

Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County Subdivision of the State of California

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We Manage Local Government Boundaries, Evaluate Municipal Services, and Protect Agriculture

Agenda Item 6b

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

PREPARED BY: Brendon Freeman, Analyst

MEETING DATE: June 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Commission Policy Update: Stipends

RECOMMENDATION

By motion adopt the amended Policy on Conducting Meetings and Business (Attachment One).

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

Members of the Commission have expressed interest in furthering their understanding of existing policies and procedures regarding stipends (i.e. "per diems") associated with their participation in meetings, classes, conferences, and other forms of LAFCO business. In particular, there has been some misunderstanding amongst commissioners with respect to which specific meetings and training opportunities result in the member receiving a stipend. This staff report proposes amendments to the Commission's Policy on Conducting Meetings and Business (Attachment One), which expands upon the the specific activities warranting a stipend for participating commissioners.

ANALYSIS

The current policy states that commissioners shall receive a \$125 stipend for attendance at the following LAFCO-related events and meetings:

- 1) Regular and special meetings of the Commission
- 2) Standing or ad hoc committee meetings of the Commission
- 3) Each day of attendance at the annual conference held by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO)
- 4) CALAFCO meetings when a Commissioner is a member of the CALAFCO Board

In addition to the activities listed above, commissioners may claim expense reimbursement for (1) attending conferences, workshops, and training programs of CALAFCO, (2) attending CALAFCO meetings if the member is on the Board, and (3) attending other Commission related meetings and events with prior authorization from the Commission or Chair.

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Other meetings and training activities that are not specifically identified in the policy are considered "elective" and do not result in stipends for a commissioner's time and attendance. This has resulted in some misunderstanding and dissatisfaction amongst commissioners with respect to which specific activities warrant a stipend. The Commission directed staff to add a new category of LAFCO-related activities that result in commissioners receiving a stipend for their participation. The amended policy includes a new section C(1)(e) that would provide up to four stipends per year per commissioner for attending other trainings, classes, or other activities that are mandated or related to LAFCO business. No other changes are proposed at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Proposed Amended Policy on Conducting Meetings and Business (Tracked Changes)
- 2) Proposed Amended Policy on Conducting Meetings and Business (Clean Version)



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY

Policy on Conducting Commission Meetings and Business

Adopted on August 9, 2001 Amended on June 3, 2013 Last Amended on December 2, 2013

I. Background

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization ("CKH") Act of 2000, pursuant to California Government Code Section 56300, directs the Commission to exercise its regulatory and planning responsibilities consistent with its written policies and procedures.¹ This includes establishing written rules to help ensure all meetings and related business occurs in an orderly and transparent manner.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear and concise direction to Commissioners and staff with regard to conducting Commission meetings and related business involving the preparation of agendas, issuance of per diems, and reimbursement for member expenses.

III. Rules and Procedures in Conducting Business

- A. Conducting Meetings
- 1. The Commission acknowledges and affirms the conducting of its meetings and related business are subject to applicable California laws, most notably the provisions of Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000 ("CKH") and the Ralph M. Brown Act ("Brown Act").
- 2. Three members of the Commission constitute a quorum. In the absence of a regular member, his or her alternate member (city, county, public member as applicable) may serve and vote. In the absence of a quorum, the members present shall adjourn the meeting to a stated time and place of their choosing. If all members are absent, the Executive Officer or his or her designee may adjourn the meeting to a stated time and place. In such a case, the Executive Officer he or she shall cause written notice of adjournment to be given in the same manner as specified in Section 54956 for calling a special meeting. In either instance, he or she and shall post a notice of adjournment, consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act as specified in Section 54955.
- 3. A regular and/or special meeting of the Commission may be adjourned to any day prior to the date established for the next succeeding regular meeting of the Commission.

¹ Hereinafter all section references are to the California Government Code unless otherwise noted.

- 4. If there is no business for the Commission's consideration five days before any regular scheduled meeting, the Executive Officer shall have the power to cancel the meeting by notifying the Chair and members there is no business before the Commission and the meeting has been cancelled.
- 5. Special meetings may be called by the Chair at his or her discretion. Special meetings may also be called upon the written request of a majority of the members of the Commission submitted to the Chair. Notice of special meetings shall be given in accordance with the <u>Brown Actprovisions of Section 54956</u>.
- 6. The Commission shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the rules of procedure set forth in the edition of "Rosenberg's Rules of Order" that is most current at the time of the meeting.
- 7. On all roll call votes, the names of the Commissioners shall be called in alphabetical order with the Chair voting last.
- 8. It is the responsibility of the Executive Officer to ensure that adequate staff and related resources are available for all Commission meetings.

B. Meeting Agendas

- 1. It is the responsibility of the Executive Officer to prepare an agenda and all supporting documents for the Commission, and to distribute these materials to the Commission and all affected and interested parties not less than five days prior to a scheduled regular meeting.
- 2. Meeting agendas shall concisely list the various items beinggin considered and include a formal title along with a brief description of the underlying action or discussion and the Executive Officer's recommendation, if applicable.
- 3. The Executive Officer shall exercise his or her judgment to help ensure items are agendized in an appropriate and timely manner relative to the Commission meeting its regulatory and planning responsibilities under CKH.
- 4. Each meeting agenda shall provide an opportunity for Commissioners to identify and request a matter for future discussion or action with the concurrence of the majority of the voting membership present. The Chair shall also have discretion to direct the Executive Officer to agendize a matter onfor the next available meeting to address an urgent or otherwise time-sensitive issue in which applicable legal notice can be provided.
- 5. It is the responsibility of the Executive Officer to see that legal notice for all agenda items to be considered by the Commission is given in accordance with the provisions of CKH and all other applicable laws.

C. Commissioner Per Diems

- 1. Each Commissioner shall receive a per diem of \$125.00 for time and attendance at the following meetings:
 - a) Regular and special meetings of the Commission.
 - b) Meetings of standing or ad hoc committees of the Commission.
 - c) Each day of attendance at the annual conference held by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO).
 - d) Meetings of CALAFCO when a Commissioner is a member of the Board.
 - d)e) Up to four days per year for other trainings, classes, or other activities that are mandated or related to LAFCO business as pre approved by the with prior authorization from the Chair or Commission or Chair.
- 2. A Commissioner shall not receive no more than five per diems per month.
- D. Commissioner Reimbursement for Expenses
- 1. Each Commissioner may claim reimbursement for the actual amount of reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in performing the duties of their office and include the following:
 - a) Attending conferences, workshops, and training programs of CALAFCO.
 - b) Attending CALAFCO meetings if the member is on the Board.
 - c) Attending other Commission related meetings and events with prior authorization from the Commission or Chair.
- 2. All reimbursement of expenses for Commissioners shall be provided in accordance with the same rules and manner as for staff.²

² Refer to the current agreement for staff support services between the Commission and County of Napa.



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