

CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report
as of Monday, October 18, 2021

CALAFCO Priority 1

AB 361 (Rivas, Robert D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Last Amended 9/3/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#) [AB 361 Fact Sheet](#)

Status: 9/16/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would authorize until January 1, 2024, a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing during a proclaimed state of emergency held for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and during a proclaimed state of emergency when the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, as provided.

CALAFCO Position: Support

CALAFCO Comments: The bill only applies to state declared emergencies; adds specific requirements for making accommodations for various types of public comment processes during local government meetings; adds a sunset date of January 1, 2024; and allows agencies to use teleconference methods to meet and specifies requirements for those meetings. This bill has an urgency clause which means it will be effective immediately and with little to no break in the Governor's Executive Order for meeting remotely. This bill is sponsored by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

CALAFCO Priority 2

AB 1250 (Calderon D) Water and sewer system corporations: consolidation of service.

Last Amended 7/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#) [AB 1250 Fact Sheet 2021](#)

Status: 10/8/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 713, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act, provides for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Resources Control Board related regulatory responsibilities and duties. Current law authorizes the state board to order consolidation of public water systems where a public water system or state small water system serving a disadvantaged community consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, as provided. This bill, the Consolidation for Safe Drinking Water Act of 2021, would authorize a water or sewer system corporation to file an application and obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission through an order authorizing the water or sewer system corporation to consolidate with a small community water system or state small water system identified as failing or at risk of failing by the state board.

CALAFCO Position: Watch

CALAFCO Comments: The intent of the bill is to prescribe response timelines for the PUC in terms of processing consolidations. This bill creates the Consolidation for Safe Drinking Water Act of 2021. The bill allows a water or sewer corporation to file an application with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval to consolidate with a small community water system or state small system. The bill requires the PUC to act on the application within 8 months of receipt. If a consolidation is valued at \$5 million or less, the water or sewer corporation can file an advice letter and get the PUC approval via resolution. In this

instance, the PUC has 120 days to act on the request. The bill also gives the PUC authority to designate a different procedure to request consolidation for systems valued less than \$5M.

The bill requires the PUC to prioritize consolidation requests based on compliance records and requires the entity requesting consolidation to conduct a thorough public process. The bill is sponsored by the California Water Association and does not have a direct impact on LAFcos.

Amendments on 5/24/21 established the Consolidation for Safe Drinking Water Fund, with all moneys available, upon appropriation, going to the PUC in order to process the applications and cover any associated regulatory costs, and requires a water or sewer system corporation to pay a fee of \$10,000 when filing an application pursuant to the above provision and requires the fee to be deposited into the fund.

Amendments on 7/5/21 changed the type of system focused for consolidation from public to small community and added the ability to consolidate systems to include state small systems, and no longer requires the consolidation to be into a public system. Also extended the PUC timeline to approve or deny an application for consolidation from 8 to 12 months.

SB 403 (Gonzalez D) Drinking water: consolidation.

Last Amended 7/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#) [SB 403 Fact Sheet 2021](#)

Status: 9/23/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 242, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The California Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation with a receiving water system where a public water system or a state small water system, serving a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water or where a disadvantaged community is substantially reliant on domestic wells that consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. This bill would revise those consolidation provisions, including, among other revisions, authorizing the state board to also order consolidation where a water system serving a disadvantaged community is an at-risk water system, as defined, or where a disadvantaged community is substantially reliant on at-risk domestic wells, as defined.

CALAFCO Position: Neutral, Changed from Oppose unless amended [CALAFCO Oppose Unless Amended Letter April 2021](#) [CALAFCO Removal of Opposition Letter June 2021](#)

CALAFCO Comments: Current law (Health & Safety Code Section 116682) authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to order consolidation (physical or operational) of a public water system or state small water system serving a disadvantaged community that consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, or a disadvantaged community (in whole or part) that is substantially reliant on domestic wells that consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. This bill would add to that a water system or domestic well(s) that are at risk of failing to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, as determined by the Board. The bill also requires the Board, before ordering consolidation, to conduct outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the at-risk system and to consider any petition submitted by members of a disadvantaged community being served by the at-risk system.

