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Assembly Member Kevin Mullin
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 453 (Mullin) – LAFCo Eligibility for Grants – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Mullin:

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions is pleased to support and sponsor your bill, Assembly Bill 453. The bill would make a local agency formation commission (LAFCo) eligible for planning grants from the Strategic Growth Council.

In August 2008, SB 375 (Steinberg) was signed into law. A component of the law ties the preparation of Regional Transportation Plans and sustainable communities strategies to the LAFCo Municipal Service Reviews and adopted Spheres of Influence for cities and special districts. In 2009 that relationship was further strengthened when SB 215 (Wiggins) was signed into law which requires LAFCo to consider the adopted Regional Transportation Plans when reviewing applications. Principles behind both of these laws is to make more effective use of the Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) prepared by LAFCos, and to avoid a duplication of effort between LAFCo and the regional transportation agencies in the preparation of the plans.

Under current law the cost of the MSR preparation is paid for by the cities, districts and county within each LAFCo. The limited availability of local funds can restrict the level of detail in an MSR. By making LAFCo eligible to apply for Strategic Growth Council grants, LAFCo would be able to prepare more comprehensive and data-rich MSRs and sphere of influence studies in collaboration with the regional transportation agency. This would reduce duplication of effort and provide the transportation agencies with more complete information regarding municipal services and growth capacity for the preparation of the sustainable communities strategies. This approach is an acknowledgement of the Legislature's intent that agencies like LAFCo and the regional transportation agencies not work in a vacuum, but rather collaborate in comprehensive ways to contribute to each other's work in an aligned manner focused on strategies to ensure sustainable growth in California that meets our collective objectives.

Because AB 453 provides a resource for preparing more comprehensive MSRs to better inform both LAFCo and sustainable communities strategy decisions, CALAFCO supports this bill. Thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Pamela Miller
Executive Director

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