



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capital Room 3126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Removal of opposition to Assembly Bill 600 (as amended September 4, 2019)**

Dear Assembly Member Chu:

The El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has been following your bill, **Assembly Bill 600**. As a result of the amendments in the September 4, 2019 version of the bill, we are removing our opposition.

While we are removing our opposition, we still have concerns related to disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs).

LAFCOs are aware of and concerned about the disparity of local public services, especially for residents and properties located within these communities. All Californians deserve adequate and safe drinking water and wastewater facilities. We encourage the Legislature to look at service delivery issues and annexation of these communities with a more holistic approach rather than the piecemeal one bill at a time approach.

Allowing residents to say they want services extended does not ensure the service provider will extend the services. Further, extending services without annexation disenfranchises an already disenfranchised community by creating a taxation without representation situation for them. Without annexation the residents have no say in who represents them on the Board of the service provider (via election), nor does it allow them to have a voice should rate issues appear on the ballot. It creates a situation in which they cannot be a full participant in the governance of their area.

Additionally, one of the primary statutory purposes of LAFCO is to ensure orderly growth. Extending services on an individual basis or by service category without annexation only serves to undermine the very purpose of jurisdictional boundaries and sphere of influence plans.

We strongly believe that local control is best and that decisions should take local circumstances and conditions into account. This means that there is no “one-size fits all” solution.

We also believe a collective stakeholder dialogue with reasonable and systemic solutions to the problem coupled with adequate funding for infrastructure and maintenance are required to solve this complicated statewide issue of addressing the needs of these communities. We suggest the

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definition of a DUC be re-examined and updated to reflect the true nature and scope of a disadvantaged community.

Please contact me with any questions you have about the removal of our opposition to AB 600 or our ongoing concerns.

Respectfully,



José C. Henríquez
Executive Officer

Cc: Jimmy MacDonald, Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO