



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

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November 21, 2013

Mr. Elliot Mulberg
Interim Executive Officer
Solano Local Agency Formation Commission
3700 Hilborn Road, Suite 600
Fairfield, A 94534

Dear Elliot:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), I want to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Board (through then Chair Ted Novelli) dated August 25, 2013. As you requested, a copy was provided to each Board member and your request for a credit to Solano LAFCo for Commissioner Price's annual conference registration was discussed at the Board's November 7 meeting.

As I shared with you in our phone conversation following that meeting, the Board carefully considered the request along with the Association's current policy on conference and workshop refunds and credits, which was adopted in 2007. As you know, the policy states that *there shall be no refunds or credits for any cancellations made after the cancellation deadline (Section 4.2)*. The policy was adopted because CALAFCO must guarantee meal counts to the hotel and is obligated to pay for those meals and other hard costs, whether or not they are used. And as you know, most of the registration fee pays for those meals and other hotel costs.

We were all saddened by the news of Commissioner Price's sister's failing health and completely understand his reason for choosing to be at her bedside rather than at the CALAFCO annual conference. We extend our deepest sympathies to him and his family.

After careful review of the circumstances, the policy, and the fact that Solano LAFCo was provided the option to send another person in his place and did not utilize that option, the Board's decision was to uphold the Association's policy. The Board and CALAFCO staff understand there are events that cannot be planned for or predicted which may cause conflict, as was the case with Commissioner Price. However, given that there are typically a number of cancellations from various LAFCos resulting in requests such as yours (which also receive responses that uphold the Association's policies), we must recognize that making judgments as to which circumstance or condition is more critical and compelling than the other subjects the Association to risk, and is one reason why the policy was created - to create some standards around these decisions.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about the decision.

Sincerely,



Pamela Miller
Executive Director