss how ADA requirements affect your website and the documents you put on it.*
- *Lessons Learned - Detachment of Two Water Districts. Hear about a recent contentious issue and how staff and consultants approached it.*
- *...And a very special Mobile Workshop to the Wente Winery to learn about the effects of Proposition P.*

**Yes, all this and networking with friends. What could be better? Plan on joining us as we come together to share findings, challenges, and best practices in the LAFCo world!**

**REGISTRATION:**

At this time only mail-in registrations are being processed. For those paying by check, please fill out and mail in the attached registration form along with your check. For those who prefer paying by credit card, online registration should be available sometime late next week and will be announced in a separate email.

**\$100 Early Bird discount runs now through March 10th, with registration closing on April 5, 2024 - no exceptions.**

**LODGINGS:**

*Rooms at the DoubleTree Inn by Hilton located at 7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California have been blocked for this event at a rate of \$192.75\*\*.*

Make your hotel reservations by calling 925-463-8000 and mention CALAFCO or use group code "CAL" to receive the discounted event rate - or go to <https://bit.ly/2024WorkshopHotel>. **Please note that April 1, 2024, is the last day to receive the group rate.** EV Drivers: The Doubletree has confirmed the availability of EV charging stations.

\*\*Room price includes in-room Wi-Fi and parking but excludes taxes and fees.

***A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Rachel Jones and Alameda LAFCO for not just hosting the event but providing us with a sizeable donation to help keep the Workshop and Mobile Workshop registration fees down!!***

*Lots to do - lots to learn - lots of fun. Join Us In Pleasanton!*

# 2024

California Association of  
Local Agency Formation Commissions

## CALAFCO

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY GROWTH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> • 7:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

### Mobile Workshop

## Sustainable Growth: From Grounds to Grapes with Public Wastewater

In 2022, the citizens of Livermore resoundingly passed Measure P which provided the funding and mechanisms needed to extend sewer services to areas beyond the City's urban growth boundary. Join us to learn about the proposed sewer extension.

This unique half-day workshop will whisk you away to Wente Vineyards, founded in 1883 by C.H. Wente, where you will explore the vineyard's rich legacy through a guided tour of the grounds. You will then be joined by representatives from the City of Livermore who will discuss Measure P and how the proposed sewer extension addresses nitrate contamination from septic tanks, and aims to safeguard groundwater and support agriculture in the South Livermore Valley. We will also delve into discussions about the impacts of groundwater issues, the benefits of agricultural tourism, and the jurisdictional considerations of LAFCO.

The workshop will conclude with a delightful lunch provided by Wente Vineyards, where fusion, history, viticulture and collaborative initiatives create a truly enriching experience.



COST: \$60 per person (includes lunch)

Limited to the first 50 registrants

Schedule:

7:15 a.m. – Bus loads outside the hotel

7:30 a.m. – Bus departs PROMPTLY

12:30 p.m. – Return to the hotel

Dress in layers and wear closed-toe, closed-back flat shoes, as light walking is required.

*Don't miss out. Join us for a day of exploration, learning, and enjoyment!*

Thank you to our Mobile Workshop sponsors:



For more information, visit [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org) or email [info@calafco.org](mailto:info@calafco.org)

ATTACHMENT B



# Workshop Registration Form

2024 CALAFCO Annual Staff Workshop, April 24-26, 2024  
DoubleTee Inn by Hilton - Pleasanton, California

Hosted by *Alameda LAFCo*

Please submit one form for each attendee.

Name (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_

LAFCo/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name (For guest/spouse registration): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want vegetarian meal(s);

Guest:

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 5, 2024 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FEES

	Payment received by March 10, 2024	Payment received after March 10, 2024	Fee
Member – Full Workshop	\$525	\$625	\$
Non-Member – Full Workshop	\$775	\$875	\$
Guest/Spouse – All Meals	\$445	\$545	\$
Member – One Day ( ___ Wednesday or ___ Thursday)	\$425	\$525	\$
Non-Member – One Day ( ___ Wednesday or ___ Thursday)	\$600	\$700	\$
Mobile Workshop* – Wednesday (Includes lunch & admission)	\$60	\$75	\$
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE</b>			\$

\*Mobile Workshop subject to availability

Payment must accompany registration form. Please make checks payable to **CALAFCO**.

