



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 5j (Consent/Information)

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

PREPARED BY: Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer *BF*
Dawn Mittleman Longoria, Analyst II/Interim Clerk *DML*

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2022

SUBJECT: CALAFCO Annual Conference Report

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

This is a consent item for information purposes only. Accordingly, if interested, the Commission is invited to pull this item for additional discussion with the concurrence of the Chair. No formal action will be taken as part of this item.

LAFCO's state organization, CALAFCO, held their Annual Conference on October 19-21 in Newport Beach. It was the first conference since the pandemic and provided an excellent opportunity to network and learn from each other. The conference program with details regarding sessions and speakers is included as Attachment One.

Representing Napa LAFCO were four Commissioners, both staff members, and legal counsel.

ATTACHMENT

- 1) CALAFCO 2022 Annual Conference Speaker Biographies and Session Summaries

Margie Mohler, Chair
Councilmember, Town of Yountville

Mariam Aboudamous, Commissioner
Councilmember, City of American Canyon

Beth Painter, Alternate Commissioner
Councilmember, City of Napa

Brad Wagenknecht, Vice Chair
County of Napa Supervisor, 1st District

Diane Dillon, Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 3rd District

Ryan Gregory, Alternate Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 2nd District

Kenneth Leary, Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Eve Kahn, Alternate Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Brendon Freeman
Executive Officer



Speaker Biographies and Session Summaries

2022 CALAFCO Annual Conference

Wednesday, October 19th- Friday, October 21st

Wednesday, October 19th

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Building on the Basics of LAFCO (LAFCO 101)

Summary:

Government Codes? Statutory Requirements? Legal Ramifications?? If any of these have you scratching your head sometimes, fear not because this “LAFCO 101” session will not only give you an inside scope on becoming a LAFCO Expert in these areas but will also be entertaining beyond belief. Don’t take our word for it and check this session out – you won’t be disappointed.

SR Jones, Executive Officer, Nevada LAFCo

SR Jones has worked with Nevada LAFCo since 1992 and has served as the Executive Officer of Nevada LAFCo since 1993. SR has also been involved with CALAFCO since 1994, serving on the Legislative Committee, and several Program Committees. In 1997, and again in 2008, she was appointed Deputy Executive Officer. She served as Executive Officer of CALAFCO from 1998 until 2000, and again from 2009 to 2011. She received a degree in History from the University of California at San Diego, and currently resides near Nevada City.

Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCo

Joe Serrano earned a double major in Finance & Accounting from Cal State University, Fullerton and has over 14 years in LAFCO experience. He began his LAFCO career as an intern for Orange LAFCO in 2008 and was their analyst until 2013 before he started expanding his LAFCO knowledge with other LAFCOs, including San Bernardino, San Diego, and Monterey. Today, he is now the Executive Officer of Santa Cruz LAFCO.

Paula C. P. de Sousa, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP’s Special District practice group

Paula C. P. de Sousa is a partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP’s Special District practice group, based out of the firm’s San Diego office. Paula joined BBK upon graduating from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Paula practices in most areas of public agency representation, including the CKH Act. Paula serves legal counsel to San Bernardino LAFCO, assistant legal counsel to Orange LAFCO, and serves as general counsel to a number of special districts in San Diego County (agencies providing sewer and water services). She advises CALAFCO as assistant general counsel, assists in drafting legislation on CALAFCO’s behalf, and regularly advises other public agency clients with respect to LAFCO-related issues. She is the primary author of several “white papers” utilized by LAFCOs and public agencies throughout the state on changes in law impacting changes of organization and reorganizations.

01:30-03:00 p.m.

Municipal Service Reviews: It’s a Brand-New Ballgame

Summary:

Frank (and perhaps provocative) discussion between Commissioners and Executive Officers about the ever-important role of Municipal Service Reviews in light of SB 938.

