



CALAFCO 2011 Legislative Policies

Adopted by Board of Directors on 18 February 2011

1. LAFCo Purpose and Authority

- 1.1. Support legislation which enhances LAFCo authority and powers to carry out the legislative findings and authority in Government Code §56000 et. seq.
- 1.2. Support authority for each LAFCo to establish local policies to apply Government Code §56000 et. seq. based on local needs and conditions, and oppose any limitations to that authority.
- 1.3. Oppose additional LAFCo responsibilities which require expansion of current local funding sources. Oppose unrelated responsibilities which dilute LAFCo ability to meet its primary mission.
- 1.4. Support alignment of responsibilities and authority of LAFCo and regional agencies which may have overlapping responsibilities in orderly growth, preservation, and service delivery, and oppose legislation or policies which create conflicts or hamper those responsibilities.
- 1.5. Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the LAFCo process.
- 1.6. Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote his or her conscience on issues affecting his or her own jurisdiction.

2. LAFCo Organization

- 2.1. Support the independence of LAFCo from local agencies.
- 2.2. Oppose the re-composition of any or all LAFCos without respect to the existing balance of powers that has evolved within each commission or the creation of special seats on a LAFCo.

- 2.3. Support representation of special districts on all LAFCos in counties with independent districts and oppose removal of special districts from any LAFCo.
- 2.4. Support communication and collaborative decision-making among neighboring LAFCos when growth pressures and multicounty agencies extend beyond a LAFCo's boundaries.

3. Agricultural and Open Space Protection

- 3.1. Support legislation which clarifies LAFCo authority to identify, encourage and insure the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.2. Encourage a consistent definition of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.3. Support policies which encourage cities, counties and special districts to direct development away from prime agricultural lands.
- 3.4. Support policies and tools which protect prime agricultural and open space lands.

4. Orderly Growth

- 4.1. Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as the management tool to provide better planning of growth and development, and to preserve agricultural, and open space lands.
- 4.2. Support adoption of LAFCo spheres of influence by other agencies involved in determining and developing long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 4.3. Support orderly boundaries of local agencies and the elimination of islands within the boundaries of agencies.
- 4.4. Support communication between cities, counties, and special districts

through a collaborative process that resolves service, housing, land use, and fiscal issues prior to application to LAFCo.

- 4.5. Support cooperation between counties and cities on decisions related to development within the city's designated sphere of influence.

5. Service Delivery and Local Agency Effectiveness

- 5.1. Support the use of LAFCo resources to prepare and review Regional Transportation Plans and other growth plans to ensure reliable services, orderly growth, sustainable communities, and conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.2. Support LAFCo authority and tools which provide communities with local governance and efficient service delivery options, including the authority to impose conditions that assure a proposal's conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.3. Support the creation or reorganization of local governments in a deliberative, open process which will fairly evaluate the proposed agency's long-term financial viability, governance structure and ability to efficiently deliver proposed services.
- 5.4. Support the availability of tools for LAFCo to insure equitable distribution of revenues to local government agencies consistent with their service delivery responsibilities.

2011 Legislative Priorities

Primary Issues

Viability of Local Governments Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's ability to review and act to assure the efficient and sustainable delivery of local services and the financial viability of agencies providing those services to meet current and future needs. Support legislation which provides LAFCo and local communities with options for local governance and service delivery, including incorporation as a city or formation as a special district. Support efforts which provide tools to local agencies to address fiscal challenges and maintain services.

Authority of LAFCo Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's authority to condition proposals to address any or all financial, growth, service delivery, and agricultural and open space preservation issues.

Agriculture and Open Space Protection Preservation of prime agriculture and open space lands that maintain the quality of life in California. Support policies that recognize LAFCo's ability to protect and mitigate the loss of prime agricultural and open space lands, and that encourage other agencies to coordinate with local LAFCos on land preservation and orderly growth.

Water Availability Promote adequate water supplies and infrastructure planning for current and planned growth. Support policies that assist LAFCo in obtaining accurate and reliable water supply information to evaluate current and cumulative water demands for service expansions and boundary changes including impacts of expanding private and mutual water company service areas on orderly growth.

Issues of Interest

Housing	Provision of territory and services to support affordable housing and the consistency of regional land use plans with local LAFCo policies.
Transportation	Effects of Regional Transportation Plans and expansion of transportation systems on future urban growth and service delivery needs, and the ability of local agencies to provide those services.
Flood Control	The ability and effectiveness of local agencies to maintain and improve levees and the public safety of uninhabited territory proposed for annexation to urban areas which is at risk for flooding. Support legislation that includes assessment of agency viability in decisions involving new funds for levee repair.
Adequate Municipal Services in Inhabited Territory	Expedited processes for inhabited annexations should be consistent with LAFCo law and be fiscally viable. Funding sources should be identified for extension of municipal services to underserved inhabited communities, including option for annexation of contiguous disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

CALAFCO Policies Related to Legislation

1.15 Board Action on Legislative Issues

In the case of decisions on legislative policies or positions, the Board shall take the following actions:

- a. Insure that all viewpoints are fully considered in the proposed action.
- b. Adopt a proposed action with a vote that consists of 60% of a majority of the Board members present including at least one affirmative vote from each region present at the time of the vote.
- c. Members agree to support the final decision of the Board.

