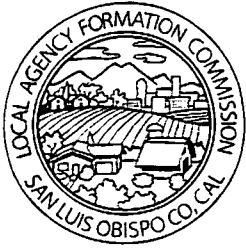


LAFCO - San Luis Obispo - Local Agency Formation Commission
SLO LAFCO - Serving the Area of San Luis Obispo County



October 28, 2011

Mr. Bill Chiat, Executive Director
CALAFCO
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chiat:

This letter is in support of the CALAFCO Board approved amendments to Government Code 56133 regarding outside service extensions. The Legislative Committee has worked with a number of Executive Officers to craft language which would give LAFCOs the flexibility to approve outside service extensions based on several other factors then currently indicated in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. In March 2011, the Legislative Committee unanimously recommended proposed changes to 56133 to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. In April, the CALAFCO Board unanimously adopted the proposed language.

The San Luis Obispo LAFCO considered the attached staff report and discussed the proposed changes to 56133 and directed the Executive Officer to submit a letter of support for the changes. Three key changes underlie the proposed amendments. The first and most significant change expands LAFCO's existing authority in approving new and extended services beyond agencies' spheres of influence based on LAFCO making three findings at noticed public hearings. These findings involve determining that the extension: 1) was contemplated in a municipal service review, 2) will not result in adverse impacts on open space and agricultural lands or result in growth inducing impacts, and 3) a later change of organization is not expected or desired based on local policies.

The above criteria provide adequate assurances that an outside user agreement would be approved with discretion and after careful consideration. In the past, San Luis Obispo LAFCO has evaluated outside service agreements on a case-by-case basis and on occasion using the threat to public health as justification for some decisions. We understand that this change would not affect that process.

Thanks to CALAFCO for their hard work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Church, AICP
Executive Officer
San Luis Obispo LAFCO

cc. Commissioners

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