The bill defines "at risk system" and "at risk domestic well"; creates an appeal process for potentially subsumed water systems; requires inspection or testing of wells to determine "at risk" status; and allows the Board to prioritize systems historically overburdened by pollution and industrial development or other environmental justice concerns. It also puts a cap of 3,300 or fewer connections on systems that can be subsumed. Amendments from 6/8/21 add a requirement for the Water Board to consult with GSAs.

The bill also requires the water board to consult with the potentially receiving water system and adds language that specifies the input allowed by that.

CALAFCO Priority 3

SB 10 (Wiener D) Planning and zoning: housing development: density.

Last Amended 7/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 9/16/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 163, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would, notwithstanding any local restrictions on adopting zoning ordinances, authorize a local government to adopt an ordinance to zone any parcel for up to 10 units of residential density per parcel, at a height specified in the ordinance, if the parcel is located in a transit-rich area or an urban infill site, as those terms are defined. The bill would prohibit a local government from adopting an ordinance pursuant to these provisions on or after January 1, 2029. The bill would specify that an ordinance adopted under these provisions, and any resolution to amend the jurisdiction’s General Plan, ordinance, or other local regulation adopted to be consistent with that ordinance, is not a project for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act. The bill would prohibit an ordinance adopted under these provisions from superceding a local restriction enacted or approved by a local initiative that designates publicly owned land as open-space land or for park or recreational purposes.

CALAFCO Position: Watch

CALAFCO Comments: While not directly affecting LAFCo’s, the requirements in the bill are of interest. As amended on 4-13-21, the bill imposes specified requirements on a zoning ordinance adopted under these provisions. The bill would prohibit a legislative body that adopts a zoning ordinance pursuant to these provisions from subsequently reducing the density of any parcel subject to the ordinance and makes void and unenforceable any covenant, restriction, or condition contained in any deed, contract, security instrument, or other instrument affecting the transfer or sale of any interest in a planned development, and any provision of a governing document, that effectively prohibits or unreasonably restricts a use or density authorized by an ordinance adopted pursuant to the provisions in the bill.

The amendment on 4-27-21 amends 65913.5(a)(3) to remove exemption of parcels excluded from specified hazard zones by a local agency pursuant to 51179(b).

The amendments on 5-26-21 prohibit a residential or mixed-use residential project consisting of 10 or more units that is located on a parcel zoned pursuant to these provisions from being approved ministerially or by right or from being exempt from CEQA, except as specified, and repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029.

The 7/5/21 amendments remove the requirements added on 6/24/21 pertaining to zoning restrictions that a local initiative be a voter-initiated initiative. Also makes minor changes to the timing of the bus corridor criteria.

SB 13 (Dodd D) Local agency services: contracts: Counties of Napa and San Bernardino.

Last Amended 6/28/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 10/4/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 482, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 establishes a pilot program under which the commissions in the Counties of Napa and San Bernardino, upon making specified determinations at a noticed public hearing, may authorize a city or district to provide new or extended services outside its jurisdictional boundary and outside its sphere of influence to support existing or planned uses involving public or private properties, as provided. Current law requires the Napa and San Bernardino commissions to submit a report to the Legislature on their participation in the pilot program, as specified, before January 1, 2020, and repeals the pilot program as of January 1, 2021. This bill would reestablish the pilot program, which would remain in effect until January 1, 2026. The bill would impose a January 1, 2025, deadline for the Napa and San Bernardino commissions to report to the Legislature on the pilot program,

and would require the contents of that report to include how many requests for extension of services were received under these provisions.

