

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF OCTOBER 26, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Ron Briggs, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

**AGENDA ITEM #8: CONSIDER SUBMITTING A RESPONSE LETTER TO
CALIFORNIA FORWARD**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission consider submitting a response letter to California Forward relating to their proposed restructuring of government programs and funding. Should the Commission choose to submit comments, staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the Chair or the Executive Officer to sign the letter.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

Over the past year, California Forward has held workshops on realigning the governance structure of California and has drafted at least two draft iterations of their recommendations. They are soliciting comments from all stakeholders. Responding allows the Commission the opportunity to comment on their proposals.

BACKGROUND

In its mission statement, California Forward (CAFWD) states that it strives, “to help create a ‘smart’ government – one that’s small enough to listen, big enough to tackle real problems, smart enough to spend our money wisely in good times and bad, and honest enough to be held accountable for results.” The executive summary of their proposals is included in Attachment A. As staff has updated the Commission, over the past year CAFWD has proposed several items that touched upon the functions of this agency. For example, earlier drafts of CAFWD’s These recommendations included:

- A) Reliance on Councils of Governments (COG) to review the efficiency and effectiveness of local agencies to meet regional needs;
- B) COG role in establishing standardized data on effectiveness of local governments;
and
- C) Creating a new state commission to review local agency governance.

Upon being reminded that these proposals are substantially similar to the Commission on Local Governance in the 21st Century and its proposals for revamping LAFCO Law, CAFWD has removed “C” and substantially revised “A” and “B”: These functions have now been moved to LAFCOs. For instance, in its municipal service reviews, LAFCO reviews how local agencies are currently providing service(s). While cost comparisons are made to other entities providing similar services, the MSR’s strive not to rate performance or make judgment calls on whether one agency is providing superior services to another. The latest CAFWD proposals would require LAFCO to analyze how local governments are performing. In addition, the proposals call for the expansion of LAFCO jurisdiction over other entities that currently bypass the LAFCO process, such as joint powers authorities. Finally, the CAFWD proposals retain a more robust role for COGs as well, recommending that COGs have a more active role in fostering regional cooperation. Recommendations 4 and 5 are included in this report as Attachment B.

CAFWD at CALAFCO Conference

Your Executive Officer attended the CAFWD session at the Conference with presenter Fred Silva, who is the organization’s senior policy advisor. He explained that, currently, California delivers service in silos: Duplicative of overlapping programs are administered by various agencies in a haphazard manner independent of each other and without any performance measures to rate whether these programs are working. CAFWD’s main goal is to align services, programs and governmental departments with funding so that services are provided to the public efficiently and effectively.

He thought that the first step has already been taken with the Legislature adopting a “performance based budgeting” structure. Revenue restructuring is not part of the program; in other words, all current funding streams will remain the same although their allocation may be different. The examples utilized throughout the presentation were centered on social programs, such as the coordination of various initiatives and programs to improve children’s health. The next step is drafting an initiative for the 2012 ballot.

No concrete illustrations were given in the session on any work related to what LAFCO sees on a daily basis, even when Mr. Silva was pressed by your EO. Staff’s concern is that in their drive to improve or make wholesale changes to social services, the CAFWD initiative will have unintended consequences to LAFCO operations. While Recommendations 4 and 5 appear fairly small on the surface, it will take MSR’s in a direction this Commission has been reluctant in the past to go. In addition, it is unknown how and whether the proposed changes in other areas will negatively impact service delivery and funding to LAFCO’s partner agencies.

Attachments

Attachment A: California Forward’s Smart Government Framework Executive Summary (July 11, 2011)

Attachment B: California Forward’s Smart Government Framework (July 11, 2011)