

SAN MATEO

**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

455 COUNTY CENTER, 2ND FLOOR • REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063-1663 • PHONE (650) 363-4224 • FAX (650) 363-4849

**September 9, 2015****To:** LAFCo Commissioners**From:** Martha Poyatos, Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Poyatos', written over the printed name.

**Subject:** Report on Attendance at CALAFCO Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA  
September 2-4, 2015

Along with Chair Craig and Commissioners Garbarino and Lohman, I attended the CALAFCO conference at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento, CA from Wednesday, September 2 through Friday, September 4, 2015. The program included several valuable sessions covering a variety of topics, including "LAFCo 101," agriculture and the drought, the 2014 Groundwater Sustainability Act, finance mechanisms for public infrastructure, fiscal analysis, climate change, and leadership and legislation affecting LAFCos.

The conference also included regional roundtable sessions for networking with other LAFCos. Speakers and panelists included State officials and experts in several areas of interest to LAFCos, e.g., the Director of Office of Planning and Research, and the Secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency and the Departments of Food and Agriculture and Water Resources. I will share conference handouts including information on infrastructure financing with County departments, cities, and special districts.

Please see the attached conference program for more detailed information.

Attachment: 2015 CALAFCO Annual Conference Conference Program

RECEIVED

SEP 14 2015

LAFCO

September 10, 2015  
420 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

To: Members, Formation Commission

From: Richard Lohman, LAFCo Alternate Commissioner for Special Districts

Subject: Report on Attendance at CALAFCo Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 2-4, 2015

I attended the California Association of LAFCos (CALAFCo) conference at the Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, California on September 2-4, 2015, along with ED Martha Poyatos and Commissioners Craig and Garbarino. The program stressed topics dealing with the drought, agriculture, underground water basins, and LAFCO possible future roles in these areas.

I attended the following sessions:

1. LAFCo 101 – This covered the complete history of LAFCo, including the principle legislation that created LAFCo and defined its role in California. It also covered political contributions and the need to provide fair hearings to all applicants.
2. The confluence of Agriculture, Planning and Resources – Discussions with the CA Secretaries of Natural Resources and Agriculture on the challenges of multi-district water basins, greenhouse gases, and employment
3. Groundwater Basin Management, including GSA's, GPA's, and SGMA
4. Roundtable Discussion with all LAFCo chapters in the Coastal Region
5. Keynote Address – LAFCO's can to more to improve government services.
6. Financing Municipal Services – A discussion of most of the agencies that provide grants or loans for projects, such as, water recycling
7. Climate Change
8. Many Networking opportunities with other LAFCo's.

Conference presentations will soon be available on-line for downloading.



Richard Lohman

September 16, 2015

To: San Mateo County LAFCo

From: Linda Craig, Chair

Re: Attendance at 2015 CALAFCo Conference  
September 2-4, 2015 Sacramento CA

As usual, the Conference had many interesting sessions. I attended the general sessions with updates on State regulations, new groundwater basin sustainability district requirements, training for commissioner effectiveness, and Ted Gaebler, author of Reinventing Government. I chose to attend the breakout sessions on how changes in population (age and ethnicity) may influence LAFCo concerns, and the one on how climate change will affect governance needs (great example from Marin County). The year-end Legislative wrap-up was especially interesting, because our LAFCo has been an active participant in sending letters on bills this year. It helped to know how the CALAFCo Leg Committee made their decisions, and how our "preapproval" of policies assisted in timely advocacy letters.

I represented our San Mateo County LAFCo as the voting delegate for the selection of CALAFCo Board members from the Coastal Region. I spoke at the caucus of the Coastal Region, by mentioning the detailed article in THE SPHERE publication with details of our July meeting: Los Trancos County Water District dissolution; San Mateo County Harbor District MSR and sphere confirmation, and the north County reviews of 10 agencies. At the Annual Meeting, changes adopted by the CALAFCo Board regarding their approach to conferences in the future, staffing and dues were discussed as well. Next year's conference will be in Santa Barbara.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to meet with LAFCo commissioners from around the state.

September 10, 2015

San Mateo LAFCo  
455 County Center, 2nd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94025

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 14 2015  
**LAFCO**

Dear Chair and Commission:

On behalf of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), I would like to thank your commission for allowing some of your members and/or staff the opportunity to attend the CALAFCO 2015 annual conference in Sacramento.

