



# NEWSLETTER

May, 2022 Edition

## BOARDROOM Brief

The Board met virtually on April 22 and considered a fairly light agenda. Among the actions taken was the acceptance of the Third Quarter financial reports, which included a payment to the Hyatt hotel for the block of rooms that had been guaranteed for the cancelled staff workshop.

The new budgets for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 were also approved. Given concerns regarding the ongoing pandemic as well as escalating inflation, the budgets maintain the previously implemented austerity measures where possible. However, based on feedback received by the Executive Director from various LAFCo, the budget does anticipate a healthy attendance at the conference and 2023 workshop.

The Board also revisited the legislative proposal from San Diego LAFCo regarding Government Code §56133 that had been tabled in January. After discussion, the matter was rescheduled to the July Board meeting to allow the Legislative Committee time to gather additional information.

Reports were also received regarding the fall conference, CALAFCO U sessions, and Spring Workshop, which are currently in planning.

Members wishing to read full staff reports or minutes can download them from the CALAFCO website at [www.calafco.org](http://www.calafco.org).



## SEE YOU LATER!

**SOME** wise person once said that change is inevitable. Of course, the change that came to CALAFCO was the well-deserved retirement of Pamela Miller as the CALAFCO Executive Director (ED). Pamela became ED in 2012 and has made an indelible mark on CALAFCO by maintaining its professional standards and by advocating with the legislature on behalf of LAFCos everywhere. She stayed through March on a consultant basis to assist with the transition of the new ED and she intends to see SB 938 to its conclusion.

*With thanks!*

Unfortunately, pandemic restrictions meant that Pamela did not get the send-off that she deserved, but that only means she is owed a party. And, so, we refuse to say goodbye and, instead, leave it at "Thank you—and see you later!"

## Legislative Updates

CALAFCO supported or sponsored bills continue to make positive progress in the legislative process. Most important is SB 938, the protest provisions bill, which makes updates to existing CKH statutory provisions associated with consolidations and dissolutions, as well as codifying the conditions under which a LAFCo may initiate dissolution of a district at the 25 percent protest threshold. SB 938 has been tentatively scheduled before the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup>. LAFCos that have not yet submitted a letter of support are requested to do so before **5 PM on June 2, 2022**.

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## NEW Associate Member!



A huge welcome to Chase Design, our newest Associate

member. Founded in 2000 by Chris Chase, Creative Director and Principal, Chase Design is a San Diego based firm specializing in branding

consultation and design services for businesses and organizations throughout the United States. Chase Design has built an impressive reputation for producing effective designs that gets their clients results for their businesses.

With a Mission to create extraordinary value

See **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** on Page 4



A Message from the  
**Executive Director**

On the wall of my office is a sign. Those of you who are Tony Robbins fans will recognize the quote. It reads "All growth starts at the end of your comfort zone." If that is true (and I sincerely hope that it is) then I have been growing by leaps and bounds. ;)

Between the enormity of the change in Executive Directors, followed by an assault on Pamela on March 8th, it felt at first like being caught in the middle of a cyclone. Things have moderated now, but I have to sincerely thank all of the Board members, EOs, and staff who have reached out to welcome me, to check on me, and to offer support. You have all made the transition so much easier! I am humbled by your faith, trust, and friendship, and my vow is to make this changeover as smooth for you as possible. There is, obviously much for me to learn, but I am committed to learning everything quickly and well.

So, what's new in the CALAFCO world? Of course, the big news has to do with SB 938, which moved out of the Senate and now sits in the Assembly. Kudos to our devoted protest provisions working group, as well as thanks to Pamela Miller who is staying on in a volunteer capacity to see that through to the end.

Also, event planning is now well underway. (See the schedule on page 3.) A conference programming committee has been formed, but we could still use more people. If you would like to help, please contact José Henriquez (Sacramento) at henriquezj@saccounty.gov, or me.

Finally, CALAFCO U sessions are also shaping up thanks to the able assistance of Dawn Longoria (Napa). Our first session is scheduled for June 20th. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting session regarding the strange new world of recruiting and hiring in this post-pandemic world!