Gay Jones, Special District Member Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo

Representing Special Districts on CALAFCO since 2006 and Sacramento LAFCO since 2004, Gay has served as a Director for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District since inception in 2000. Commissioner Jones is a retired Captain with the Sacramento Fire Department, 1981-2006. From her days as a Peace Corps Volunteer to today, she continues to serve her community on many local levels. Education includes an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and a Master’s in Health and Human Services. Gay looks forward to continued discussion for achieving LAFCO goals to improve all our communities.

Derek J. McGregor, Public Member, Orange LAFCo

Derek J. McGregor has served as the Public Member on Orange LAFCo since 2009 and was recently appointed to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. He is a licensed civil engineer and land surveyor and has owned and operated DMc Engineering, a civil engineering and land surveying firm, since 1987. Derek has more than 30 years of experience as a leader within the community he resides as well as countywide. His involvement includes Orange County Transportation Authority Citizen's Advisory and Environmental Oversight Committees, and Derek is the founding member of the Community Associations of Rancho, that promotes collaboration with some of the largest master homeowners' associations in California. Derek's career began after graduating from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

Bill Connolly, County Supervisor Member Commissioner, Butte LAFCo

Bill Connolly has been a CALAFCO Commissioner for eight years and is the current Vice-Chair. His life of public service has been long and includes current service as the District One Supervisor on the Butte County Board of Supervisors, a position which he has held since 2005, and where he is the current Board Chair. He is also the Chair and a 17-year member of the Butte Local Agency Formation Commission, as well as a member of the Butte County Air Quality Board Management District, the Butte County Association of Governments, and a number of other community groups and organizations. With the exception of time enlisted in the United States Air Force, Bill has called Butte County home for most of his life.

Steve Lucas, Executive Officer, Butte LAFCo

Stephen Lucas is the Executive Officer for the Butte LAFCo with over 27 years of LAFCo and land use planning experience. He also serves as CALAFCO's Executive Officer, on the CALAFCO Legislative Committee as well as numerous other CALAFCO workgroups. Prior to joining LAFCo, he worked as a land use planner for the County of Butte, serving as staff to the Planning Commission and Airport Land Use Commission. Aside from his professional pursuits, Steve has also served his community for eight years on the City of Chico Airport Commission and eight years on the Chico Parks Commission as well as serving on the board of a several local leadership development programs. A more recent diversion found Steve taking a leadership role in the development of a K-8 charter school where he has served as the Board Chair for three years. Steve graduated from California State University at Chico, where he received both a B.A. in Geography and an M.A. in Geography and Urban Planning.

Kai Luoma, Executive Officer, Ventura LAFCo

Kai joined the Ventura LAFCo in 2007 and has served as Executive Officer since 2014. Before joining LAFCo, Kai was a senior planner for the City of Santa Clarita, where one his responsibilities was overseeing the city's frequent annexation proposals. He has also been a planner with the City of Roseville, Nevada County, and San Joaquin County. Kai holds a bachelor's degree in geography and a master's degree in public administration.

John Benoit, Executive Officer, Lake, Colusa, Calaveras, Modoc, and Yuba LAFCos

John Benoit has a professional background related to LAFCo, land use planning, project management, environmental, and community and economic development. Mr. Benoit is currently engaged in LAFCo activities currently serving as the LAFCo Executive Officer for LAFCo Commissions in Lake, Colusa, Calaveras, Modoc, Yuba, Sutter and formerly Plumas and Lassen Counties. As LAFCo contract staff to these rural Commissions, Mr. Benoit Plans and Organizes LAFCo activities, processes applications, establishes policies and programs, provides general administration, budget management, and environmental review services. Mr. Benoit has been a lecturer in Geography and French at three community colleges in Northern California and holds a master's degree in Geography.