We know how lean budgets and resources are and understand that prioritizing expenditures can be difficult. Ensuring you and your staff have access to ongoing professional development and specialized educational opportunities, allows all of you the opportunity to better serve your commission and fulfill the mission of LAFCo. The sharing of information and resources among the LAFCo commissioners and staff statewide serves to strengthen the LAFCo network and creates opportunities for rich and value-added learning that is applied within each LAFCo.

Thank you again for your participation in the CALAFCO 2015 annual conference, I hope you found it a valuable experience. We truly appreciate your membership and value your involvement in CALAFCO.

Yours sincerely,



Pamela Miller  
Executive Director





# The 2015 CALAFCO Annual Conference

September 2 - 4, 2015  
At the Hyatt Regency in  
Sacramento, CA



Hosted by  
Sacramento LAFCo





# Conference Schedule at a Glance

## Wednesday, September 2

- 8:00 am Mobile Workshop
- 10:00 LAFCO 101: Understanding & Applying the Basics
- 1:15pm Conference Opening (Welcoming Remarks)
- 2:00 General Session – At the Confluence of Agriculture, Planning, and Resources
- 3:30 Refreshment Break
- 3:45 General Session - GSAs, GSPs and SGMA: Coming to a Basin Near You!
- 6:00 Bounty of Your County - CALAFCO 9th Annual Beer & Wine Competition/Reception

## Thursday, September 3

- 7:00am Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 Regional Caucus Meetings & Elections
- 9:00 CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting
- 10:15 Refreshment Break
- 10:30 Breakout Session – Regional, Legal and Associate Member Roundtables
- 12:00pm Luncheon and Keynote Address
- 1:45 Breakout Session:
  - Broadband: Which Side of the Digital Divide is Your LAFCo On?
  - CKH and the Bell Curve: LAFCo and California's Changing Culture
  - Financing Municipal Services: Find the Right Financial Fit for Your Project
- 3:15 Refreshment Break
- 3:30 Breakout Session:
  - Fiscal Analysis Tools for New Development
  - LAFCos Role in Planning for Climate Change
  - Urban Growth Boundaries and LAFCos
- 6:00 Banquet Reception
- 6:30 Dinner and Achievement Awards Ceremony

## Friday, September 4

- 7:30 am Breakfast Buffet
- 7:30 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting and Breakfast
- 9:00 General Session: Leadership in a World of VUCA – Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity
- 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 10:45 General Session - CALAFCO Legislative Update – The Good, The Bad, and Everything In-between
- 12:00pm Conference adjourns



On behalf of the CALAFCO Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our Annual Conference in Sacramento. Thank you for joining us as we gather to merge ideas with solutions to address the unique and complicated challenges of our great State. I encourage you to take advantage of the various educational and networking opportunities that are planned over the next several days. Also take advantage of the perspectives from around the state to discuss statewide and local issues critical to LAFCo, learn from speakers and consultants who are experts in their fields, and share ideas with one another.

I hope you enjoy the conference!

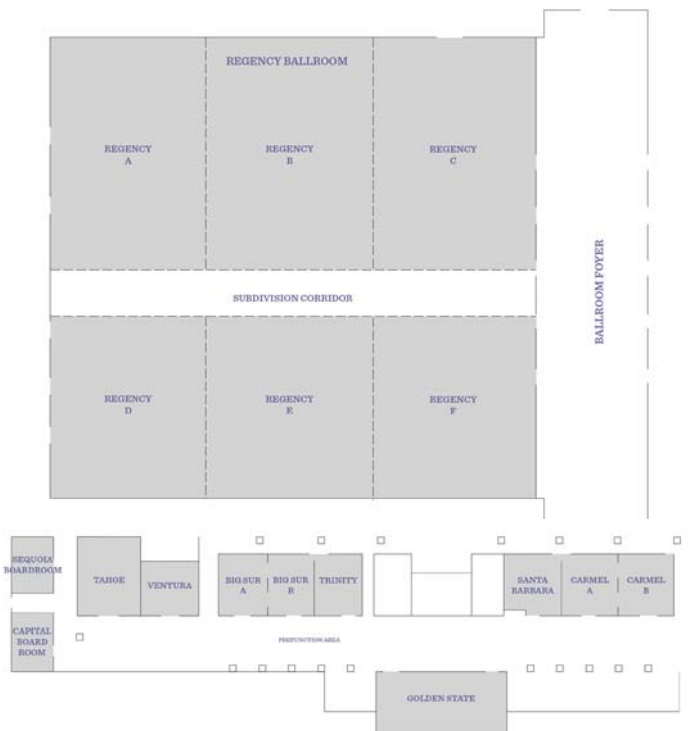
John Leopold  
Commissioner, Santa Cruz LAFCo  
Chair, CALAFCO Board of Directors



