

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSIONS



CALAFCO MISSION

Provide educational, information sharing and technical support for our members by serving as a resource for, and by collaborating with, the public, the legislative and executive branches of state government and other organizations for the purpose of discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, and encouraging orderly growth and development of local agencies.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

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FROM THE CALAFCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For just about all of us, 2020 was quite a challenge. During the year, the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) dedicated itself to meet the new and evolving needs of our members. As they reinvented the way they work and deliver services, so did we.

Although we were unable to gather in person in March for our annual Staff Workshop or in October for our Annual Conference, we stayed connected with virtual meetings and virtual educational events. We learned from each other as we supported one another through a historic time. CALAFCO stood in support of our member LAFCoS by shifting the way we provide supportive services and adjusted priorities to meet their changing needs.

2020 will be remembered as the year we would all like to forget. But doing so means we also forget the many things we learned - about ourselves as strong, capable, and resilient beings, and about the power of collective support, collaborative and innovative problem solving, and about our ability to generate hope for systemic and sustainable change.

Without missing a beat, LAFCoS throughout the state continued to provide the necessary leadership in fulfilling their missions, and in supporting their respective local agencies and the communities they serve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our member LAFCoS for their dedicated, focused and steadfast commitment to the work they do and the people they serve.

I also want to thank the CALAFCO regional staff for their support and contributions to the Association. A special thank you to our Associate member partners for their generous support of CALAFCO. Last but certainly not least, I want to express my gratitude to the CALAFCO Board of Directors, all of whom worked tirelessly throughout the year in support of the ideals and mission of CALAFCO and all LAFCoS. Through their leadership, vision and tenacity, the Association met the challenges of the year.

I'm proud to represent the Association and all 58 LAFCoS as well as our Associate Members, and present the 2020 Annual Report, which highlights the collective work of the past year and many of the achievements we realized. We hope you enjoy this new format of the Annual Report. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Pamela Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pamela Miller
Executive Director
CA Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

CALAFCO 2020 Annual Report

FROM THE 2019-2020 CALAFCO CHAIR OF THE BOARD



We are living in interesting times!

Every time I think it can't get worse; it does. At the time I wrote this article, we were plagued by record heat and fires. Often past chairs have written something like, "...it was a challenging but rewarding year". I will say it was a challenging year; I don't think I can call it rewarding, but I have been proud to see how CALAFCO rose to the challenge and pivoted to address the impacts thrown on us by this pandemic. We moved to virtual meetings, made Zoom available to our member LAFCoS, held regular meetings with our member LAFCo Executive Officers/Clerks and made a series of virtual CALAFCO U classes and on demand webinars available free to our members; we continue to focus on "value added" to our members. Much of the credit for this, and its success, is due to efforts by our Executive Director, Pamela Miller, who we were fortunate to retain, as an employee, after she announced her retirement; we are indebted to her. Of course many others pitched in to make this possible and the CALAFCO Board provided needed support.

We were forced to cancel our Annual Conference. Many LAFCoS were directly impacted as were many government agencies. Many have died, the economy was rocked and many individuals struggle to meet basic needs; essential workers continue to provide service and others are forced to work out of economic necessity-risking their, and their family, health and lives.

My father, the youngest of four, was born in 1927. As I grew up, his parents from time to time, talked about the influenza pandemic of 1918. I used to find those stories surreal; people confined to their homes, a red notice nailed to the door and many deaths. My grandparents not only endured this pandemic but, in their lifetime, faced WWI, the Great Depression and WWII. Much of this is now delegated to "just history". My grandparents came thru it and someday 2020 will also be delegated to history.

I'm proud that CALAFCO more than survived this challenge. Our dues change let us avoid a structural deficit and a loss for the year even with the cancellation of the Annual Conference. Our prudent reserves may allow us to cover unexpected costs, especially legal costs as we navigated AB 5, converting Pamela and Jeni to employees.