Paula C. P. de Sousa, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP's Special District practice group

Paula C. P. de Sousa is a partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Special District practice group, based out of the firm's San Diego office. Paula joined BBK upon graduating from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. Paula practices in most areas of public agency representation, including the CKH Act. Paula serves legal counsel to San Bernardino LAFCO, assistant legal counsel to Orange LAFCO, and serves as general counsel to a number of special districts in San Diego County (agencies providing sewer and water services). She advises CALAFCO as assistant general counsel, assists in drafting legislation on CALAFCO's behalf, and regularly advises other public agency clients with respect to LAFCO-related issues. She is the primary author of several "white papers" utilized by LAFCOs and public agencies throughout the state on changes in law impacting changes of organization and reorganizations.

03:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love Fire District Consolidations

Summary:

A discussion of the financial, political and cultural challenges in fire district consolidations. Delve into real life, on the ground experiences with the pros and cons to achieve efficiencies for better fire service delivery. What are the factors that drive this service? Examining what is at your disposal. Explaining the “why” for merging, such as response capabilities and equipment resources. The goal is to give commissioners and staff a firm foundation for fire district consolidation discussions. LAFCO’s can be the lead on informative talks to improve and enhance emergency response within their jurisdictions.

Kris Berry, Executive Officer, Amador LAFCo

Kris Berry is the Executive Officer for Amador LAFCO. Kris previously served 16 years as the Executive Officer for Placer LAFCO and Senior Staff Analyst at Monterey LAFCO. Prior to coming to LAFCO, she was a Senior Planner with Monterey County Planning for 17 years. She has a BS in City and Regional Planning from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She is a long time Soroptimist and lover of all things Pug.

Gay Jones, Special District Commissioner, Sacramento LAFCo

Representing Special Districts on CALAFCO since 2006 and Sacramento LAFCO since 2004, Gay has served as a Director for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District since inception in 2000. Commissioner Jones is a retired Captain with the Sacramento Fire Department, 1981-2006. From her days as a Peace Corps Volunteer to today, she continues to serve her community on many local levels. Education includes an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and a Master’s in Health and Human Services. Gay looks forward to continued discussion for achieving LAFCO goals to improve all of our communities.

Walt W. White, Fire Chief, Amador Fire Protection District

Walt W. White is Fire Chief of the Amador Fire Protection District and a 38-year veteran of the California Fire Service. He served as the 21st Fire Chief for the City of Sacramento and currently as Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. Chief White is a survivor of multiple fire agency consolidations and understands the efficiency, effectiveness, and public benefit that is possible through cross silo collaboration. Chief White holds a Masters in Fire Service Management.

Rick Martinez, Executive Director, California Fire Foundation

Rick Martinez has over forty years in public safety service. Rising through the ranks he served in nearly every fire operational and administrative position to include twelve years as fire chief. During his tenure as fire chief, he guided the consolidation of multiple fire departments forming the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. He presently serves as the Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation a charitable non-profit that provides assistance to families of fallen and injured firefighters as well as the communities they serve.

Thursday, October 20th

01:45 p.m.- 03:15 p.m.

Recruitment and Succession Planning: Preparing for Future LAFCO Leaders, TODAY

Summary:

A LAFCO career is such a lucrative profession if you think about it – once you discover or stumble upon it of course. In fact, most employees end their careers with LAFCO after 10, 20, 30+ years under their belts. But how do you replace someone with that must experience? How do you find the right candidate to pass the torch? This session goes over succession planning and how to gain/retain LAFCO talent.

Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCo

Brendon Freeman is the Executive Officer of Napa LAFCO, to which he was promoted in July 2015 after working as a staff Analyst for Napa LAFCO since June 2008. Mr. Freeman has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with a minor in Statistics from the University of California, Davis. Mr. Freeman previously served four years on the City of Napa Community Development Block Grant Citizens’ Advisory Committee, three years on the Napa Valley Support Services Board of Directors, and is currently a proud member of the Napa Sunrise Rotary service club.

Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCo

Joe Serrano earned a double major in Finance & Accounting from Cal State University, Fullerton and has over 14 years in LAFCO experience. He began his LAFCO career as an intern for Orange LAFCO in 2008 and was their analyst until 2013 before he started expanding his LAFCO knowledge with other LAFCOs, including San Bernardino, San Diego, and Monterey. Today, he is now the Executive Officer of Santa Cruz LAFCO.

