



Solano Local Agency Formation Commission

675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

Staff Report

DATE: February 9, 2015
TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
FROM: Elliot Mulberg, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Legislative Report**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive and file this report.

Background:

The new legislative session began in January. To date a couple of bills are of interest to CALAFCO. SB 25 deals with Vehicle License Fees (VLF) reinstatement. AB 3 proposes the formation of the Isla Vista CSD. Other proposed legislation further defines the process of how to comply with last year's groundwater management legislation.

SB 25 is identical to SB 69 (Roth) from 2014, the bill calls for reinstatement of the VLF through ERAF for cities that incorporated between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2012. There are no provisions for back payments for lost revenue, but the bill does reinstate future payments beginning in the 2014/15 year for cities that incorporated between January of 2004 and January 2012. CALAFCO has not taken a position on this bill.

AB 3 is special legislation that forms the Isla Vista CSD in Santa Barbara County. As introduced, this bill gives legislative authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District (CSD). This authority would completely bypass the LAFCO process in the creation of this district. CALAFCO issued a letter of concern on the intent language on December 20, 2014.

Several bills have already been proposed to further define the process of how to comply with last year's groundwater management legislation. Solano County includes three groundwater basins two are given a very low priority, the Napa-Sonoma Lowlands sub basin near Vallejo and the Fairfield Suisun Valley. The area to the east that includes the Montezuma Hills, Vacaville, Dixon and Rio Vista is prioritized as medium. The medium priority basins have two years to establish a groundwater sustainability agency and up to seven years to develop as sustainability plan. LAFCOs were not given any responsibility or authority under the 2014 legislation so SB13 and SB 20 are included in case Commissioners want to follow the process.

As of January 30, 2015

SB 25 (Roth D) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.

Subject: Financial Viability of Agencies

Status: 1/15/2015-Referred to Com. on GOV. & F.

Summary:

Would modify specified reduction and transfer provisions for a city incorporating after January 1, 2004, and on or before January 1, 2012, for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, by providing for a vehicle license fee adjustment amount calculated on the basis of changes in assessed valuation. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

CALAFCO Comments: Identical to SB 69 (Roth) from 2014, the bill calls for reinstatement of the VLF through ERAF for cities that incorporated between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2012. There are no provisions for back payments for lost revenue, but the bill does reinstate future payments beginning in the 2014/15 year for cities that incorporated between 1-1-2004 and 1-1-2012.

AB 3 (Williams D) Isla Vista Community Services District.

Status: 12/2/2014-From printer. Has yet to be heard in committee.

Summary:

Would express the intent of the Legislature to clarify and establish the necessary authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District within the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, and would make legislative findings and declarations relating to that intent.

Subject: LAFCo Administration, Special District Powers

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill gives legislative authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District (CSD). This authority would completely bypass the LAFCo process in the creation of this special district. CALAFCO issued a letter of concern on the intent language on December 20, 2014.

AB 203 (Oberholte R) State responsibility areas: fire prevention fees.

Status: 1/29/2015 – Read first time. To print. **Location:** 1/29/2015 – A . PRINT

Summary: Current law requires that a fire prevention fee be charged on each habitable structure on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area, collected annually by the State Board of Equalization, and specifies that the annual fee shall be due and payable 30 days from the date of assessment by the state board. Current law authorizes a petition for redetermination of the fee to be filed within 30 days after service of a notice of determination. This bill would extend the time when the fire prevention fee is due and payable from 30 to 60 days from the date of assessment by the State Board of Equalization and would authorize the petition for redetermination to be filed within 60 days after service of the notice of determination, as specified.

Subject Area – Fire SRA Fees

Water Legislation

SB 13 (Pavley D) Groundwater.

Status: 1/15/2015-Referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Summary:

Would provide a local agency or groundwater sustainability agency 90 or 180 days, as prescribed, to remedy certain deficiencies that caused the State Water Resources Control Board to designate a groundwater basin as a probationary basin. This bill would authorize the board to develop an interim plan for certain probationary basins one year after the designation of the basin as a probationary basin. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 20 (Pavley D) Wells: reports: public availability.

Status: 1/15/2015-Referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and E.Q.

Summary:

Current law requires a person who drills or alters a well to file a report of completion with the Department of Water Resources. Current law prohibits those reports from being made available to the public, except under certain circumstances. This bill would instead require the department to, upon request, make the reports available to the public. The bill would require the department to provide specified disclaimers when providing the reports to the public.