We continue to proudly serve our member LAFCoS and remain a viable and respected voice in Sacramento.
Thanks to all of you.

Michael R. McGill, P.E.
Chair of the Board, 2019-2020
CA Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

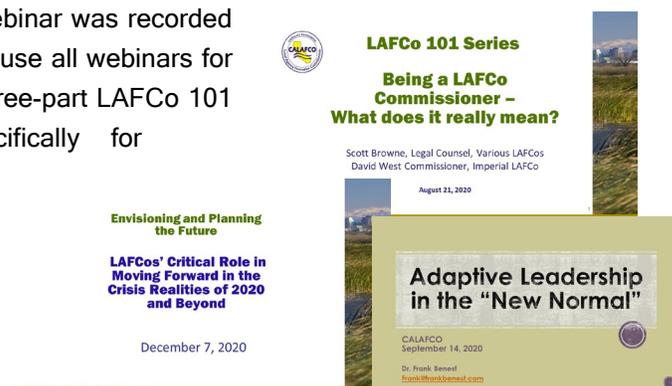
CALAFCO 2020 Annual Report

In 2019, CALAFCO began a two-year strategic plan to define the Association's priorities and guide the work. There were three main strategic areas each with actionable goals for each of the two years. This report highlights the achievements of the work in 2020 towards those goals.

1. Serve as an educational resource to member LAFCo Commissioners, LAFCo staff, Associate Members, and stakeholders.
2. Focus efforts on Association member development and communication.
3. Serve as an information resource to all Association members, work as a legislative and policy advocate for LAFCo issues and provide information to the Legislature and other stakeholders.

1. Serve as an educational resource

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training and educational opportunities were impossible from mid-March through the end of 2020. This meant the cancellation of our annual Staff Workshop and Annual Conference. However, in early summer, CALAFCO staff began looking at how to deliver short educational sessions virtually - something CALAFCO had never done before. From August through December, six webinars were successfully delivered at no cost to our members. Additionally, each webinar was recorded and a new section created on the CALAFCO website to house all webinars for member on-demand viewing. Webinar topics included a three-part LAFCo 101 series (including a newly designed session specifically for Clerks/Analysts and another for LAFCo Commissioners), adaptive leadership, and two sessions on LAFCos role in this "new/now normal" world of ours. In total, 274 LAFCo staff, commissioners and Associate Members attended these free educational offerings.



Early in January CALAFCO hosted a CALAFCO University session in Orange County focusing on legacy costs associated with reorganizations.

We are proud to continue to offer our members AICP credits when applicable for any educational session we host.

CALAFCO remains a coaching partner with Cal-ICMA and through this partnership all of our members receive free access to professional development webinars, one-to-one coaching and other professional development resources.



CALAFCO 2020 Annual Report

2. Focus efforts on Association member development and communication

In response to our members, CALAFCO developed a short series of News Bulletins and distributed them to the membership during the first three months of the State's shutdown. The Bulletins advised members of the latest Executive Orders and other noteworthy news items that impacted LAFCoS and other local agencies.

Beginning mid-March, we hosted weekly meetings for LAFCo Executive Officers and another for LAFCo Clerks to allow for collaboration and information sharing. These meetings transitioned to virtual meetings and continue as monthly meetings into 2021, with as many as 32 Executive Officers attending the monthly meeting.

Knowing many of our members struggled to find effective ways for their Commissions to meet while maintaining transparency and public participation, CALAFCO purchased two Zoom licenses and provided the use of one of those licenses to our member LAFCoS, along with our toll-free conference calling system, at no cost, as a way for our members to continue conducting business transparently.



The events of 2020 were uncharted territory for many, and the fiscal aftermath will long be felt by all local agencies across the state. CALAFCO recognized this as a unique time for LAFCoS to champion the support of local agencies and help rebuild communities. In partnership with several Executive officers and one of our Associate Member partners, CALAFCO created a series of messaging materials to assist our member LAFCoS in their facilitation of local discussions on the

revitalization of their respective communities. These resources were introduced and distributed in December.