Rich Seithel, Executive Officer, Solano LAFCo

Rich Seithel has been the Solano LAFCO Executive Officer since July 2017. He previously retired from Contra Costa County after serving 20 years, where notably served as the Chief of Annexations and Economic Stimulus Programs and as a Senior Deputy County Administrator overseeing budget and programs for over twenty departments. He graduated from St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA with an MBA, honoring in Advanced Strategic Marketing.

Luis Tapia, Assistant Executive Officer, Orange LAFCo

Luis Tapia joined the Orange County LAFCO staff in 2016 as a Policy Analyst. In his current position as Assistant Executive Officer, Mr. Tapia is responsible for supervising staff, assisting in the yearly budget and audit, research and analysis involving potential city and district boundary changes and governance issues. Mr. Tapia received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from the California State University of Long Beach and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the California State University of Fullerton. His professional interests include working with organizations that empower the youth to pursue a degree in higher education.

Rachel Jones, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCo

Rachel Jones is the Executive Officer for the Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). She joined the Commission in June of 2018. Prior to her current position, she served as the Interim Executive Officer and Analyst at Marin LAFCO for over two years and administered their municipal service review program. She also previously served as the Donor Stewardship Associate and Board Liaison for SPUR, an urban planning think-tank in the Bay Area. Ms. Jones holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning from Cornell University and is a graduate of Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland.

01:45 p.m.- 03:15 p.m.

Dangerous Currents- Recognizing and Avoiding Conflicts of Interest**Derek McGregor, Public Member, Orange LAFCo**

Derek J. McGregor has served as the Public Member on Orange LAFCO since 2009 and was recently appointed to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. He is a licensed civil engineer and land surveyor and has owned and operated DMc Engineering, a civil engineering and land surveying firm, since 1987. Derek has more than 30 years of experience as a leader within the community he resides as well as countywide. His involvement includes Orange County Transportation Authority Citizen's Advisory and Environmental Oversight Committees, and Derek is the founding member of the Community Associations of Rancho, that promotes collaboration with some of the largest master homeowners' associations in California. Derek's career began after graduating from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

Bill Kelly, Present & CEO, Kelly Associates Management Group LLC (KAMG)

Bill Kelly is President/CEO of Kelly Associates Management Group LLC (KAMG), a municipal management firm formed in 2011 that consults only to public agencies (cities, counties, and special districts). Bill specializes in areas of organizational management, economic development, team building/goal setting and community development. Prior to establishing KAMG, he served as City Manager and Deputy City Manager for several cities, as well as other positions that include Director of Public Works and Community Development, Director of Planning and Building and City Planner. Bill has a Bachelor of Science, Urban Planning from Cal Poly Pomona, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California, a Master of Management, an Executive Master of Business Administration and did doctoral work at Claremont Graduate University. He is an Adjunct Professor of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. Mr. Kelly was Vice Chair of the State of California Law Enforcement Telecommunications Commission and Chair of the Los Angeles County Emergency Management Agency Commission.

John Withers, Partner, California Strategies

John Withers has been a Partner at California Strategies for more than 28 years with experience in water resources and regulation; real estate development, entitlement, and asset protection, and government relations. He is able to find pathways to solutions that others miss because he has worked on all sides of the issues, attacking problems as an applicant, an elected official, a regulator, and a consultant. He has served for over 33 years as an elected director

(and former Board President) of the Irvine Ranch Water District, for 25 years as a commissioner (and former Chairman) of the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and 19 years as a governor's appointed board member (and former Chairman) of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Scott Smith, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Best Best & Krieger LLP partner Scott C. Smith advises public and private clients on issues of state and local regulatory and land use law, including advice on development and environmental law and municipal law. Scott's career in public law at BB&K began immediately after law school graduation in 1985, so his early assignments included work implementing the freshly minted Cortese-Knox Act. Scott serves as general counsel for Orange County LAFCO and has worked on that team since 1994. In that capacity, he has served in review of several cityhood applications and major annexations and consolidations. Scott assists in representing several other BB&K LAFCO clients. He lectures frequently on ethics and governance. He loves Latin American literature and backpacking.

