



January 9, 2014

To: Members, Formation Commission

From: Martha Poyatos, Executive Officer

Subject: CALAFCo Regional Forums

San Mateo LAFCo is a member of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO). In 2010, CALAFCO created four regions within the Association – Central, Coastal, Northern and Southern for the purpose of Board representation. The CALAFCO Board is comprised of County, City, Special District and Public members from each region. San Mateo LAFCo is part of the Coastal Region, which includes 15 LAFCos and runs from Sonoma to Ventura and also includes the nine bay area counties. Please see attached map.

In their attached letter, Ventura LAFCo has suggested that the value of CALAFCO's educational programs and activities (i.e., annual conference, staff workshop, CALAFCO U, *The Sphere*, white papers, list serves, etc.) could be enhanced by conducting educational and networking forums at the regional level.

In November, the CALAFCO Board discussed the idea and expressed support for enhanced educational and networking opportunities through regional forums. The Board encouraged interested LAFCos to explore creating regional forums and has clarified that it would be LAFCos within each region that would host events, not CALAFCo.

Regional forums would provide an opportunity for Commissioners who are not able to attend the annual conference to participate in CALAFCo educational or networking events. This would also require including funds for additional travel in the LAFCo budget. The cost of forum participation would depend upon venue.

It is requested that the Commission provide feedback to staff on whether this Commission would support and participate in regional forums.

CALAFCO Regions





VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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October 14, 2013

Coastal Region Members of the Board of Directors
CALAFCO
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Subject: Regional Meeting of the Coastal LAFCos

Dear Ms. Inman, Mr. Leopold, Mr. McGill and Mr. Welt:

One of the items on the Ventura LAFCo meeting agenda last month was a discussion regarding the recent CALAFCO Conference and Peter Detwiler's paper titled "California Within Limits: Research Notes for a History of California's Local Boundary Laws". Those who attended the Conference shared their impressions and all agreed that it was informative and interesting. I therefore want to thank you and the other members of the CALAFCO Board of Directors for hosting such a valuable event.

As part of our discussion, it was suggested that CALAFCO could further increase value to its members by spearheading educational and networking forums at the regional level. The discussion ultimately led to a consensus to send this letter requesting your support for the establishment of a meeting of the Coastal Region LAFCos to share our collective knowledge and ideas regarding common challenges. As you no doubt agree, there are many examples of such challenges including limited water supplies, conversion of agricultural lands and lack of affordable housing.

If carefully planned, regional meetings also have the potential to provide benefits similar to the statewide CALAFCO conferences at a lower cost. By this we do not mean that regional meetings should replace the statewide conferences but merely to acknowledge that many LAFCos are facing significant budget reductions. For some LAFCos, a regional workshop may indeed be the only CALAFCO educational event that they can attend.

Our suggestion is for CALAFCO to host one pilot meeting located somewhere near the geographic center of the Coastal Region in an area with convenient airport access. If the level of interest in the pilot warrants, perhaps it could be continued on an annual basis. As part of our request, we would also like to see a dedicated source of funding for regional forums included the next CALAFCO budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and we look forward to hearing from you through Kim Uhlich, Ventura LAFCo Executive Officer at (805) 654-2866 or kim.uhlich@ventura.org.

Sincerely,

Gail Pringle,
Chair

c: Commission Members, Ventura LAFCo
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO
LAFCo Executive Officers, Coastal Region