

Four months into this role, I want to share where we are and what you should expect next. Since November, the focus has been steady progress – getting our footing, tightening communication, and moving forward without disruption.

## HERE'S WHERE THAT STANDS.

**Board Structure Changes:** At the February Special Business Meeting, members overwhelmingly approved two governance changes: allowing Executive Officers to serve as voting Board members and eliminating Board “seat type” categories. Those changes take effect with the 2026 election cycle. These proposals didn't come out of nowhere. They came from real conversations across the state. When the feedback was consistent, we moved forward.

**Due Structure Review:** Another theme I heard repeatedly is that the current dues model – partially based on county population – may no longer reflect today's realities. There are no changes underway, but we should approach the discussion thoughtfully, starting at the May Board Meeting.

**Legislative Involvement Back in the Forefront:** On the legislative side, engagement is growing. The January Legislative Committee meeting had 38 attendees. That level of participation tells me members want to stay informed and involved. The Legislative Committee has standing meetings scheduled, and member LAFCOs (staff and commissioners) are welcome to attend. I will begin providing more consistent updates on legislation affecting LAFCOs statewide. The goal is to have CALAFCO sponsor legislation that matters starting next year. We're building that foundation now.

**More Fiscal Transparency:** Financial reporting is another area we're tightening up. I recently retained a CPA to help reorganize and simplify our budget structure. Beginning in May, the Board will start receiving clearer budget-to-actual reports. The goal is simple: clean data and a realistic FY 2026-27 budget.

## **Educational Events are a Pillar for CALAFCO:**

Education and engagement remain strong. CALAFCO-U continues to draw solid participation, and the next session is scheduled for April. The 2026 Staff Workshop will take place May 6-8 in Pismo Beach. We've built time into the program for substantive governance conversations and practical operational discussions – the kind most useful once everyone is back home.

**LAFCO Outreach:** I've also continued meeting with LAFCOs, both members and nonmembers, to listen and share updates. Those conversations matter. They help ensure that CALAFCO's direction reflects what's happening on the ground. If your Commission would like a visit or an update, I'm always happy to connect

**SO, WHAT'S NEXT:** Between now and May, our focus is straightforward:

- 1) Implement clearer financial reporting.
- 2) Deliver a strong Staff Workshop.
- 3) Explore *practical* website improvements that improve usability and organization.

CALAFCO is in a good place. Now it's about doing the work well and doing it consistently. As always, I welcome your thoughts.

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