03:30 p.m.- 05:00 p.m.

Grand Juries & LAFCo: Why Can't We Be Friends?

SR Jones, Executive Officer, Nevada LAFCo

SR Jones has worked with Nevada LAFCo since 1992 and has served as the Executive Officer of Nevada LAFCo since 1993. SR has also been involved with CALAFCO since 1994, serving on the Legislative Committee, and several Program Committees. In 1997, and again in 2008, she was appointed Deputy Executive Officer. She served as Executive Officer of CALAFCO from 1998 until 2000, and again from 2009 to 2011. She received a degree in History from the University of California at San Diego, and currently resides near Nevada City.

Matthew Summers, Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley

Matthew Summers is a Shareholder in Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley's Pasadena office who has specialized in representing cities, special districts, joint powers agencies, and other public agencies since 2011. He serves as City Attorney for the Cities of Barstow, Calabasas, and Ojai, and as General Counsel for Eco-Rapid Transit, a 15-city joint powers agency working towards development of a light rail line along the Gateway Cities corridor in Los Angeles County. His practice covers the full range of public law issues, including land use, elections, conflicts of interest, open meetings and public records, public works and public contracting, labor and employment, post-redevelopment advice and litigation, cannabis regulation and enforcement, telecommunications, public agency litigation, LAFCO proceedings, and the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Matt also advises the Cities of Sierra Madre and South Pasadena, and, as well as our other general and special counsel clients. Matt received his J.D. cum laude from the University of California, Hastings School of Law in 2011 where he was an Articles Editor of the Hastings West-Northwest Journal of Environmental Law & Policy. He graduated from Reed College with a B.A. in Economics in 2008 and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Luis Tapia, Assistant Executive Officer, Orange LAFCo

Luis Tapia joined the Orange County LAFCO staff in 2016 as a Policy Analyst. In his current position as Assistant Executive Officer, Mr. Tapia is responsible for supervising staff, assisting in the yearly budget and audit, research and analysis involving potential city and district boundary changes and governance issues. Mr. Tapia received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Master's of Arts Degree in Political Science from the California State University of Long Beach and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the California State University of Fullerton. His professional interests include working with organizations that empower the youth to pursue a degree in higher education.

Gordon Mangel, Special District Member, Nevada LAFCo

Gordon was born and raised in Southern California and has been married for 57 years. Attended Cal Poly Pomona College with a major in Animal Science. Spent 34 years in Law Enforcement, mainly working for the Court System. Worked for the Presiding Judge of Los Angeles County for eight years. Moved to Penn Valley in 1998. Joined Gold Country Softball for several years as a board member. Became a member of Nevada County Grand Jury in 2015 and served as Foreperson for two years. Left Jury in 2020. Became a member of Penn Valley Fire Protection Board of Directors in 2021. Was elected by the Nevada County Special Districts to serve as District Member on Nevada LAFCo in 2021.

03:30 p.m.- 05:00 p.m.

The Definitive Session on Pensions: LAFCO's Two-fold Responsibility to Take Care of its Own and Review Agencies

Summary:

LAFCOs have a two-fold responsibility regarding pensions and OPEBs. First, LAFCOs are responsible for their own liabilities and payments. As a government agency, commissioners and staff need to understand the impacts of, and how to address, pension and OPEB liabilities. Second, as we perform service reviews, LAFCOs should be reviewing pensions and OPEBs -- not just identifying liabilities, but also the benefits and consequences of funding or not funding its pension and OPEB obligations. In some cases, this financial liability leads to service insolvency. Importantly, a proper review of an agency's liabilities cannot occur if LAFCOs do not understand their own pension and OPEB obligations.

