

Resolution of Commendation
James "Olin" Woods II

RESOLUTION № 2024-09

WHEREAS, Chair Woods announced his retirement from the Yolo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) after 21 years of service and today is his last meeting; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods was inspired to promote compact urban boundaries following his work for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for forty years and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for ten years, where he retired in December 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods volunteered and became a Public Member of Yolo LAFCo in May 2003, as only the second person to hold the position of Public Member since Yolo LAFCo's formation in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Woods held the position of Vice Chair from May 2004 to April 2005, and has held the Yolo LAFCo Chair position since May 2005; and

WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in elevating the profile and role of Yolo LAFCo with agencies countywide and has taken a personal and hands-on approach mentoring the Executive Officer over the years; and

WHEREAS, Chair Woods remained a solid and highly effective Chair throughout the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. He never missed meetings each month with the executive officer to review the agenda and hot topics. He is extremely conscientious about public input and maintaining decorum, despite zooming from home. He even wore his suit and tie during Zoom meetings (at least on top!); and

WHEREAS, Chair Woods is a steadfast and proven leader of the commission taking on extraordinary collaborative, innovative and creative solutions to local issues that go above and beyond LAFCo's legal mandate; and

WHEREAS, Chair Woods championed Yolo LAFCo as a valued, progressive partner agency leading shared services. Under his guidance LAFCo adopted six JPA Service Reviews, six annual Website Transparency Scorecards, and spearheaded numerous YED Talks; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Chair Woods considered and deliberated on a range of municipal service reviews and spheres of influence studies, over 63 proposals, including the formation of two County Service Areas (CSAs), the dissolution of five special districts, an attempt to incorporate the small community of Dunnigan into its own city, numerous out of agency agreements, and many changes of organization for the cities and special districts; and

WHEREAS, In July 2019, Yolo LAFCo approved the most controversial reorganization in a decade. Despite doubts from the public, local districts, and the Grand Jury, Chair Woods remained steadfast in our legislative priorities to press for a single multipurpose agency that would be more accountable for community needs with more resources; and

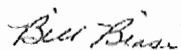
WHEREAS, Commissioner Woods received the 2021 Outstanding Commissioner Award from the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions; and

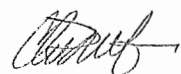
WHEREAS, Commissioner Woods has provided clear insight, resolute integrity, a commitment to fairness, and wise advice to his fellow commissioners during his six four-year terms spanning 21 years of service to LAFCo. Olin served on LAFCo with 20 County Supervisors, 12 city council members, and 3 public members; and

WHEREAS, Olin's leadership on the Commission will be profoundly missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Yolo Local Agency Formation Commission commends James Olin Woods II for his superlative service as the LAFCo Public Member, extends a heartfelt thank you for his many years of dedication, and wishes him and his wife Claudia all the best in the coming years as they travel to far off places.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of June 2024.


Bill Biasi
LAFCo Vice Chair


Christine Crawford
LAFCo Executive Officer