CALAFCO Position: Oppose Unless Amended [CALAFCO Oppose Unless Amended letter May 2021](#)

CALAFCO Comments: This bill is the same as SB 799 from 2020 and seeks to re-establish and continue the pilot program for five more years. The program ended as of January 1, 2021 but due to the pandemic, SB 799 from 2020 to extend the sunset was not moved forward in the legislature.

As amended on 4-29-21, the bill now adds 56133.6 which seeks to address several projects in the City of St. Helena, and resolve a current law suit between the winery and the city. The amendments authorize Napa CALAFCO to consider new or extended service by the city to specific parcels with certain conditions. The bill requires the Napa CALAFCO make certain determinations if approving, include any decision in their required report to the Legislature and has a sunset of 1-1-26.

CALAFCO has made a request for several technical amendments to the version dated 4-29-21, and has concern this addition strays too far from the original intent of the pilot program. Requested amendments on the table now include: (1) Rewording of both sections 56133.5(a)(2) and 56133.6(a)(3) to explicitly state both (A) and (B) are required; (2) Reword the new addition to 56133.5(d) so that it does not presume Napa CALAFCO will authorize the new or extension of service; and (3) Rewrite 56133.6(a)(1) to clarify that (A) must apply to both (B) and (C).

As amended on 5-11-21, all requested technical amendments were made, however the intent of the pilot program has changed with the addition of 56133.6 and Napa CALAFCO's ability to approve extension of service for parcels that do not meet the pilot program's requirement of planned use as defined in 56133.5. For this reason, CALAFCO is opposed unless amended, requesting the removal of 56133.6. Our letter is in the bill detail section. Amendments from 6/28/21 are minor in nature and serve as clean-up.

SB 273 (Hertzberg D) Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies.

Last Amended 6/21/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#) [SB 273 Fact Sheet](#)

Status: 9/23/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 241, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would authorize a municipal wastewater agency, as defined, to enter into agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management for the purpose of managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide facilities for specified purposes relating to managing stormwater and dry weather runoff, and to levy taxes, fees, and charges consistent with the municipal wastewater agency's existing authority in order to fund projects undertaken pursuant to the bill. The bill would require the exercise of any new authority granted under the bill to comply with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. To the extent this requirement would impose new duties on local agency formation commissions, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

CALAFCO Position: Support [CALAFCO Support June 2021](#)

CALAFCO Comments: This bill adds authority to municipal wastewater agencies as outlined in 13911(a) and (b) relating to stormwater runoff and management. The bill authorizes this additional authority while keeping the LAFCo process to activate these latent powers intact. The bill also has a requirement that upon entering into the agreement, the agency has 30 days to file a copy of that agreement or amended agreement with the LAFCO, as requested by CALAFCO. The bill is sponsored by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

SB 274 (Wieckowski D) Local government meetings: agenda and documents.

Amended: 4/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#) [SB 274 Fact Sheet](#)

Status: 10/9/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 763, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This bill would require a local agency with an internet website, or its designee, to email a copy of, or website link to, the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet if the person requests that the items be delivered by email. If a local agency determines it to be technologically infeasible to send a copy of the documents or a link to a website that contains the documents by email or by other electronic means, the bill would require the legislative body or its designee to send by mail a copy of the agenda or a website link to the agenda and to mail a copy of all other documents constituting the agenda packet, as specified.

CALAFCO Position: Support [CALAFCO Support SB 274 \(3-15-21\)](#)

Comments: This bill is a modified redo of SB 931 from 2020 that did not move forward because of the pandemic. This bill updates the Government Code to require a public agency to email the agenda or agenda items to anyone who requests it or the link to the website where the documents can be accessed (current law requires the mailing of such documents upon request, this bill adds the option to email if requested).

SB 574 (Laird D) Agricultural preserves: Williamson Act.

