

# LAFCO MEMORANDUM

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

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

September 2, 2021 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater  
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: REPORT ON 2021 CALAFCO Annual Conference, Newport Beach, October 6-8

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

### DISCUSSION

The 2021 CALAFCO Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, on October 6 through October 8, 2021.

The 2021 Conference Announcement is attached (Attachment A). Also attached is the Annual Conference Preliminary Program (Attachment B). Water and fire concerns are main themes. Other topics include tax sharing agreements, pensions liabilities, and indemnification agreements among others.

Four Commissioners and staff have indicated their interest to attend the Conference. Staff will report back to the Commission by email as the program reaches its final form, since our next meeting is scheduled after the annual conference dates.

The CALAFCO August 2021 Quarterly Report is attached and provides more details about CALAFCO Board activities.

### Attachments

Attachment A – Conference Announcement

Attachment B – Preliminary Conference Program

Attachment C – CALAFCO August 2021 Quarterly Report

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.



# Announcing The 2021 CALAFCO Annual Conference

Hosted by CALAFCO

**October 6 - 8**

Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach  
Conveniently located near the John Wayne Airport



## Highly Relevant & Diverse General & Breakout Session Topics

- The New Era: State of the State in terms of extreme water and fire issues, and what it means for LAFCo\* (Wed)
- Looming pension liabilities (Thu)
- City/District funding and property tax agreements (Thu)
- Post-pandemic workforce best practices for hiring staff (Thu)
- Hot topic facilitated breakouts – two rounds (Thu)
- The “bilities” of water and the LAFCo connection: Availability, accessibility, and portability (along with quality and state mandates)\* (Wed)
- Cyber Security threats to LAFCos and local agencies\* (Fri)
- Annual CALAFCO Legislative Update\* (Fri)
- CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting (for all CALAFCO members)\* (Thu)

*Note: The Program is subject to change.  
\*Indicates General Session*

## Special Highlights

### LAFCo 101

An introduction to LAFCo and LAFCo law for Commissioners, Staff, and anyone interested in learning more about LAFCo

*Wednesday from  
10:00 a.m. to Noon*

### Special Thursday afternoon session:

#### Hot Topic Roundtables

Join us for a special kind of breakout session format: **topical roundtables**. Choose the topics that are of most interest to you and join the conversation. This is a chance to share issues, existing best practice solutions, and create new and innovation solutions. Each round of the two-round breakouts will be approx. 50 mins.

*Topical list still being prepared and may include LAFCo indemnification, sea level rise, pandemic recovery, local fire issues, local water issues.*

It's been 2 years since we've seen you...are you missing each other?

**We've Created**

## Invaluable Networking Opportunities for Reconnection!

- Regional Roundtable discussions on current regional LAFCo issues
- Extended roundtable discussion for LAFCo legal counsel
- Networking breakfasts and extended breaks
- Welcome Reception Wednesday
- Thursday Pre-dinner Reception & breaks with Sponsors
- Awards Banquet Thursday

## Hyatt Regency Newport Beach at the John Wayne Airport



Make your reservations now at the **Hyatt Regency** at the special CALAFCO rate of \$194 (excludes tax and fees). Special rates available 3 days pre- and post-conference on availability, includes in-room wifi and parking.

**Reservation cutoff date is 9/6/21.**

TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS, PLEASE VISIT: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SNARJ/G-CAL2> or call directly at 949-975-1234 and reference CALAFCO event.

Visit [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org) for Conference details or call us at 916-442-6536.

**Mark your calendar and  
plan to attend!**

**Registration is now open!  
Visit [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org)**



# Announcing The 2021 CALAFCO Annual Conference Preliminary Program



(Last updated July 22, 2021)  
*Sessions are subject to change*  
*Speakers are being finalized and sessions are being formatted*

Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

NO Mobile Workshop this year

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

LAFCo 101 – Understanding and applying the basics

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Conference Opening

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**General session:** The New Era: State of the State in terms of extreme water and fire issues, and what it means for LAFCo

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break With Sponsors

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**General session:** The “bilities” of water and the LAFCo connection: Availability, accessibility, and portability (along with quality and state mandates)

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

CALAFCO Reception

*Dinner on your own*





Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast Buffet**

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

**Regional Caucus meetings and Elections**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**CALAFCO Annual Business meeting**

*All members are invited to attend.*

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Refreshment Break with Sponsors**

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Regional Roundtables**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Luncheon**

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- Looming Pension Liabilities
- City/District Funding and tax sharing agreements
- Post-pandemic workforce best practices for hiring staff

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Refreshment Break**

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Hot Topic Facilitated Discussions**

3:15 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.