**IN MEMORIAM**

**CARL LEVERENZ, Butte LAFCo Commissioner**

Butte LAFCo mourns the loss of its Chair, Carl Leverenz. Commissioner Leverenz served with pride on the Butte LAFCo for the past 47 years where he always displayed great insight and wisdom. His calm demeanor and ability to keep politics at bay to solve problems earned him the Butte LAFCo Chair seat, which he held continuously since 1975. A local legend, Commissioner Leverenz was known for his servant's heart, having had not only a prominent legal career but a history of volunteerism on a broad assortment of boards and organizations, which earned him the Chico Rotary Club's Community Service Award in 2018.

**WARREN NELSON, Napa LAFCo Commissioner**

Warren Nelson, Napa LAFCo Commissioner, passed away in April, 2022. Among his many hats, Commissioner Warren served as Executive Officer for Marin LAFCO in the 1970s, and as a Yountville City Commissioner from 1980-1986. An avid proponent for LAFCos, Commissioner Warren worked with his friend and fellow Commissioner, Mike Gotch, on legislation that increased LAFCos' independence and authority. His dedication and friendly nature will be greatly missed.

CALAFCO sends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and co-workers of these remarkable men.



**Contra Costa LAFCo** reports that it has been busy with a surge in new applications, including a large boundary reorganization. In Spring 2022, the Contra Costa LAFCo Commissioners unanimously approved annexation of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) comprising 249+ square miles serving 132,400 residents to Contra Costa County Fire Protection District comprising 306+ square miles serving 628,200 residents, and dissolving ECCFPD.

The boundary reorganization is consistent with two LAFCO Municipal Service Reviews and a special study, all of which noted various constraints and challenges with fire and emergency medical services in East Contra Costa County. The LAFCo process was fairly lengthy but with few obstacles. All

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**LEGISLATION**

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Other CALAFCO supported bills include:

- AB 897** (Mullin), establishment of a regional climate network has stalled and is in its second year.
- AB 1640** (Ward), seems to have replaced AB 897 with another regional climate bill. It is scheduled to go before Assembly Appropriations on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- AB 1773** (Patterson), return of Williamson Act subvention funding, is scheduled before Assembly Appropriations on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- AB 2957**, the CALAFCO sponsored Omnibus bill, has passed out of the Assembly and is waiting on a Senate hearing date.
- SB 1490, 1491, and 1492**, annual Validation Acts, have passed out of the Senate and are waiting on Assembly hearing dates.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

**50+1 YEARS**  
A GOLDEN ERA

**CALAFCO**  
IN THE GOLDEN STATE

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**OCTOBER 19-21, 2022**

**THIS THREE-DAY EVENT OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- ✓ Discuss statewide and local issues critical to LAFCo
- ✓ Participate in important conversations that will guide decision-making
- ✓ Gain new resources and fresh ideas that will have a positive community impact
- ✓ Hear important legislative updates
- ✓ Make industry connections
- ✓ Network with professionals

**Hyatt Regency John Wayne Airport, Newport Beach, CA**  
Conference and hotel registration opening soon. Visit [calafco.org](http://calafco.org) and stay tuned for details!

**2023 Staff Workshop**

Murphys, California

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
April 26th - 28th, 2023

**Topic Suggestions**

We are always on the look out for good topics for our conferences, workshops, and webinars. If you have an idea for a topic, please email to René LaRoche at [rlaroch@calafco.org](mailto:rlaroch@calafco.org).

Upcoming **EVENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**CALAFCO 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
October 19 - 21, 2022

Plan on joining us at the **Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport** on October 19-21, 2022 for our long-awaited, long-overdue Annual Conference! The program planning committee is forming and CALAFCO staff is working with the facility on the details. Watch for more information soon. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in-person in Newport Beach!

**2023 STAFF WORKSHOP**  
April 26 - 28, 2023

Come learn about technical topics in a beautiful setting! Mark your calendar now because you will not want to miss next year's Staff Workshop on the beautiful grounds of Ironstone Vineyards.



