



**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
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February 27, 2019

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
California State Assembly  
State Capital Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **SUPPORT of Assembly Bill 1253**

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

The El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is pleased to join the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) in support for **Assembly Bill 1253**. Sponsored by CALAFCO, the bill establishes a five-year pilot grant program to provide grants to LAFCOs to address known service and governance concerns in disadvantaged communities. This program provides grants to LAFCOs for conducting special in-depth studies and analyses of local government agencies and services for the purposes of creating improved efficiencies in the delivery of local government services and completing the dissolution of inactive special districts. The grant program would be administered by the Strategic Growth Council and sunset on December 31, 2025.

The Legislature established LAFCOs in 1963 to encourage the orderly formation of local government agencies. Since that time, the regulatory role and responsibilities of LAFCOs has substantially increased without additional funding. Operating in all 58 California counties, LAFCOs are responsible for meeting important statutory directives to maintain orderly boundaries and seek greater efficiencies in delivering local services, and yet these directives often times cannot be met under current funding mechanisms. As a result, much needed LAFCO activities are sometimes delayed or rejected.

In August 2017, the Little Hoover Commission published a report on special districts and their oversight by LAFCOs, which contained several recommendations directly related to LAFCO. One recommendation was for the Legislature to provide one-time grant funding to pay for specified LAFCO activities, particularly to incentivize LAFCOs or smaller special districts to develop and implement dissolution or consolidation plans with timelines for expected outcomes.

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Several fire protection districts in El Dorado County are severely underfunded and struggle to provide adequate services to areas which qualify as disadvantaged communities. If approved, El Dorado LAFCO would apply for grant funding under **AB 1253** in order to study the feasibility of consolidating poor, rural fire protection districts in El Dorado County.

By establishing this one-time grant funding, **AB 1253** provides an additional tool for LAFCOs to address known service and governance concerns in disadvantaged communities by conducting detailed studies and potentially implementing greater efficiencies in delivering local services based on local circumstances and conditions. For these reasons, El Dorado LAFCO is pleased to support **AB 1253**.

Thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation. Please feel free to contact me or José Henríquez, El Dorado LAFCO's Executive Officer, should you have any questions about El Dorado LAFCO's position.

Respectfully,

El Dorado LAFCO Chair

Cc: Senator Robert Hertzberg, co-author  
Senator Anna Caballero, co-author  
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO