

Resolution No. 2017-18-04
of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Mendocino County

Approving the
Adoption of 2017 Legislative Platform

WHEREAS, Local Agency Formation Commissions have been created under the provisions of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Sections 56000 et. seq. of the Government Code, as independent agencies, with the power to adopt policies and procedures, as necessary, to carry out their functions; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," shall consider adoption of a legislative platform annually, at the first regular Commission meeting following the CALAFCO publication of their legislative platform, or as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission shall consider the annual CALAFCO adopted legislative platform; and

WHEREAS, the Policies and Procedures Committee has reviewed CALAFCO's adopted 2017 Legislative Platform and recommends the attached legislative platform to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, this Commission held a public meeting regarding the proposed adoption of a legislative platform for 2017, and at that meeting, this Commission received all oral and written comments with respect to the proposed platform, the recommendation of the Policies and Procedures Committee for adoption, and the report of the Executive Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Mendocino DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER as follows:

The foregoing Resolution was passed and duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission held on this 6th day of November 2017, by the following vote:

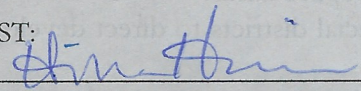
(7) AYES: *Commissioners Brown, Doble, Gonzalez, Hamburg, McNerlin, Orth, + Ward*

(0) NOES: -

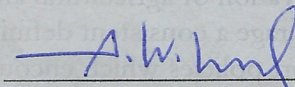
(0) ABSTAIN: -

(0) ABSENT: -

ATTEST:



UMA HINMAN, Executive Officer



GERALD WARD, Chair

Mendocino LAFCo

2017 Legislative Platform

1 LAFCo Purpose and Authority

- 1.1 Support legislation which enhances LAFCo authority and powers to carry out the legislative findings and authority in Government Code Section 56000 et seq., and oppose legislation which diminishes LAFCo authority.
- 1.2 Support authority for each LAFCo to establish local policies to apply Government Code Section 56000 et. seq. based on local needs and conditions, and oppose any limitations to that authority.
- 1.3 Oppose additional LAFCo responsibilities which require expansion of current local funding sources. Oppose unrelated responsibilities which dilute LAFCo ability to meet its primary mission.
- 1.4 Support alignment of responsibilities and authority of LAFCo and regional agencies which may have overlapping responsibilities in orderly growth, preservation, and service delivery, and oppose legislation or policies which create conflicts or hamper with those responsibilities.
- 1.5 Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the LAFCo process.
- 1.6 Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote his or her conscience on issues affecting his or her own jurisdiction.

2 LAFCo Organization

- 2.1 Support the independence of LAFCo from local agencies.
- 2.2 Oppose the re-composition of any LAFCo to create special seats and recognize the importance of balanced representation provided by cities, the county, the public, and special districts in advancing the public interest.
- 2.3 Support representation for special districts on all LAFCos in counties with independent districts and oppose removal of special districts from any LAFCo.
- 2.4 Support communication and collaborative decision-making among neighboring LAFCos when growth pressures and multicounty agencies extend beyond a LAFCo's boundaries.

3 Agriculture and Open Space Protection

- 3.1 Support legislation which clarifies LAFCo authority to identify, encourage, and ensure the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.2 Encourage a consistent definition of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.3 Support policies which encourage cities, counties, and special districts to direct development away from prime agricultural lands.
- 3.4 Support policies and tools which protect prime agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.5 Support the continuance of the Williamson Act and restoration of program funding through State subvention payments.

4 Orderly Growth

- 4.1 Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as a management tool to provide better planning of growth and development, and to preserve agricultural, and open space lands.
- 4.2 Support recognition of LAFCo spheres of influence by other agencies involved in determining and developing long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 4.3 Support orderly boundaries of local agencies and the elimination of islands within the boundaries of agencies.
- 4.4 Support communication among cities, counties, and special districts through a collaborative process that resolves service, housing, land use, and fiscal issues prior to application to LAFCo.
- 4.5 Support the cooperation between counties, cities, and special districts on decisions related to development within the city's designated sphere of influence.

5 Service Delivery and Local Agency Effectiveness

- 5.1 Support the use of LAFCo resources to review Regional Transportation Plans, including sustainable communities strategies and other growth plans to ensure reliable services, orderly growth, sustainable communities, and conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates. Support efforts that enhance meaningful collaboration between LAFCo and regional planning agencies.
- 5.2 Support LAFCo authority as the preferred method of local governance. Support the availability of LAFCo tools which provide communities with local governance and efficient service delivery options, including the authority to impose conditions that assure a proposal's conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.3 Support the creation or reorganization of local governments in a deliberative, open process which will fairly evaluate the proposed new or successor agency's long-term financial viability, governance structure, and ability to efficiently deliver proposed services.
- 5.4 Support the availability of tools for LAFCo to insure equitable distribution of revenues to local government agencies consistent with their service delivery responsibilities.
- 5.5 Support collaborative efforts, including consolidation, among agencies and LAFCos that encourage opportunities for sharing of services, staff, and facilities to provide more efficient and cost effective services. Support legislation which provides LAFCo with additional opportunities to encourage shared services.

2017 Legislative Priorities

Primary Issues

Authority of LAFCo

Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's authority to condition proposals to address any or all financial, growth, service delivery, and agricultural and open space preservation issues. Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's ability to make decisions regarding boundaries and formations, as well as to enact recommendations related to the delivery of services and the agencies providing them, including consolidations, reorganizations, or dissolutions.

Agriculture and Open Space Protection

Support policies, programs, and legislation that recognize LAFCo's mission to protect and mitigate the loss of prime agricultural and open space lands and that encourage other agencies to coordinate with local LAFCos on land preservation and orderly growth. Support efforts that encourage the creation of habitat conservation plans.

Water Availability

Support policies, programs, and legislation that promote an integrated approach to water availability and management. Promote adequate water supplies and infrastructure planning for current and planned growth as well as to support the sustainability of agriculture. Support policies that assist LAFCo in obtaining accurate and reliable water supply information to evaluate current and cumulative water demands for service expansions and boundary changes including impacts of expanding water company service areas on orderly growth, and the impacts of consolidation or dissolution of water companies providing services.

Viability of Local Services

Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's ability to review and act to determine the efficient and sustainable delivery of services and the financial viability of agencies providing those services to meet current and future needs including those identified in regional planning efforts such as sustainable communities strategies. Support legislation which provides LAFCo and local communities with options for local governance and service delivery to ensure efficient, effective, and quality service delivery. Support efforts which provide tools to local agencies to address aging infrastructure, fiscal challenges, and the maintenance of services.

Issues of Interest

Housing

Provision of territory and services to support housing plans consistent with regional land use plans and LAFCo policies.

Transportation

Effects of Regional Transportation Plans and expansion of transportation systems on future urban growth and service delivery needs, and the ability of local agencies to provide those services.

Flood Control

The ability and effectiveness of local agencies to maintain and improve levees and protect current infrastructure. Carefully consider the value of uninhabited territory, and the impact to public safety of proposed annexation to urban areas of uninhabited territory which is at risk for flooding. Support legislation that includes assessment for agency viability in decisions involving new funds for levee repair and maintenance. Support efforts that encourage the creation of habitat conservation plans.

Adequate Municipal Services in Inhabited Territory

Expedited processes for inhabited annexations should be consistent with LAFCo law and be fiscally viable. To promote environmental justice for underserved inhabited communities, funding sources should be identified for extension of municipal services, including options for annexation of contiguous disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Promote the delivery of adequate, sustainable, efficient, and effective levels of service through periodic updates of Municipal Service Reviews, Spheres of Influence, and other studies.