Isabel Safie, Partner, Employee Benefits Practice Group of Best Best & Krieger LLP.

Isabel Safie is a partner in the Employee Benefits Practice Group of Best Best & Krieger LLP. She works with public and private sector clients on the design of employee benefit programs and issues related to those programs. Isabel also advises public agencies on their ability to modify or reduce pension and retiree health benefits under California's vested rights doctrine, and provides guidance on fiduciary obligations under federal, state and local pension laws. Isabel has substantial experience in all things related to CalPERS – in both its pension and health benefit programs – and has assisted her clients favorably resolve a variety of matters, including new agency eligibility determinations, membership eligibility, compensation earnable determinations, compliance reviews and resolutions, and retiree employment matters. Isabel graduated from the University of California Los Angeles, School of Law and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Human Biology from Stanford University.

Jim Bagley, Chair, San Bernardino LAFCO

Jim Bagley is currently the Chair for San Bernardino LAFCO. His first stint on the Commission began in 2001 as a City Member, and his second stint began in 2008 as a public member. Professionally, Jim is a real estate broker and has served in the following public agencies: Twentynine Palms Water District (board member); City of Twentynine Palms (Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and council member); San Bernardino Associated Governments (President, Vice President, and member); Southern California Association of Governments (member); California League of Cities (board member, Desert Mountain Division President and Vice President); Bureau of Land Management's Desert District Advisory Council (member); Real Estate Specialist for the Department of Defense; and, to this day, San Bernardino County Airport Commission (Chair, Vice Chair, and currently member). Jim's family has been part of the Twentynine Palms community for three generations. Serving his community, Jim has been active in the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Realtors. In addition, he is a commercial pilot and a FAA certified flight instructor. Jim received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California Los Angeles.

Samuel Martinez, Executive Officer, San Bernardino LAFCO

Samuel Martinez is the Executive Officer for San Bernardino LAFCO. Sam joined San Bernardino LAFCO as an Analyst in 2003, moved up to Senior Analyst in 2008, promoted to Assistant Executive Officer in 2011, and appointed Executive Officer in 2018. Prior to joining LAFCO, Sam was a planner for the County of San Bernardino.

Michael Tuerpe, Sr. Analyst San Bernardino LAFCO

Michael Tuerpe has been with San Bernardino LAFCO for 17 years. He has completed over 100 individual service reviews and four countywide service reviews for the largest county in the state. Michael has degrees from UCLA and USC, as well as having served as an officer in the Air Force.

Friday, October 21st

9:00-10:15 am

Over the Hill LAFCo Commission Hearing on the proposal to dissolve the Over the Hill Fire District

Summary:

Join us for this “**mock-commission hearing**”, where we consider the not so simple dissolution of a rural fire district. The Commissioners and staff, as well as specific public instigators for this hearing are all experienced LAFCo people who will portray an actual local LAFCo hearing process. The intent is to evoke audience participation in the form of questions, comments on dos and “don’ts”, and constructive feedback on the hearing progress.

Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer, Imperial LAFCo

Jurg Heuberger worked for the Land Use Department in Imperial County from 1975 to 2010, serving as the Planning Director for the last 26 years. He became the Executive Office to LAFCO in 1985 while LAFCO was still under County staffing. In 2010 Imperial LAFCo became totally independent, and he has continued to serve as the EO. Jurg has a degree in Architecture from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. He serves on several Boards including the Imperial County Historical Society and was a founding member and still on the Board of Imperial Valley Telecommunications Authority (IVTA). IVTA provides high speed internet services to all 33-member public agencies in Imperial County. Jurg was born and raised in Switzerland.

Paula Graf, Sr. Analyst, Imperial LAFCo

Paula Graf is a Sr. Analyst for Imperial LAFCo. She started in 2015 as a limited-time clerk and has since moved up to Senior Analyst. Prior to joining LAFCo, Paula worked as an accounting assistant and assistant property accounts manager. She enjoys camping and hiking to get away from the noise of the day-to-day.