On behalf of your host, Sacramento LAFCo, and the CALAFCO Conference Committee, I am honored and delighted to welcome you to the 2015 CALAFCO Annual Conference. This conference offers a unique opportunity for LAFCos around the state to get together and talk about our roles as LAFCo Commissioners and Staff. I am confident the content-rich sessions will showcase how LAFCos can merge innovative and creative ideas with solutions as we face California's greatest challenges.

I want to thank you for taking the time to participate in this conference and welcome to Sacramento!

Gay Jones  
Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo  
Chair, CALAFCO Conference Committee



## Wednesday - September 2, 2015

7:30am - 12:30pm

### Mobile Workshop

*Bus leaves promptly  
at 7:30 am*

Come along on the Mobile Workshop as we have a special look at the physical confluence of the Sacramento & American rivers, followed by a tour of the largest and most progressive inland Waste Water Treatment Plant west of the Mississippi, and close with a tour of the Delta levee & habitat. Lunch at the historic Old Sugar Mill included.

10:00am - 12:00pm

### LAFCo 101 - Regency Ballroom A/B/C

*Approved for 2.0  
AICP CM Credits*

This informative presentation is intended to assist elected officials and staff members of counties, cities, and special districts who may be new to the LAFCo process. Panelists will discuss the basics; the LAFCo review process; required Spheres of Influence and Municipal Service Reviews; and the latest requirements for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities.

Speakers: Michael Colantuono, Attorney, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC  
Carolyn Emery, Executive Officer, Orange LAFCo  
Mary Jane Griego, Commissioner, Yuba LAFCo

Moderator: Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer, Contra Costa LAFCo

1:15pm - 2:00pm

### Conference Opening (Welcoming Remarks) - Regency Ballroom

John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCo Board

Gay Jones, Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo and CALAFCo Conference Chair

Angelique Ashby, Chair, Sacramento LAFCo and City of Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem

Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCo

Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 552 Honor Guard and Sacramento Firefighters Pipes and Drums

2:00pm - 3:30pm

### At the Confluence of Agriculture, Planning, and Resources - Regency Ballroom A/B/C

*Approved for 1.5  
AICP CM Credits*

Join us as we hear from top officials in the Governor's administration including the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Natural Resources, and Food & Agriculture on critical issues facing LAFCos and the state. We will hear about the role each of these departments has in the planning and execution of drought-related solutions, the alignment of land use planning and integrated regional water management, and how LAFCos may be a partner in these solutions. We will hear about Sustainable Communities Strategies, the new authorities of the State Water Resources Control Board, and how the drought has impacted the preservation of agricultural lands.

Speakers: Ken Alex, Director, CA Office of Planning & Research  
John Laird, Secretary, CA Natural Resources Agency  
Karen Ross, Secretary, CA Department of Food & Agriculture

Moderator: John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCo Board

3:30pm - 3:45pm

### Refreshment Break - Regency Ballroom Corridor

3:45pm - 5:00pm

### GSAs, GSPs and SGMA: Coming to a Basin Near You! - Regency Ballroom A/B/C

*Approved for 1.25  
AICP CM Credits*

In 2014, the Groundwater Sustainability Act was enacted to strengthen the sustainability of California's groundwater resources. California's groundwater basins and sub-basins make up approximately 38% of the State's total water supply in average rainfall years, 46% in dry years, and up to 100% in certain communities that rely exclusively on groundwater. Learn about the Act's implementation efforts to date and explore how LAFCos could be affected and why LAFCos should pay attention.