### Mail form and payment to:

CALAFCO  
1451 River Park Drive, Suite 185  
Sacramento, CA 95815

PAYMENT MUST BE **RECEIVED** BY MARCH 10 TO  
RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD RATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### CANCELLATION & REGISTRATION REFUND POLICY

1. Registrations are considered complete only when fees are received. 2. Cancellation requests made in writing and received by April 5, 2024, receive a 100% refund less \$30 handling fee. 3. Registration fees are transferable to another person not already registered provided the request is received in writing no later than April 5, 2024, and are subject to a \$30 handling fee. 4. Registration fees for guests and special events are fully refundable less a \$30 handling fee if requests are made in writing and received by April 5, 2024. A full refund is provided if the special event is canceled. 5. Cancellation requests must be made by e-mail, fax or mail to the CALAFCO office. 6. Cancellation requests made after April 5, 2024 are not eligible for a refund. 7. Credits are not issued for canceled registrations.

### Hotel Reservations

**DoubleTree Inn by Hilton**, Located at 7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Make your hotel reservations by calling 925-463-8000 and use group code "CAL" to receive the discounted event rate, or use this link: <https://bit.ly/2024WorkshopHotel>.

Room price includes parking and in-room Wi-Fi, but excludes taxes and fees. Last day to make hotel reservations is Monday, April 1, 2024. For questions, contact CALAFCO at 916-442-6536.

ATTACHMENT C



## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

**Dear Board of Directors and esteemed  
LAFCO members,**

I am honored by your invitation to serve as the Chair of the CALAFCO Board for 2024. I sincerely appreciate your trust and confidence in me, and I look forward to working with you to advance our organization's mission and vision.

As the Chair of the Board, I will strive to uphold the highest standards of leadership, integrity, and accountability. I will also seek to foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence among our board members, staff, and stakeholders. I believe that together, we can overcome any challenges and seize any opportunities that may arise in our dynamic environment.

I am excited about the prospects of our organization and the potential impact we can have on our communities and beyond. I am eager to hear your ideas, insights, and feedback on improving our performance and achieving our goals. I invite you to



contact me anytime with your suggestions, concerns, or questions.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. I am grateful to Bill Connelly and would like to thank him for his leadership in 2023. I wish you all a productive and prosperous year ahead.

Sincerely,

**Margie Mohler, Chair**

Watch for our New Look

[www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org)

## BOARD BRIEF

Retirements and other circumstances saw five members cycle off the Board after the October elections. Our profoundest thanks go to Southern region reps Jo MacKenzie (San Diego) and Mike Kelley (Imperial), Coastal Region rep Shane Stark (Santa Barbara), Northern region rep Debra Lake (Humboldt), and Central Region rep Daniel Parra (Fresno) for the time and expertise that they devoted to CALAFCO—some of them for many years. We are confident that we will see many of you in future endeavors.

In their place, we were also honored to install the five new members. Southern Region: Kimberly Cox (San Bernardino) and Yxstian Gutierrez (Riverside); Coastal Region: Kenneth Leary (Napa); Northern Region: Gordon Mangel (Nevada); and Central Region: Tamara Wallace (El Dorado). We look forward to the many contributions that we know our new Board members will make to CALAFCO. Welcome aboard, everyone!

While the end and beginning of a year are typically full of holiday happenings, the CALAFCO Board was still hard at work. Actions taken during the December and January meetings included approval of the following items:

- CALAFCO 2024 Legislative Policies and Priorities. (Those were unchanged from 2023.)
- 2024 Board meeting schedule (see the Schedule of Events on page 9 for more information.)
- FY 2024-2025 Member dues (approved with a 3.1% CPI

*(Continued on page 4)*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Margie Mohler, Chair  
Acquanetta Warren, Vice Chair  
Gay Jones, Treasurer  
Black Inscore, Secretary  
Bill Connelly  
Kimberly Cox  
Rodrigo Espinosa  
Yxstian Gutierrez  
Kenneth Leary  
Gordon Mangel  
Michael McGill  
Derek McGregor  
Anita Paque  
Wendy Root Askew  
Josh Susman  
Tamara Wallace

## CALAFCO Staff

René LaRoche, Exec. Director  
Clark Alsop, Legal Counsel  
Stephen Lucas, Exec. Officer  
José Henriquez, Dep. Exec. Ofc.  
Dawn Longoria, Dep. Exec. Ofc.  
Gary Thompson, Dep. Exec. Ofc.  
Jeni Tickler, Administrator







## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### Happy 2024!