Holly Whatley, Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC.

Holly is a shareholder at Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC. She serves as General Counsel to San Diego County LAFCO and is conflicts counsel for San Bernardino LAFCO. She also litigates on behalf of public agencies throughout the state, including LAFCOs. Her LAFCO-related experience includes litigating a Rev. & Tax. 99 property tax negotiation dispute, island annexation disputes, election law disputes regarding voter approval of reorganizations and disputes regarding property tax implications of reorganizations.

Andy Vanderlan, Public Member, San Diego LAFCo

Commissioner Andrew “Andy” Vanderlaan has served as a regular public member on San Diego LAFCO since his initial appointment in 1996. Mr. Vanderlaan also served as an elected board member of CALAFCO between 2011 and 2012. Mr. Vanderlaan is a retired public safety professional and most recently served as Fire Chief for the North County Fire Protection District. It was also during his tenure with the North County Fire Protection District that Mr. Vanderlaan served as an elected member of the Special Districts Advisory Committee. Mr. Vanderlaan currently resides in the unincorporated community of Bonsall with his wife Miriam. Commissioner Vanderlaan’s current term ends on May 2025.

Gary Thompson, Executive Officer, Riverside LAFCo

Gary Thompson began his service as Executive Officer in May of 2019, after previously serving 5 years as City Manager for the City of Jurupa Valley. Gary has over 18 years of local government experience, and unique experience in understanding the methodologies and legal boundaries associated with formation and implementation of municipal agencies, municipal agency management and financing, and setting municipal level policy. Gary also previously served in a consulting capacity to several LAFCOs throughout California working on various projects including municipal service reviews, sphere of influence updates, incorporation fiscal analyses, and special studies.

Gary also worked 30 years in the federal sector, a significant portion in management level positions within various agencies of the Department of the Navy. Gary holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach, and an Associate in Science degree from Long Beach City College.

Derek McGregor, Public Member, Orange LAFCo

Derek J. McGregor has served as the Public Member on Orange LAFCO since 2009 and was recently appointed to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. He is a licensed civil engineer and land surveyor and has owned and operated DMc Engineering, a civil engineering and land surveying firm, since 1987. Derek has more than 30 years of experience as a leader within the community he resides as well as countywide. His involvement includes Orange County Transportation Authority Citizen’s Advisory and Environmental Oversight Committees, and Derek is the founding member of the Community Associations of Rancho, that promotes collaboration with some of the largest master

homeowners' associations in California. Derek's career began after graduating from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

Priscilla Mumpower, Local Government Analyst II, San Diego LAFCo

Priscilla Mumpower joined San Diego LAFCo in August 2020 and currently serves as a Local Government Analyst II. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University, College of Public Service and Community Solutions. As a San Diego native, she aspires to positively impact and contribute to San Diego communities. Previously, Priscilla worked in the hospitality industry as a Human Resources Manager. When not at work she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter.

Carolyn Emery, Executive Officer, Orange LAFCo

Carolyn Emery joined OC LAFCo in 2000. With more than 25 years of experience with local and state government, Ms. Emery currently provides executive leadership on agency projects that include developing governance alternatives involving infrastructure challenges and facilitating solutions through the vehicles of urban and regional planning. As Executive Officer, she is responsible for the agency's external relations and the development of annual strategic plans, work plans and the operational budgets. Additionally, Ms. Emery serves on multiple committees and boards that include the: Orange County Council of Governments, Center for Demographic Research Management Oversight Committee, and the CALAFCo Legislative Committee. Prior to joining Orange LAFCo, Carolyn worked with the City of Los Angeles, Commission on the Status of Women established by Mayor Tom Bradley. Ms. Emery earned a B.A. in Political Science and a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from CSU Long Beach. She is also a graduate of the Stanford University Bill Lane Center Local Governance Summer Institute and the Coro Southern California Women in Leadership Cohort. Carolyn is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and Women Leading Government (WLG).