Speakers: David Church, Executive Officer, San Luis Obispo LAFCo  
Mark Cowin, Director, CA Dept. of Water Resources  
Jill Duerig, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency  
Matt Hurley, Board Member, ACWA

Moderator: Dr. Roger Welt, Commissioner, Santa Barbara LAFCo

6:00pm - 7:30pm

### Bounty of Your County - Poolside

CALAFCo 9th Annual Beer & Wine Competition/Reception

## Thursday - September 3, 2015

7:00am - 9:00am

### Continental Breakfast - Regency Ballroom Corridor

8:00am - 8:45am

### Regional Caucus Meetings & Elections

**Northern Region - Carmel A**

**Southern Region - Carmel B**

**Coastal Region - Golden State**

**Central Region - Big Sur A/B**

9:00am - 10:15am

### CALAFCo Annual Business Meeting - Regency Ballroom A/B/C

John Leopold, Chair, CALAFCo Board

## Thursday - September 3, 2015 (continued)

- 10:15am - 10:30am **Refreshment Break - Regency Ballroom Corridor**
- 10:30am - 11:15am **Breakout Session - Regional, Legal and Associate Member Roundtables**  
**Northern Region - Carmel A** **Southern Region - Carmel B**  
**Coastal Region - Golden State** **Central Region - Big Sur A/B**  
**LAFCo Counsel (only) - Capitol Board Room** **Associate Members - Trinity**
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Luncheon and Keynote Address - Regency Ballroom D/E/F**  
Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Ted Gaebler, Retired City Manager and Co-Author of *Reinventing Government*
- 1:45pm - 3:15pm **Broadband: Which Side of the Digital Divide is Your LAFCo On? - Regency Ballroom A**  
Broadband is rapidly becoming an essential piece of infrastructure and local governments are coming together to fill the gaps left open by market forces. FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler stated the internet should be “fast, fair and open” and that faster broadband starts with competition. So where do LAFCos fit in? This session will provide an overview of broadband and why it’s important for education/training, social equity, economic development, public safety, and numerous other government priorities. We will explore why government is getting increasingly involved and playing a role in the expansion of broadband infrastructure, and why it’s important for local agencies to get more engaged in this issue. We’ll talk about LAFCos’ role, from the need for LAFCos to authorize latent powers or approve out of agency services to creating countywide broadband strategies.  
Speakers: P. Scott Browne, Attorney  
Lina Hernandez, Early Learning Associate, Knights Landing Yolo Center for Families  
Maria Eugene Martinez, English Language and Response to Intervention Specialist, Woodland Joint Unified School District  
Michael Ort, President and CEO, Praxis Assoc. Inc.  
Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, CA Emerging Technology Fund  
Moderator: Sblend Sblendorio, Commissioner, Alameda LAFCo
- 1:45pm - 3:15pm **CKH and the Bell Curve: LAFCo and California's Changing Culture - Regency Ballroom B**  
This session will explore the evolution of the State, its population, and its governance since LAFCos were created in 1963 and examine what influence these may have on LAFCos underlying principles and the practice of LAFCos into the future. The focus will be on predicting ethical challenges LAFCos may face as they evaluate the needs of emerging communities and the ethics of decisions as LAFCos implement CKH and local policies. We will begin with a summary of the broad and profound transformation of circumstances since 1963 including the culture, demographics, material standards, and expectations of Californians all of which affect LAFCos’ implementation of the statute. We will peer into the future far enough ahead to articulate necessary changes to LAFCo law and to ascertain the ethical challenges that may face LAFCos as they sort out statute, policy, and the needs of emerging communities.  
Speakers: Hans Johnson, Senior Fellow and Bren Fellow, Public Policy Institute of CA  
Stephen Lucas, Executive Officer, Butte LAFCo  
Holly Whatley, Attorney, Colatuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC  
Moderator: David Fey, AICP, Executive Officer, Fresno LAFCo
- 1:45pm - 3:15pm **Financing Municipal Services: Find the Right Financial Fit for Your Project - Regency Ballroom C**  
This session will explore the various public financing options available to agencies and tools for choosing the best fit for a project. Specific financing alternatives to be discussed include bonds as well as State financing available through the Infrastructure State Revolving Loan Program, CA Pollution Control Financing Authority, and the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery. Several case studies will be presented to demonstrate how to weigh financing options and successfully finance public projects, such as street light installation and replacement projects, water treatment plants, and the non-profit public benefit B Street Theatre in Sacramento.  
Speakers: Diane Cummings, Dep. Director of Credit and Chief Credit Officer, IBank  
Alice Scott, Dep. Director of Internal Affairs, IBank  
Moderator: Gay Jones, Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo
- 3:15pm - 3:30pm **Refreshment Break - Regency Ballroom Corridor**
- 3:30pm - 5:00pm **Fiscal Analysis Tools for New Development - Regency Ballroom A**  
New fiscal impact analysis tools can help local governments and LAFCos determine whether new developments will move a community forward or drive it into debt. This session will highlight how these emerging tools are ushering in a new era of fiscal responsibility and strategic planning. Statewide representative will discuss the use of these tools and the importance of examining fiscal sustainability throughout the planning and LAFCo processes.  
Speakers: Jeffrey Goldman, Principal, AECOM  
Raef Porter, Climate and Energy Team Manager, SACOG  
Moderator: Kate Meis, Executive Director, Local Government Commission



