



Local Agency Formation Commission
LAFCO of Napa County

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June 7, 2010
Agenda Item No. 7b (Action)

May 27, 2010

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish Voting Regions within CALAFCO

The Commission will review a proposal by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions to establish four voting regions for purposes of electing directors. Staff recommends the Commission support the proposal due to extenuating circumstances.

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) was founded in 1971 to assist its members with educational and technical resources in carrying out their duties to facilitate the orderly formation and development of local agencies. This includes organizing annual conferences and workshops, coordinating training classes, and drafting legislation. CALAFCO is governed by an elected-at-large 15-member board of directors that includes four city members, four county members, four special district members, and three public members. Paid staff consists of a fulltime Executive Director and a part-time Administrative Assistant. CALAFCO's membership currently includes 57 of the 58 LAFCOs with Tehama choosing not to participate.

A. Discussion

The CALAFCO Board has unanimously approved proposed bylaw changes to modify the voting process for directors from at large to regions. A total of four regions are planned and based on geography: (a) northern; (b) central; (c) coastal; and (d) southern. Each region would be responsible for electing four directors representing county, city, district, and public members. This would expand the total number of directors from 15 to 16 with one additional public member. All 16 seats would be up for election during the 2010 Annual Conference in Palm Springs. Two of the members initially elected within each region would serve two-year terms while the other two members would serve one-year terms. All subsequent terms would be staggered every two years.

LAFCO of Napa County ("Commission") has been placed within the coastal region along with 14 other LAFCOs. A map of the proposed regions is included in the attached information packet provided by CALAFCO. The deadline to submit a vote on the proposed bylaw changes is Friday, July 9, 2010.

Juliana Inman, Chair
Councilmember, City of Napa

Lewis Chilton, Commissioner
Councilmember, Town of Yountville

Joan Bennett, Alternate Commissioner
Councilmember, City of American Canyon

Bill Dodd, Vice Chair
County of Napa Supervisor, 4th District

Brad Wagenknecht, Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 1st District

Mark Luce, Alternate Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 2nd District

Brian J. Kelly, Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Gregory Rodeno, Alternate Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

B. Analysis

The proposal before the Commission represents the second attempt by CALAFCO to restructure the membership into geographic regions. The first attempt was unanimously approved by the CALAFCO Board in June 2009 and sought to divide the membership into regions for purposes of resource sharing. The stated intent of the June 2009 proposal was to increase communication, create opportunities for shared resources, and address local governmental growth and service issues among LAFCOs with common interests. The Commission joined a majority of other LAFCOs in expressing opposition to the June 2009 proposal due to concerns it would reorient CALAFCO to focus less on statewide matters in favor of more local interests. Several Board members also expressed opposition during an agendaized discussion on the proposal during the 2009 Annual Conference in Yosemite.

The second and current proposal to restructure CALAFCO into geographic regions is different from the June 2009 proposal by only modifying the manner in which directors are elected. This approach appears to more effectively address the key concerns that originally prompted the June 2009 proposal in terms of broadening perspectives on CALAFCO as advocated by several Southern California LAFCOs. Five LAFCOs (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino) believe the current at-large voting process does not allow for fair representation on CALAFCO and have provided notice they will not renew their memberships. The second proposal is intended to dissuade these and other LAFCOs from leaving CALAFCO.

Staff believes approval of the proposal is merited. Approval of the proposal would – above all – help keep CALAFCO together by addressing the aforementioned concerns of several Southern California LAFCOs. These concerns appear legitimate given the recent and current unbalanced composition of the Board. Furthermore, while it may result in less focus on statewide items in favor of more regional interest, the proposal will help avoid balkanizing LAFCOs between two or more advocacy groups.

C. Alternatives for Commission Action

The following three alternative actions are available to the Commission:

Alternative One: Approve a motion for the Chair to sign the attached ballot supporting the proposed bylaw changes to CALAFCO.

Alternative Two: Approve a motion for the Chair to sign the attached ballot opposing the proposed bylaw changes to CALAFCO.

Alternative Three: Take no action.

D. Recommendation

It is recommended the Commission take action consistent with Alternative One. This involves authorizing the Chair to sign the attached ballot approving the bylaw changes to CALAFCO establishing four geographic regions for purposes of electing directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

Attachment

- ~~1) CALAFCO Information Packet~~
- ~~2) Letter from CALAFCO Chair Roger Anderson and Official Ballot~~