4.5 Legislative Policies and Committee

Legislative Policies

In the fall of each year the Board shall review and update the CALAFCO Legislative Policies. These policies are intended to drive the work of the Legislative Committee and provide the Committee and staff with policy direction on legislative positions. The Legislative Policies consist of two parts: 1) the longer-term legislative policies of the association; and 2) legislative priorities that the Board may establish for the legislative session through its strategic planning session.

Legislative Committee

In the fall of each year the Board shall appoint the members of the CALAFCO Legislative Committee.

The committee shall consist of up to 20 members appointed annually by the Board. Members include six Board Members, 9-11 LAFCo staff, the Executive Director, Legal Counsel, and the CALAFCO Executive Officer or designated Deputy Executive Officer. Members shall include representatives from all regions.

The Committee acts on behalf of the Board in developing and taking positions on legislation based on the Board's Legislative Policies. The Committee meets bimonthly, as needed, during key periods of the legislative session.

A quorum consisting of at least 50% of the appointed Board members is required for decisions. The Committee will strive towards consensus on all decisions. Should a consensus not be possible, decisions will be made by a majority vote. In cases where legislative policy is unclear, there is significant disagreement, or a financial commitment is required or at the request of any of the participating Board members, the Committee shall send an item to the full Board for consideration. The Board is to be presented with a full update on Committee activity at every Board meeting.

Preference for staff appointments is based on interest, expertise and past participation. Appointments will include statewide representation. Alternates will be appointed for the staff seats and will serve on a rotating basis whenever a regular member is absent. No more than one voting member may serve from any one LAFCo.

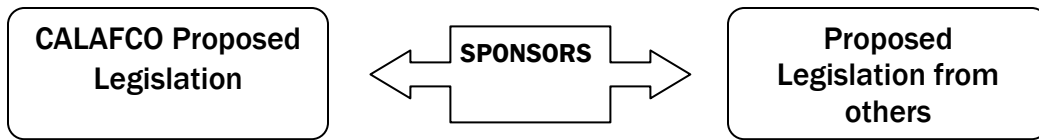
All CALAFCO members are encouraged to offer proposed legislation, request agenda items, attend meetings and participate in Committee discussions. The Committee will meet in alternating locations between Sacramento and Southern California. Action minutes will be

prepared for each meeting and distributed to each member as well as the Executive Officer of each LAFCo.

Legislative Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The Board has designated the Executive Director to serve as Chair of the Legislative Committee. The Chair shall appoint a volunteer LAFCo staff member as Vice Chair. The Vice Chair serves as Chair and as a voting member in the absence of the Chair. The Vice Chair will provide a leadership role in legislative research and developing the CKH omnibus bill.

Legislative Process from the CALAFCO Perspective



May have discussion and collaboration with affected stakeholders

Identify **AUTHOR** for Legislation – Assembly or Senate or Committee

Legislation reviewed by Legislative Counsel and Introduced by Author(s)

Bill is assigned to Committee(s) or lingers in Rules

CALAFCO tracks legislation and determines bills of interest. Meet with sponsors, authors and/or stakeholders to address issues of concern. Review by Legislative Committee. Attempt to have bill amended to meet needs. Position taken. Legislative staff report prepared; CALAFCO may be consulted. Support and oppose listed

Committee(s) hear bill. CALAFCO testifies. Amendments taken. Vote.

Bill amended. May be heard in other committees, including Appropriations. Continuing discussion with stakeholders. All hearings provide opportunities to amend or kill a bill.

Bill heard on floor. No testimony. May pass, die, or be placed in “unfinished business”

If passes, goes to the other house for action.

Bill is read on the floor.

Bill is assigned to Committee(s) or
lingers in Rules

Meet with sponsors, authors and/or stakeholders to address issues of concern. Review by Legislative Committee. Attempt to have bill amended to meet needs. Position taken. Legislative staff report prepared; CALAFCO may be consulted. Support and oppose listed

Committee(s) hear bill. CALAFCO testifies.
Amendments taken. Vote.

Bill amended. May be heard in other committees, including Appropriations. Continuing discussion with stakeholders. All hearings provide opportunities to amend or kill a bill.

Bill heard on floor. No testimony. May pass, die, or be placed in “unfinished business”

If passes with changes, goes back to other house for concurrence.
May or may not be reheard in committee before floor vote

If passes, goes to enrollment and then Governor’s desk.

Final opportunity to influence legislation. CALAFCO prepares letters to sign or veto. Governor can sign or not sign (becomes law), or veto.



THE LIFE CYCLE OF LEGISLATION

From Idea into Law