In addition to our normal communication tools of Quarterly Reports and list serves, we also hosted virtual regional roundtables in December for our member LAFCoS (as a replacement for our in-person roundtables at the Annual Conference) as well as a LAFCo Legal Counsel roundtable in October. With so many of our members meeting virtually, our Executive Director was able to attend sixteen (16) different LAFCo meetings the second half of the year.

In response to the membership survey in 2019, CALAFCO staff spent time this year updating several of the most frequently used sections of the CALAFCO website. In addition to the creation of the new webinar archive, the CALAFCO University archives was updated, along with several sections within the LAFCo Law section. Other sections were completely reorganized and updated for easier member access to resource information and materials. CALAFCO is proud to continue earning the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency for high level of nonprofit transparency.



CALAFCO 2020 Annual Report

3. Serve as an information resource and legislative and policy advocate

In addition to the work of enhancing the CALAFCO website as an informational resource, CALAFCO continued to participate in the Department of Water Resources' County Drought Advisory Group and lead the efforts of the 18-member Protest Provisions Stakeholder Working Group (Working Group).

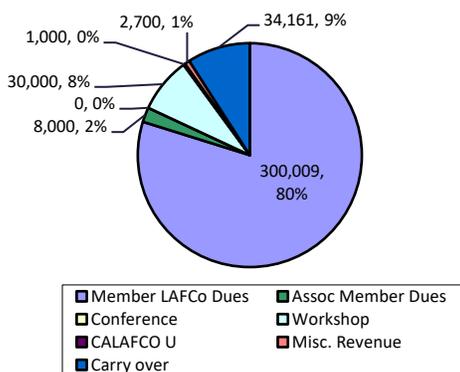
The 2020 legislative year turned out to be unlike any other and the pandemic turned legislation inside-out. The focus of the Legislature quickly turned to COVID response as well as responding to a historic year of wildfires and calls for social and racial justice and equity. At the direction of the CALAFCO Board, we ended our efforts to obtain state-level grant funding for LAFCoS through sponsored legislation and did not sponsor an Omnibus bill in 2020. Instead, the Board made the proposal to make changes to statute pertaining to extension of services the legislative priority, along with the ongoing efforts of the Working Group. After seeking feedback and consensus from Executive Officers as directed by the Board, in late January the Executive Committee approved moving forward with seeking legislation. Given the late timing, the Association was unsuccessful in securing an author. As a result, CALAFCO did not sponsor any bills in 2020. It is uncertain if any bills (other than Omnibus) would have successfully passed through the Legislature given the shift in their focus mid-year. CALAFCO continued to support our membership through legislative action where appropriate and fiercely guarded LAFCo authority when necessary, tracking 32 bills and taking positions on 7 bills.

Other 2020 highlights

There were several other highlights in 2020 that were not part of the two-year strategic plan. First, we successfully transitioned our two primary part-time contractors (Executive Director and Administrator) to part-time employees effective September 1 in compliance with AB 5. Additionally, for the first time, CALAFCO conducted a virtual election for the Board of Directors.

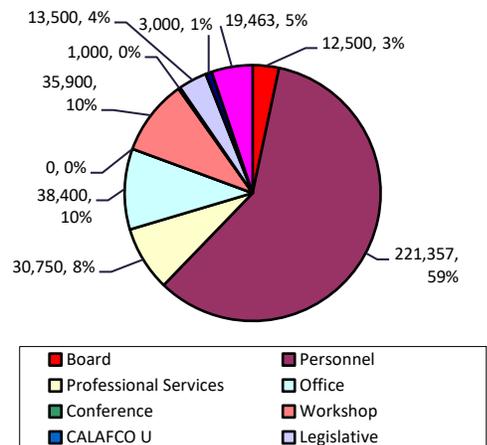
CALAFCO Financials 2020

FY 2020-21 REVENUE BY CATEGORY AND % OF TOTAL BUDGET



In July, the Board of Directors adopted a revised budget without any Conference revenue/expenses, with new estimated employer costs and the retention of the Executive Director. The lack of the planned 15% Conference net profit created a structural deficit that can be covered by the net balance carryover into FY 2020-21, which ended up

