

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

550 Main Street Suite E • Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 295-2707 • lafco@edlafco.us • www.edlafco.us

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Request to Sign Assembly Bill 2258** (Caballero): Local Agency Formation
Commissions: Grant Program

Dear Governor Brown:

The El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) joins the California Association for Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) in respectfully **requesting your signature on Assembly Bill 2258** by Assembly Member Anna Caballero. Sponsored by CALAFCO, **AB 2258** establishes a grant program administered by the Strategic Growth Council for California's 58 LAFCOs to provide grants to LAFCOs to address known service and governance concerns in disadvantaged communities.

The five-year grant funding program provides financial assistance to conduct studies and analyses of local government agencies and services serving disadvantaged communities for the purposes of creating improved efficiencies in the delivery of services and to complete the process to terminate inactive special districts. The bill authorizes the grant program for a limited time period, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act and sunsets July 31, 2024.

As you know, 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 cannot be consistently met under current funding mechanisms. As a result, much-needed LAFCOs activities are sometimes delayed or rejected due to lack of funds. In fact, an August 2017 Little Hoover Commission report on special districts outlined these concerns about LAFCOs and recommended the Legislature consider one-time grant funding to pay for specified activities, suggesting a small amount of funding could save taxpayers money in the long-term if local government services are streamlined and efficiency is improved.

S:\Legislation\2017-2018\2018\AB 2258--Request for Governor Signature.docx

COMMISSIONERS

Public Member: Michael Powell • Alternate Public Member: Dyana Anderly
City Members: Mark Acuna, Brooke Laine • Alternate City Member: John Clerici
County Members: Shiva Frentzen, Brian Veerkamp • Alternate County Member: Michael Ranalli
Special District Members: Ken Humphreys, Tim Palmer • Alternate Special District Member: Holly Morrison

STAFF

José C. Henriquez, Executive Officer • Erica Sanchez, Assistant Executive Officer
Denise Tebaldi, Interim Commission Clerk • Kara K. Ueda, Commission Counsel

Assembly Bill 2258 (Caballero)
Request for Governor Signature
September 10, 2018
Page 2 of 2


Several fire protection districts in El Dorado County are severely underfunded and struggle to provide adequate services to areas which qualify as disadvantage communities. If approved, El Dorado LAFCO would apply for grant funding under **AB 2258** in order to study the feasibility of consolidating poor, rural fire protection districts in El Dorado County.

AB 2258 establishes a grant program – contingent upon an appropriation in a future budget – administered by the Strategic Growth Council, to provide LAFCOs with funding to initiate and complete dissolution of inactive districts as identified by the State Controller's Office, prepare special studies, and potentially initiate actions based on determinations contained in the study. The program includes specific eligible activities, limited to services provided in disadvantaged communities, and a requirement to report to the Strategic Growth Council as to the use of grant funds.

Through **AB 2258**, LAFCOs and service providers can work together to create greater efficiencies in the provision of sustainable municipal services, focusing on disadvantaged communities throughout California, by directing much needed resources to these areas.

We respectfully request your signature on **AB 2258** when it comes before you for action. Please feel free to contact me or our LAFCO staff at (530) 295-2707 with questions or concerns.

Respectfully,


Shiva Frentzen, Chair
El Dorado LAFCO

cc: Honorable Anna Caballero, Author, California State Assembly
Honorable Tim Grayson, Co-Author, California State Assembly
Honorable Robert Hertzberg, Co-Author, California State Senate
Tom Dyer, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary to the Governor
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO