

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF MARCH 23, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Ken Humphreys, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

**AGENDA ITEM #10: CONSIDER CALAFCO'S RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES
FOR REPORTING LAFCO STAFF COMPENSATION**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission consider the attached guidelines for reporting LAFCO staff compensation from CALAFCO and direct staff accordingly.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

At the CALAFCO Annual Conference in Palm Springs, staff from several LAFCOs requested that CALAFCO develop recommended guidelines for disclosing salary and compensation to the public and the media that could be presented for discussion to interested commissions. CALAFCO staff developed "Recommended Guidelines" that were adopted by the CALAFCO Board of Directors on December 10, 2010. The Board requested the Guidelines be distributed to members for consideration.

BACKGROUND

The City of Bell scandal shone the spotlight on the compensation levels for public officials. In response, in August 2010 this Commission directed staff to post to the LAFCO website the staff salary schedule by position, the Executive Officer's contract and to include basic information related to Commission reimbursement.

In Attachment A, you will find CALAFCO's "Recommended Guidelines" on proactive disclosure of staff compensation levels, including its recommendations on the amount of information that should be disclosed *voluntarily*, preferably on a website. For comparative purposes, the level of current disclosure as directed by the Commission on August 2010 is comparable to Option A for both Commission reimbursement levels and staff salaries. CALAFCO recommends more robust disclosure, at a level of Option B or C.

Attachment B contains CALAFCO's recommendation for the amount of information that should be disclosed in a public records act request. These recommendations are based on San Diego LAFCO's legal counsel's advice.

Staff has no recommendation on whether the Commission should adopt any or all of these recommendations. It appears to staff that other LAFCOs are facing more scrutiny from their local media, thus warranting a greater need to be more proactive upfront. So far, El Dorado LAFCO has not received any public records act requests on compensation levels.

Having said that, staff has no objections with implementing Options B or C online, if that is the Commission's direction. In addition, staff believes that making the Commission's budget more readily accessible online, as CALAFCO recommends, is a good idea. The budget and its detail can already be found online, but as an agenda line item. A member of the public would have to know which meeting the Commission considered the budget to be able to access it. As it relates to disclosure on a PRA request, staff believes that following the level of detail as outlined on Attachment B seems prudent.

Options

1. Leave the voluntary disclosure measures you directed in August as is
2. Leave the voluntary disclosure measures you directed in August as is, but make the LAFCO budget more accessible on the website
3. Leave the voluntary disclosure measures you directed in August as is, make the LAFCO budget more accessible on the website and adopt the procedures in Attachment B for financial disclosure PRAs
4. Adopt CALAFCO Option B for voluntary financial disclosure and the procedures in Attachment B for financial disclosure PRAs
5. Adopt CALAFCO Option C for voluntary financial disclosure and the procedures in Attachment B for financial disclosure PRAs

Attachments

Attachment A: CALAFCO's Recommended Guidelines for LAFCOs on Compensation and Budget Disclosure

Attachment B: Example of Public Records Act Request for Compensation Records