FY 2020-21 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY AND % OF TOTAL BUDGET



larger than expected at the end of FY 2019-20 due to cost savings in other budget areas. By the end of 2020 it appeared savings into FY 2020-21 was continuing in many areas that will help the Association's financial outlook going into another uncertain fiscal year.

Looking ahead to 2021

Our LAFcos are strong and resilient and led with remarkable courage during 2020. CALAFCO remains committed to continue building a resilient and sustainable Association that supports our members in their work. To focus resources on our members' highest priorities in 2021, the CALAFCO Board of Directors' biennial strategic planning workshop in January will create the foundation for the Association's next two-year strategic plan. As we move into our 50th year, CALAFCO remains committed to:

- **Serve as an educational resource to member LAFCo Commissioners, LAFCo staff, Associate Members, and stakeholders.**
- **Focus efforts on Association member relations, development, recognition and communication.**
- **Continue development of a strong and sustainable Association.**
- **Serve as an information resource to all Association members, work as a legislative and policy advocate for LAFCo issues and provide information to the Legislature and other stakeholders.**

CALAFCO 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

OFFICERS (Oct 2019 – Oct 2020)

CHAIR - *Michael McGill*, Contra Costa LAFCo, District Member (Coastal)

VICE CHAIR - *Michael Kelley*, Imperial LAFCo, County Member (Southern)

SECRETARY - *Anita Paque*, Calaveras LAFCo, Public Member (Central)

TREASURER - *Bill Connelly*, Butte LAFCo, County Member (Northern)

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR - *Josh Susman*, Nevada LAFCo, Public Member (Northern)

MEMBERS (Oct 2019 – Oct 2020)

Cheryl Brothers, Orange LAFCo, City Member (Southern)

David Couch, Humboldt LAFCo, City Member (Northern)

Shiva Frentzen, El Dorado LAFCo, County Member (Central)

Blake Inscore, Del Norte LAFCo, City Member (Northern)

Gay Jones, Sacramento LAFCo, District Member (Central)

Jo MacKenzie, San Diego LAFCo, District Member (Southern)

Margie Mohler, Napa LAFCo, City Member (Coastal)

Tom Murray, San Luis Obispo LAFCo, Public Member (Coastal)

Jane Parker, Monterey LAFCo, County Member (Coastal)

Daniel Parra, Fresno LAFCo, City Member (Central)

David West, Imperial LAFCo, Public Member (Southern)

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - *Pamela Miller*

ADMINISTRATOR - *Jeni Tickler*

LEGAL COUNSEL - *Clark Alsop*, Best Best & Krieger

CPA - *James Gladfelter*, Alta Mesa Group

EXECUTIVE OFFICER - *Stephen Lucas*, Butte LAFCo (Northern)

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS - *Christine Crawford*, Yolo LAFCo (Central); *Martha Poyatos*, San Mateo LAFCo (Coastal); and *Gary Thompson*, Riverside LAFCo (Southern)

CALAFCO 2020 Annual Report

A SNAPSHOT LOOK AT 2020 by the numbers

MEMBERSHIP

58 Member LAFCoS

26 Associate Members

4 Regions

16 Member Board of Directors

Over 750 Commissioners & Staff supported



EDUCATION

300 Total attendees

7 Events

6 Webinars

1 CALAFCO U

LEGISLATION

32 Bills monitored, tracked, engaged and positions taken



ADMINISTRATION

8 List serves with **286** subscribers

58,843 Webpage views(www.calafco.org)

Over **60** meetings hosted for Member LAFCoS

2 P/T Staff + **2** P/T Consultants + **4** Regional Staff