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February 1, 2010

Agenda Item No. 5b (Consent: Information)

January 25, 2010

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: New Legislation for 2010

The Commission will review a report from staff summarizing new legislation affecting LAFCOs that became effective as of January 1, 2010.

Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are responsible for administering the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. This includes approving or disapproving, with or without modifications, change of organization or reorganization proposals as well as outside service extension requests.

A. Information

The first year of the 2009-2010 legislative session produced a relatively small number of bills that make substantive changes to LAFCO law or the laws LAFCO helps to administer. A summary of the key bills enacted as of January 1, 2010 follows.

Assembly Bill 528 (Jim Silva)

AB 528 creates a new definition of a LAFCO proposal within the Political Reform Act. It also transfers the reporting requirements for political expenditures and contributions involving LAFCO proposals directly to the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Assembly Bill 1582 (Assembly Local Government Committee)

AB 1582 represents the Assembly's annual omnibus bill that make non-controversial changes to LAFCO law. Key changes enacted under AB 1582 include establishing a one year deadline to determine a new special district's sphere of influence as well as creating a streamline process to waive protest proceedings for boundary changes affecting land owned by railroad companies.

Senate Bill 215 (Patricia Wiggins)

SB 215 adds regional transportation plans to the existing list of factors LAFCO shall consider when approving or disapproving a proposal. SB 215 is a follow up to SB 375, which was enacted in 2009 and directs metropolitan planning organizations to adopt sustainable communities strategies or alternative planning strategies as part of their regional transportation plans for purposes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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B. Commission Review

Staff respectfully requests the Commission review the new legislation for 2010 outlined in this report and offer any questions or comments.

Attachments: none