**Round 1: Choose between:**

- Local water issues
- Local fire issues
- LAFCo indemnification



ATTACHMENT B



4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Round Two: Choose between:

- Local water issues
- Local fire issues
- Housing, RHNA & LAFCo decisions

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Pre-dinner Reception with Sponsors

6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Banquet and Awards

Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

General session: Cybersecurity threats to local agencies

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

General session: CALAFCO legislative update

*Conference adjourns*



ATTACHMENT B



# News from the Board of Directors CALAFCO QUARTERLY

August 2021

A message from the Executive Director

Greetings from your CALAFCO Board of Directors and Executive Director. It's summer and a hot one it is.

As the drought continues, wildfires begin to rage, and we continue to deal with the pandemic, we hope everyone is staying healthy and safe

This Third Quarterly Report of 2021 will begin by highlighting the news in our CALAFCO family first, followed by Association updates. Happy reading!

## LAFcos in the News

### Congratulations on these retirements

We want to congratulate two long-time LAFCo leaders on their retirements. Their contributions to CALAFCO and to LAFcos statewide are far too numerous to list here. Needless to say, they both leave huge shoes to fill and will be greatly missed. We wish them both all the best in their retirement!



After a 33-year career in local government, **Don Lockhart**, Sacramento LAFCo Executive Officer, retired at the end of July. Don began his local government career in Calaveras, then after 12 years at the City of Sacramento (where he processed his first annexation), he joined the Sacramento LAFCo team in

2002. Don became the Executive Officer in 2017. Don also served as CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer in 2008 and 2011.

Also calling it time to retire this month is Placer LAFCo Executive Officer **Kris Berry**. Her local government career began 36 years ago in Monterey County as a Planner, and after 17 years she joined the Monterey LAFCo team. She's been the Placer LAFCo EO for well over 16 years. Kris also served as CALAFCO Deputy Executive Officer in 2016-17.



### Napa LAFCo moved offices



**Napa LAFCo** recently moved offices. The new address is 1754 Second Street, Suite C, Napa, CA 94559. Executive Officer **Brendon Freeman** thanks **Kathy Mabry**, Commission

Secretary, who he says, "Did most of the heavy lifting in terms of finding the office and coordinating moving logistics".

### Sacramento LAFCo Welcomes New Executive Officer

Sacramento LAFCo announced the hiring of **José Henríquez** as the new Executive Officer. Most recently, José was the Executive Officer of El Dorado LAFCo.

### El Dorado LAFCo Announces Interim Executive Officer

**Erica Sanchez** has transitioned to the Interim EO position for El Dorado LAFCo, with the departure of José.



## CALAFCO Educational Events

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING CALAFCO EDUCATIONAL EVENTS!

#### CALAFCO 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us **October 6-8** at the **Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport** for the 2021 Annual Conference. It's been so long since we've gathered in person and the time is finally here! All Conference details including info about the program, registration and hotel reservations can be found on the CALAFCO website at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org).



**Deadline to register for the Conference is September 17 and hotel reservation cutoff date is September 6.**

#### CALAFCO UNIVERSITY

**CALAFCO University** We are pleased to continue offering webinars at no cost to our members. During the month of August we are featuring a very special 4-part series on **Fire and EMS Agencies: Basics, Challenges and LAFcos' Role & Responsibility**. The first three sessions feature diverse and highly experienced panels that are focusing on the various service models and types of services offered by these unique agencies, how to conduct a thorough evaluation of services, and what's involved in changing contracts (\$56134). The final session will present three very different case studies from urban, suburban and rural LAFcos.

ATTACHMENT C



Join us on September 1 for another session on *Forming a CSD*. Details for all CALAFCO University courses are on the CALAFCO website.

### CALAFCO Board of Directors

#### CALAFCO BOARD ACTIONS

The Board met virtually on July 30 with a full agenda. Under the leadership of *Chair Mike Kelley*, the Board took a number of actions.



- ✓ **The FY 2020-21 final year-end budget was presented.** The Board received the year-end fiscal report which includes a net balance of \$69,986. For the first time, CALAFCO had to sustain itself solely on member dues as there was no Staff Workshop, Conference or CALAFCO U revenue. Savings were realized in many operational areas.
- ✓ **Updated Policies for Sections III and IV of the current CALAFCO Policies were adopted.** One of the goals for 2021 is to conduct a comprehensive review of CALAFCO Policies, considering two sections per quarter. This is the second of a three-phase update process. The updated policies can be found on the CALAFCO website.
- ✓ **Associate member survey was presented.** CALAFCO recently conducted a survey of our Associate members to get feedback on membership services provided and how we can enhance our partnership value with them. Staff will continue to gather information from our Associate members as we work towards revitalizing and enhancing that program.
- ✓ **The Board received the Legislative Committee report and began discussion on legislative priorities for 2022.** An update on current legislative matters was provided, followed by a discussion about potential legislative priorities for 2022. The Board considered the extension of service proposal it tabled for 2021 and committed to revisit for 2022, along with supporting moving forward the consolidated language of existing protest provisions and an Omnibus bill.