We are preparing some great CALAFCO U sessions for you and are pleased to again offer webinars to our members at no cost. Watch for the registration for the June 20th session to open soon.

- June 20, 2022:** **Brave New World of HR: Hiring Headaches, Trends, and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World**  
1:00 PM
- July 21, 2022:** **Sharing the Wealth: A Deep Dive into Tax Exchange**  
1:00 PM
- Sep. 19, 2022:** **Two Agencies in Dispute: What is LAFCo's Role in Assisting to Resolve the Conflict?**  
1:30 PM
- TBD** **The Dirty Dozen: Things I Wish I Knew About The Act**

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

- July 22, 2022** LOCATION: Virtual
- Oct. 21, 2022** LOCATION: Newport Beach (Conference)
- Dec. 2, 2022** LOCATION: Virtual

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- July 29, 2022** LOCATION: Virtual
- Sept. 16, 2022** LOCATION: Virtual
- Oct. 7, 2022** LOCATION: TBD
- Nov. 4, 2022** LOCATION: TBD

## CONNECTIONS

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parties were cooperative and there were no oral or written protests filed.

Contra Costa LAFCo Executive Officer Lou Ann Teixeira extends thanks and kudos to Joe Serano, Executive Officer Santa Cruz LAFCo, and to Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer Sonoma LAFCo, for their support.

### NEW Roles

#### **ROB BARTOLI Appointed San Mateo EO**

San Mateo LAFCo reports that its commission took action to appoint Rob Bartoli as Executive Officer on March 16, 2022. Rob has held the title of Interim Executive Officer since the retirement of Martha Poyatos.

#### **TAYLOR MORRIS Welcomed as L.A. GIS Technician**

Los Angeles LAFCo has welcomed new GIS

Technician, Taylor Morris, who began work at LAFCo this month. Taylor recently relocated to Los Angeles after working for six years in the right-of-way section of the Utah Department of Transportation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental and Sustainability Studies from the University of Utah.

#### **MICHAEL HENDERSON Hired as Riverside GIS Analyst**

Riverside LAFCo is pleased to welcome Michael Henderson to the newly created position of GIS Analyst.

#### **KRYSTAL BRADFORD Takes Over as Butte Clerk**

Krystal Bradford has taken over the reins as Butte LAFCo's Clerk upon the retirement of Joy Stover.

**Congratulations to everyone!**

## ASSOCIATE Members

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### **CHASE DESIGNS**, continued

for their clients by connecting business strategy and creative execution, Chase Designs helps businesses to make a statement with impactful branding that reinforces the values of the business. Go to [ChrisChaseDesign.com](http://ChrisChaseDesign.com) to find out more, or contact Chris Chase at [chris@chrischasedesign.com](mailto:chris@chrischasedesign.com).

### Associate Member **SPOTLIGHT**

*The information below is provided by the Associate member upon joining the Association. All Associate Member information can be found in the CALAFCO Member Directory.*

#### **dta** DTA

DTA is a national public finance and urban economics consulting firm specializing in infrastructure and public service finance. Their financing programs have utilized a variety of public financing mechanisms, such as Ads, CFDs, LLDs, and various types of fee programs.

To learn more about DTA, visit their website at [www.FinanceDTA.com](http://www.FinanceDTA.com), or contact Colleen Liao at [colleen@financedta.com](mailto:colleen@financedta.com).

#### **SWALE, INC**

Swale's consulting services focus on LAFCo critical issues including municipal service reviews, SOI's, CEQA compliance, strategic planning, workshops, and mapping with geographic information systems (GIS). Their northern California office is expanding to bring you the best of consulting services.

To learn more about SWALE, INC visit their website at [www.swaleinc.com](http://www.swaleinc.com), or contact Kateri Harrison at [Harrison@swaleinc.com](mailto:Harrison@swaleinc.com)

**CALAFCO wishes to thank all of our Associate Members for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to highlighting you all in future Quarterly Reports.**