It absolutely boggles my mind to be saying that because it seems like we just launched into 2023. Where *did* the year go?

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the new year, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community that is CALAFCO. Your enthusiasm, volunteerism, commitment, and support have made the past year truly remarkable.

We've developed a new brand and have some exciting plans in the pipeline – from our engaging events and enriching workshops, to a new website and staff photo contest – and all are designed to make the CALAFCO experience even more fantastic for our members. Stay tuned for updates and get ready to make this year the best one yet!

Of course, it wouldn't be a new year without a toast! So, here's to new beginnings, shared laughter (and lots of it), and the continued growth of our wonderful association. My wish for each of you is that the year ahead is filled with



accomplishments, health, happiness, and countless reasons to celebrate.

May we all embark on 2024 with boundless energy, fresh perspectives, and a shared spirit of collaboration, and may this year bring you nothing but joy, success, and memorable moments!

Here's to making the new year all that we want it to be!

Happy New Year!!

**René LaRoche, Executive Director**



ATTACHMENT D 03 / 09

## BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following Board member committee assignments were made on January 5, 2024:

### AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Rodrigo Espinosa (Central), Blake Inscore (Northern), Kenneth Leary (Coastal), and Derek McGregor (Southern)

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

Kenneth Leary (Coastal), Gordon Mangel (Northern), Anita Paque (Central), and Acquanetta Warren (Southern)

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Bill Connelly (Northern), Kimberly Cox (Southern), Kenneth Leary (Coastal), and Anita Paque (Central)

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Bill Connelly (Northern), Yxstian Gutierrez (Southern), Gay Jones (Central), Mike McGill (Coastal), Derek McGregor (Southern), Margie Mohler, Anita Paque, Wendy Root Askew (Coastal), Josh Susman (Northern), and Tamara Wallace (Central)

### AD HOC MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE:

Gordon Mangel (Northern), Margie Mohler (Coastal), Tamara Wallace (Central), Acquanetta Warren (Southern)

#### **BOARD BRIEF, Continued from page 2**

adjustment.)

- Amended CALAFCO Policy 4.5, pertaining to the Legislative Committee (Now defines a quorum as 7 of the Board and Staff voting members, requires the committee to disband within 15 minutes of the start time when no quorum exists, and has been reformatted for easier reading.)
- A new CALAFCO brand.
- Authorization to move association funds into higher yielding accounts.
- Appointment of members to committees.

Additional information for any Board item can be found in the agenda packets posted on the website, or by contacting the Executive Director.



## NEW BRAND UNVEILED

### NEW LOOK

It's here! It's here! After a process that started with our Strategic Planning in February, 2023, we are thrilled to share our revitalized CALAFCO brand! As our first ever professionally designed logo, this brand represents a significant milestone in our journey towards modernization and innovation under Phase I of our Strategic Plan.

Our new brand provides us with a **Refreshed Visual Identity** in a simple, modern design to better represent our professionalism, as well as **Enhanced Messaging** that builds on CALAFCO's new Mission Statement. We've also added a new tag line to better communicate the supportive position that CALAFCO plays for its members.

While operational enhancements have been happening, and continue to happen, behind the scenes, the new logo is our first public-facing change. As such, it also symbolizes our transition into a streamlined, more efficient, and modernized association.

The rebranding will soon be accompanied by a new website, which is currently under development. The new website is expected to complement our new brand with a similar modern aesthetic, while also providing us with the technological platform to take event



registrations, and administer dues and payments.

As the hub for all CALAFCO information and resources, we look forward to enhanced website features that will serve up information with an intuitive and friendly user experience. Watch for that unveiling soon!

Of course, work of this magnitude does not occur in a vacuum. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their effort to develop the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan which outlined rebranding as an action item, as well as for the input they provided to develop the logo Design Brief that guided our consultant, Tara Bravo Mulally with CV Strategies.

Also, our sincere thanks to the EOs who took the polls which provided us with needed feedback.