Last quarter we reported to you on the Board's approval of CALAFCO filing an amicus letter to the CA Supreme Court requesting they review the decision in the case of *San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission v. City of Pismo Beach*. The letter was filed and the Court denied the request to review the decision, and further denied the request to de-publish the decision. While the Board acknowledges this is an important and unfavorable decision for LAFCo's, there is mixed sentiment amongst LAFCo's as to the overall impact of this decision. As a result, there will be

discussion of the matter during the Annual Conference at the legal counsel roundtable and during a topical roundtable breakout session.

- ✓ **Several other reports were received.** Including Elections Committee, Awards Committee, a CALAFCO U update and an update on the Conference.

All Board meeting documents are on the CALAFCO website.

### CALAFCO Administrative Update

A reminder to all our members that September 1 is the deadline to remit your CALAFCO dues for FY 2021-22. We are pleased to report that all Associate Members have been transitioned to a FY cycle rather than calendar year cycle and thank them for their patience during that transition.



### CALAFCO Legislative Update



This is the first year in the two-year legislative cycle, and wow has it been a busy one so far for CALAFCO.

This year, 2,721 bills were introduced which is about the average number. However, complicating the legislative process this year is the fact the Legislature has compressed their hearing schedule due to a shortage of hearing rooms that allow for social distancing. This means there is not the normal timeframe to negotiate amendments before bills get heard in committee and legislators are being required to seriously prioritize their bills for passage. (Only 12 bills per author were allowed to move from their house of origin to the other house.)

The Legislature returns from summer recess on August 16 and there will be the last minute flurry of amendments and pushing bills through the pipeline. Looming deadlines include: August 27 - last day for fiscal committees to meet and push out bills; September 3 - last day to amend bills on the floor; and September 10 - last day for the Legislature to pass bills. The last day for the Governor to sign bills is October 10, 2021.

This year, more than in past years, CALAFCO has been called on to work with legislators, their staff, and stakeholders in crafting amendments to bills. CALAFCO staff has done a large amount of negotiation on current



and potential legislation, beginning last November and continuing today.

This year alone, four subcommittees were created to work on various bills, including the Caballero water authority bill (never introduced), AB 1195 (C. Garcia), SB 403 (Gonzalez) and SB 96 (Dahle). CALAFCO wishes to thank all the Legislative Committee and Advisory Committee volunteers, and also those who serve on these various subcommittees.

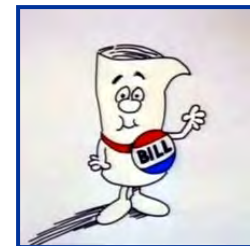
We are currently tracking 33 bills. Here are a few of the bills of importance we are tracking or have worked on:

- ✓ **AB 1581 (Assembly Local Government Committee Omnibus) CALAFCO Sponsor.** The annual Omnibus bill authored by the Assembly Local Government Committee (ALGC) and sponsored by CALAFCO was first introduced on March 9, 2021 and contained four proposals. Amended on April 19, the bill added two proposals originally approved by the Committee that required extended stakeholder review, and seven additional items that were a product of the Protest Working Group, eliminating obsolete special provisions. In total, the Omnibus bill this year contains thirteen (13) proposals. *The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 28, 2021.*
- ✓ **AB 1195 (C. Garcia) CALAFCO Watch With Concerns.** Drinking water. Creates the So LA County Human Rights to Water Collaboration Act and gives the Water Board authority to appoint a Commissioner to oversee the Central Basin Municipal Water District. CALAFCO worked extensively with staff from both the author and Speaker's offices, as well as other stakeholders on crafting amendments that include a special pilot program for LA LAFCo. The bill passed the Assembly but given substantial pushback from stakeholders, it was *held over in the Senate as a two-year bill.*
- ✓ **SB 403 (Gonzalez) CALAFCO Neutral.** Drinking water consolidation. Authorizes the Water Board to order consolidation where a water system serving a disadvantaged community is an at-risk water system, as defined, or where a disadvantaged community is substantially reliant on at-risk domestic wells, as defined. All three of our requested amendments were accepted by the author and we removed our opposition as a result. After undergoing three rounds of amendments since introduction, the bill passed the Senate and is in the *Assembly Appropriations Suspense file.*
- ✓ **AB 897 (Mullin) CALAFCO Support.** Regional Climate Networks. The bill builds on existing programs through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) by promoting regional collaboration in climate adaptation and resilience planning and providing guidance for regions to identify and prioritize projects necessary to respond to the climate vulnerabilities of their region. CALAFCO requested an amendment to explicitly state LAFCos are eligible entities for

participation in the regional climate networks, which was accepted. *The bill is now awaiting hearing in Senate Appropriations.*

All bills being tracked by CALAFCO can be found on the CALAFCO website inside the Legislation section of the site (log in with your member id first to access this section). CALAFCO's position on all bills is reflected there, and any letters issued by CALAFCO are posted. The CALAFCO Legislative Committee meets regularly and all meeting materials are located in the Legislation section of the CALAFCO website.

