

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
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February 2, 2012 (Agenda)

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

El Dorado LAFCO Correspondence to California Forward

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission review the enclosed letter from the El Dorado LAFCO to California Forward (November 18, 2011) and determine what action, if any, it wishes to take.

DISCUSSION

California Forward (or CA Fwd) is a private, public-interest organization whose stated mission is to help create “smart” government in California. At its October 2011 meeting the El Dorado LAFCO directed distribution of the enclosed letter to all other LAFCOs.

CA Fwd has sponsored community meetings throughout the State and produced a strategy for seeking voter approval to adjust state/local government roles and finance, foster regional collaboration and more clearly align government authority with responsibility. It was thought CA Fwd would present initiatives on the 2012 ballot but the most recent information is that these voter-measures may not be presented to the public until 2013.

Staff recommends the Commission determine what action, if any, it wishes to take at this time.

Sincerely,



BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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November 18, 2011

Thomas V. McKernan, Co-Chair
Robert M. Hertzberg, Co-Chair
California Forward
1107 9th Street, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairs McKernan and Hertzberg,

On behalf of the members of the El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed California Forward initiative your organization is currently circulating for signatures. If approved, we believe the initiative will have unforeseen consequences on local governments and LAFCO's ability to provide services to those governments.

The initiative, among other things, requires agencies to create "Community Strategic Action Plans" and would give local governments the incentives and authority to design programs that work together to improve results. Cities, counties, school districts and special districts would identify common goals and how they would coordinate actions to cost-effectively achieve them. The proposal would also give local governments the ability to reallocate local sales and property taxes, separate from revenues allocated to schools, and provide incentive funding from the state.

While the goal of making government services more transparent and efficient is laudable, the initiative, as presently written, makes two incorrect assumptions: That all agencies are in a position to collaborate and that all services are the same.

- *The initiative is silent on what services should be covered by these plans or what occurs to the funding streams of agencies that will not or cannot participate.* Citizens and residents in some parts of the state receive their services from single-purpose agencies or from isolated multi-purpose agencies. It would be difficult for these agencies to participate in action plans or to identify common goals with other local entities. Since these districts tend to be in rural areas, the initiative makes them uncompetitive for state funding or other incentives, putting them further behind and potentially at financial risk.
- *The initiative considers all government services equal.* At this time, the initiative treats LAFCO services as if they are comparable to providing worker retraining or improving child welfare. However, we provide inherently different services from those of other local agencies. The LAFCO mandate is the preservation of

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City Members: Bruce Grego, Wendy Mattson • Alternate City Member: Carl Hagen

County Members: Ron Biggs, James R. Sweeney • Alternate County Member: Ray Nutting

Special District Members: Ken Humphreys, Harry J. Norris • Alternate Special District Member: Shiva Frentzen

STAFF

José C. Henriquez, Executive Officer • Erica Sanchez, Policy Analyst

Denise Tebaldt, Interim Commission Clerk • Andrew Morris, Commission Counsel

Letter of Concern to CAFWD

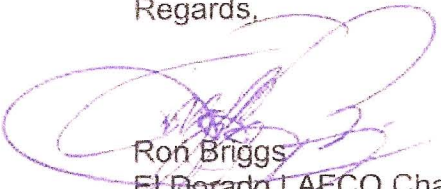
November 18, 2011

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agriculture and open space resources, the efficient provision of services, encourage the orderly formation of governments and the prevention of urban sprawl. In addition, we provide other types of assistance to local governments that are not typically offered at the local level, such as being an intermediate between agencies and being a resource to resolve issues related to service provision or boundary disputes. These services are so unique it precludes us from participating in almost any action plan. In fact, we may not want to participate in action plans dominated by one agency in order to maintain our reputation of neutrality. Yet if the initiative ties funding to participation, LAFCO's funding streams are potentially jeopardized.

For these reasons, we have cause to believe that the initiative has the potential to fiscally endanger local government and LAFCO's ability to provide services to those local governments.

Regards,



Ron Briggs
El Dorado LAFCO Chair
El Dorado County Supervisor, District IV