Finally, special thanks to our Ad Hoc Rebranding Committee members who guided the development of this new brand through multiple meetings, discussions, and polls. Those members were Mike Kelley (Southern), Steve Lucas (Northern), Margie Mohler (Coastal), and Anita Paque (Central).







## HAPPY TRAILS, JURG!!



The End of the year brought with it the retirement of long-time Imperial EO, Jurg Heuberger - a life change to which Jurg was looking forward! Displaying their characteristic solidarity, Southern Region EOs and staffers traveled to El Centro on December 13th where they wined and dined Jurg, and then hailed him the next day at his last LAFCO meeting. Respect takes many forms, and this display was certainly one of the sweetest! **Congratulations to Jurg on this new journey!**

### Associate Member SPOTLIGHT

#### NEW GOLD ASSOCIATE!

Thank you to Planwest Partners for upgrading to a **Gold Membership!**

Planwest Partners provides contract LAFCO staffing services to multiple LAFCOs - and Collette is a regular presenter at workshops and conferences! Many thanks!

Also, **WELCOME** to our new Associate member, **David Scheurich!** David is Staff Chief of Cooperative Fire Protection for CAL FIRE. His primary activities include review and assistance in coordination of Cooperative Fire Protection agreements.



### TRACKS AROUND THE STATE

Only one month into the year and we have two new EOs!

**Congratulations to Paula Graf**, who traded in the "Assistant" mantle to become the new Imperial LAFCO EO on January 1st.

And in Shasta, Krystle Heaney replaces George Williamson who happily stepped aside as EO. **Congratulations, Krystle!**

#### NEW LAWS

*(Continued from page 6)*

Governments to serve on the Coastal Commission.

**AB 557 (Hart) Brown Act teleconferencing** - Revises the rules for teleconferencing during a proclaimed emergency by removing the sunset date, removing references to social distancing, and extending the time between legislative findings of a continued emergency from the previous 30-day period to 45 days. Does not affect regular teleconferencing rules.





## 2023 CONFERENCE – MONTEREY



### “The best conference, yet!”

We heard that refrain repeatedly from attendees during the October, 2023, Annual Conference. But, it’s hard NOT to get it right when you’ve got the location, weather, and volunteers that we had to help put it all together! Thank you to the 40 or so volunteers who had our backs to make everything happen from planning to execution! It definitely takes a village to provide for 270 attendees (nearly 23% higher than our previous high) but you all nailed it!



And, a special thank you to Director Wendy Root Askew, EO Kate McKenna, and the fabulous crew from Monterey LAFCO for providing SOOOO much assistance! You guys rock!



### Award Winners

Of course, the much anticipated highlight of the event was the Achievement Awards that were presented at the Association Dinner on Thursday night. Congratulations to all of our winners!

**OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER:** *Anita Paque (Calaveras)*

**OUTSTANDING ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** *Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley*

**OUTSTANDING COMMISSIONER:** *Richard Bettencourt (San Benito)*

**OUTSTANDING LAFCO PROFESSIONAL:** (two-way tie)

*Andrea Ozdy (Ventura), and José Henriquez (Sacramento)*

**MIKE GOTCH EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS,**

- AGRICULTURE CATEGORY: *Napa LAFCO*

- INNOVATION CATEGORY: *Tom Cooley (Plumas)*

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** *Dawn Mittleman Longoria (Napa)*



And, a special congratulations to *Commissioner Fred Sheriff* from *Tulare LAFCO* who won the evening’s door prize - a spectacular painting donated by Anwar Fonseca. Congrats, Fred!



ATTACHMENT D 08 / 09



## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

*Tenaya Lodge, Fish Camp, CA  
2024 Annual Conference Site*

JANUARY	5	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
	12	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
FEBRUARY	16	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
MARCH	5	CALAFCO U -
	22	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
APRIL	12	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
	24-26	CALAFCO Staff Workshop (Pleasanton)
MAY	10	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
JUNE	14	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
JULY	12	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
	19	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
AUGUST	23	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual), if needed†
SEPTEMBER		Let's get ready for the Conference!
OCTOBER	16-18	CALAFCO Annual Conference (Yosemite)
	17	CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting (Yosemite)
	18	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Yosemite)
NOVEMBER	1	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
DECEMBER	6	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual), if needed†



\* 10:00 AM Start time  
† 9:00 AM Start time