Watch for solicitation of legislative proposals for 2022 coming soon!



### CALAFCO Associate Members' Corner



*This section is dedicated to highlighting our Associate Members. The information below is provided to CALAFCO by the Associate member upon joining the Association. All Associate member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.*

#### **Economic & Planning Systems (EPS)**

**EPS** is an urban economics consulting firm specializing in governance analysis; LAFCo special studies and service reviews; tax sharing; annexation; incorporation, and reorganization feasibility; fiscal analysis; public finance; demographic and regional forecasting. **EPS** has been an Associate member since June 2005. Learn more about **EPS** and their services at [www.epsys.com](http://www.epsys.com), or contact **Ashleigh Kanat** at [akanat@epsys.com](mailto:akanat@epsys.com).





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## Goleta West Sanitary District

A Silver Associate Member since August 2011, **Goleta West Sanitary District** provides wastewater collection and treatment as well as street sweeping services. Formed in 1954, the district serves over 35,000 people. For more information, visit their website at [www.goletawest.com](http://www.goletawest.com), or email their General Manager **Mark Nation** at [info@goletawest.com](mailto:info@goletawest.com).



## LACO Associates

**LACO Associates** has been a Silver Associate Member since February 2012. **LACO** provides integrated solutions for development, infrastructure and geo-environmental projects. Their services include planning, design, engineering and geo-environmental as well as CEQA compliance, GIS, MSRs and economic studies. For more information visit their website at [www.lacoassociates.com](http://www.lacoassociates.com), or email **Kevin Doble** at [doblek@lacoassociates.com](mailto:doblek@lacoassociates.com).



## Griffith, Masuda & Hobbs

**Griffith, Masuda & Hobbs** has been a Silver Associate Member since March 2012. Founded in 1920, they specialize in water, energy, environmental and public law matters. They focus on serving public agencies and serve as general counsel or special water counsel to various agencies in the Central Valley. For more information, visit their website at [www.calwaterlaw.com](http://www.calwaterlaw.com) or email **David Hobbs** at [dhobbs@calwaterlaw.com](mailto:dhobbs@calwaterlaw.com).

## HdL Coren & Cone

**HdL Coren & Cone** has been a Silver Associate Member since July 2013. They assist local agencies by using property tax parcel data for developing specialized data reports, focused economic development strategies and revenue projections. HdLCC provides services to cities, counties and special districts in the state. For more information, visit them at [www.hdlcompanies.com](http://www.hdlcompanies.com), or email **Paula Cone** at [pcone@hdlccpropertytax.com](mailto:pcone@hdlccpropertytax.com).



## Planwest Partners, Inc.

**Planwest Partners Inc.** has been a Silver Associate Member since August 2014. They provide contract LAFCo staffing services to multiple LAFCos. This includes preparing and conducting MSRs and SOI updates, public noticing, environmental documents, GIS, fiscal and economic studies, website management, application processing, facilitation and training. For more information, visit them at [www.planwestpartners.com](http://www.planwestpartners.com), or email **George Williamson** at [georgew@planwestpartners.com](mailto:georgew@planwestpartners.com).



*CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to highlight you in future Quarterly Reports. Look for our next update to include short interviews featuring our Associate Members.*

## Did You Know??

### Meeting Documents Online

Did you know that all **CALAFCO Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting documents are online?** Visit the Boards & Committees pages in the Members Section of the site. Board documents cover 2008 to present and Legislative Committee documents span 2007 to present.



### CALAFCO Webinars & Courses Archived

Did you know that all **CALAFCO Webinar recordings are archived on the CALAFCO website and available at no cost for on-demand viewing?** Visit the CALAFCO website in the CALAFCO Webinars section (log in as a member first). There are now 30 CALAFCO U courses archived, and 8 webinars are archived and available for on-demand viewing.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**Deadline to submit Achievement Award nominations is August 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Deadline to submit Board election nomination packets is September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and requests for absentee ballots must be received by September 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

## Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming CALAFCO Events

- ❖ CALAFCO U webinar on Fire/EMS Agency series – 8/16, 8/23 and 8/26
- ❖ CALAFCO U webinar on Forming a CSD – 9/1
- ❖ CALAFCO Leg meeting – 9/10 (virtual)
- ❖ CALAFCO Annual Conference – 10/6 – 10/8 (Newport Beach)
- ❖ CALAFCO Board Meeting – 10/8 (Newport Beach)
- ❖ CALAFCO Leg meeting – 10/22 (location TBD)



The **CALAFCO 2021 Calendar of Events** can be found on the CALAFCO website.

