

SONOMA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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September 12, 2019

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Assembly
State Capital Room 3126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: *Removal of Opposition to AB 600 (as amended September 4, 2019): Watch with Concerns*

Dear Assembly Member Chu:

The Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is removing its opposition to your bill, Assembly Bill 600, because policy concerns of our LAFCO and our state association, CALAFCO, have been addressed with the amendments in the September 4, 2019 version of the bill.

Concerns remain, however, regarding the approach of the Legislature with regard to disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs). All Californians deserve adequate and safe drinking water and wastewater facilities. LAFCOs are aware of and concerned about the disparity of local public services, especially for residents and properties located within these communities.

A more holistic approach toward service delivery issues and annexation of DUCs would better serve these communities than piecemeal approaches through approval in the Legislature of one bill at a time.

A collective stakeholder dialogue with reasonable and systemic solutions to the problem coupled with adequate funding for infrastructure and maintenance are required to solve this complicated statewide issue of addressing the needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities. The definition of a DUC should be re-examined and updated to reflect the true nature and scope of a disadvantaged community.

One of the primary statutory purposes of LAFCO is to ensure orderly growth. The best way to achieve this is through annexation of territory to a city or special district. Such action supports the purpose of jurisdictional boundaries and sphere of influence plans, which are key tenets of LAFCOs' mandate from the State.

Sincerely,



Mark Bramfitt
Executive Officer

- c: Jimmy MacDonald, Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Anton Favorini-Csorba, Consultant, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Pamela Miller, Executive Director, CALAFCO