## Thursday - September 3, 2015 (continued)

3:30pm - 5:00pm

*Approved for 1.5  
AICP CM Credits*

### **Urban Growth Boundaries and LAFcos - Regency Ballroom B**

This session will look at various boundary tools used by LAFcos and how these boundaries and tools align with LAFco decisions. Join us to share ideas, techniques and interpretations from various LAFcos throughout the state.

Speakers: Steve Brandt, Principal Planner, Quad Knopf  
Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer, Tulare LAFco  
Jerome Keene, Senior Planner, Quad Knopf  
Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFco  
Moderator: Dr. William Kirby, Commissioner, Placer LAFco

3:30pm - 5:00pm

*Approved for 1.5  
AICP CM Credits*

### **LAFcos Role in Planning for Climate Change - Regency Ballroom C**

Join us as we explore climate change and its increasing impact on municipal service planning in California. This session will include a discussion on key trends underlying climate change on a statewide level, as well as the policies and priorities for the Governor's Office and impact on local government. We will look at a case-study on local climate change planning in Marin County. We will focus on generating ongoing discussion with regard to appropriately connecting LAFcos' responsibilities and powers – existing and future – to facilitating orderly municipal growth and development with the increasing realities of climate change.

Speakers: Louise Bedsworth, Dep. Director, CA Office of Planning & Research  
Kate Sears, Commissioner, Marin LAFco  
Will Travis, Former Director, Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission  
Moderator: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, Marin LAFco

6:00pm - 6:30pm

### **Banquet Reception - Vines Restaurant**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

### **Dinner and Achievement Awards Ceremony - Regency Ballroom D/E/F**

## Friday - September 4, 2015

7:30am - 9:00am

### **Breakfast Buffet - Regency Ballroom Corridor**

7:30am - 8:45am

### **CALAFco Board of Directors Meeting and Breakfast - Big Sur A/B**

9:00am - 10:30am

*Approved for 1.5  
AICP CM Credits*

### **Leadership in a World of VUCA:**

#### **Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity - Regency Ballroom A/B/C**

In uncertain times we often turn to people in leadership roles for order, direction and protection. Yet in the volatile and ambiguous times we find ourselves it is difficult to provide any of these. This session explores the practices to achieve the public value we desire in "VUCA" times. The conversation highlights leadership in complex 21st century organizations, what it takes to be successful in doing the public good, what to look for in spotting 21st century talent, and an opportunity to reflect on your practice of leadership.

Speaker: Bill Chiat, Dean and Manager, CSAC Institute  
Moderator: Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFco

10:30am - 10:45am

### **Refreshment Break - Regency Ballroom Corridor**

10:45am - Noon

*Approved for 1.25  
AICP CM Credits*

### **CALAFco Legislative Update:**

#### **The Good, The Bad, and Everything In-between - Regency Ballroom A/B/C**

It has been a full legislative year...and it isn't over yet! Join us as we recap the 2015 legislative year and highlight adopted legislation that impacts LAFcos. We will also provide a sneak peek at potential legislation CALAFco is focusing on for 2016-17.

Speakers: Misa Lennox, Associate Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Pamela Miller, Legislative Chair, CALAFco  
Stephen Lucas, Legislative Vice Chair, CALAFco  
Paul Novak, AICP, Legislative Omnibus Lead, CALAFco



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Clark Alsop  
Legal Counsel

Stephen Lucas  
Executive Officer

Jeni Tickler  
Executive Assistant

Kris Berry  
Deputy Executive Officer

David Church  
Deputy Executive Officer

Paul Novak  
Deputy Executive Officer



*See you next year on  
October 26 - 28, 2016 at the  
Fess Parker DoubleTree by Hilton  
in Santa Barbara*

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

### Board Members and Commissioners:

Gay Jones, Chair, Sacramento LAFCo

Jim Curatalo, San Bernardino LAFCo

Dr. William Kirby, Placer LAFCo

Sblend Sblendorio, Alameda LAFCo

Chris Tooker, Sacramento LAFCo (former)

Dr. Roger Welt, Santa Barbara LAFCo

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