Current Text: Amended 3/4/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Status: 10/7/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 644, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Under the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, the board of supervisors or city council may grant tentative approval for a cancellation by petition of a landowner as to all or any part of land subject to a contract, as specified. Prior to any action by the board or council giving tentative approval to the cancellation of any contract, the county assessor is required to determine the current fair market value of the land as though it were free of the contractual restriction, and requires the assessor to send the fair market value to the Department of Conservation, hereafter department, at the same time the assessor sends the value to the landowner. Current law provides for a certificate of tentative cancellation upon tentative approval of a petition by a landowner accompanied by a proposal for a specified alternative use of the land, as provided. Current law requires the board of supervisors or city council to provide notice to the department related to cancellation of the contract as well as in other specified instances. This bill would revise and recast these provisions to no longer require the assessor to provide notice to the department and to require the board of supervisors or city council to provide notice to the department if the certificate of tentative cancellation is withdrawn, as specified.

CALAFCO Position: Watch

CALAFCO Comments: This bill narrows the role of Department of Conservation (DOC) in administering the Williamson Act. It does not change other provisions in the Act except for lessening reporting requirements by local governments to the DOC. The bill repeals the ability of the DOC to agree on a cancellation value for contracted land with a landowner, along with the requirement that the department provide a preliminary valuation to the applicable assessor, and repeals the requirement that the DOC approve cancellation of a farmland security contract. The bill also repeals and narrows reporting requirements by requiring the DOC to post all local government reports on Williamson Act lands/contracts on its website rather than create a report and submit to the Legislature. The bill also repeals certain reporting requirements by local governments (cities and counties) to the DOC regarding Williamson Act contracts.

The bill also requires cities/counties to file annual maps on Act lands; and removes the requirement for state approval for the amount of security to be paid when paying cancellation fee. CALAFCO will continue to watch this bill to ensure no detrimental changes are made to the Act through future amendments.

Other Tracked Bills:

SB 9 (Atkins, Caballero, Rubio, Wiener D) Planning and zoning: housing development: approvals.
Last Amended 8/16/2021 [html](#)
Status: 9/16/2021-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 162, Statutes of 2021.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This bill, among other things, would require a proposed housing development containing no more than 2 residential units within a single-family residential zone to be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or hearing, if the proposed housing development meets certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the proposed housing development would not require demolition or alteration of housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income, that the proposed housing development does not allow for the demolition of more than 25% of the existing exterior structural walls, except as provided, and that the development is not located within a historic district, is not included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, or is not within a site that is legally designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district.

The bill would set forth what a local agency can and cannot require in approving the construction of 2 residential units, including, but not limited to, authorizing a local agency to impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design standards, as defined, unless those standards would have the effect of physically precluding the construction of up to 2 units or physically precluding either of the 2 units from being at least 800 square feet in floor area, prohibiting the imposition of setback requirements under certain circumstances, and setting maximum setback requirements under all other circumstances.

This bill, among other things, would require a local agency to ministerially approve a parcel map for an urban lot split that meets certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the urban lot split would not require the demolition or alteration of housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income, that the parcel is located within a single-family residential zone, and that the parcel is not located within a historic district, is not included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, or is not within a site that is legally designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district.

The bill would set forth what a local agency can and cannot require in approving an urban lot split, including, but not limited to, authorizing a local agency to impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design standards, as defined, unless those standards would have the effect of physically precluding the construction of 2 units, as defined, on either of the resulting parcels or physically precluding either of the 2 units from being at least 800 square feet in floor area, prohibiting the imposition of setback requirements under certain circumstances, and setting maximum setback requirements under all other circumstances. The bill, until January 1, 2027, would prohibit a local agency from imposing an owner occupancy requirement on applicants unless specified conditions are met.

The bill would also extend the limit on the additional period that may be provided by ordinance from 12 months to 24 months.

This bill, by establishing the ministerial review processes described above, would thereby exempt the approval of projects subject to those processes from CEQA.

As amended on 8/16/21, the bill would require an applicant to sign an affidavit stating that they intend to occupy one of the housing units as their principal residence for a minimum of 3 years from the date of the approval of the urban lot split, unless the applicant is a community land trust or a qualified nonprofit corporation.