



March 14, 2025

Sonoma LAFCO
111 Santa Rosa Avenue, Suite 240
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Subject: Addressing Member Concerns & Strengthening CALAFCO's Future

Dear Chair Kapolchok, Commissioners, and Executive Officer Bramfitt;

We recognize that the current state of our organization is troubling to our valued members. We must, and will, do better regarding governance, transparency, and the overall direction of CALAFCO. As an organization committed to serving the best interests of LAFCOs across the state, we take your concerns seriously and want to assure you that we are actively taking steps to address them.

A Period of Transition & Rebuilding Trust

Every organization evolves as new paths are taken, and CALAFCO is currently undergoing a phase of transition and internal reorganization. Our goal is to emerge stronger, more transparent, and better positioned to serve our membership.

The Board of Directors and Regional Officers are fully engaged in this process, listening to feedback, and implementing meaningful changes that will reinforce trust and ensure the long-term viability of CALAFCO. We are committed to refocusing our mission, improving communication, and enhancing operational efficiency.

Key Actions Underway

To support this effort, we have assembled a highly qualified transition team:

- **José Henríquez (Interim Executive Director)** Currently the CALAFCO Central Region Officer and Executive Officer of Sacramento LAFCo, José is leading day-to-day operations, managing fiscal and budgetary matters, and facilitating member engagement.
- **Pamela Miller (Governance Consultant & Organizational Development Specialist)** – A former CALAFCO Executive Director, Pamela is conducting a full organizational assessment and comprehensive organizational structural assessment, reviewing policies and Bylaws, and assisting in the recruitment of a permanent Executive Director. She is also leading governance consultation and stakeholder outreach to ensure member voices are heard. Pamela will also be facilitating the March 20th Board retreat.
- **Jeni Tickler (Administrative & Event Planning Specialist)** A former CALAFCO Administrative Assistant, Jeni is handling critical administrative functions, including

financial management, membership support, and coordination of upcoming events such as the staff workshop.

Policy & Bylaws Updates

On February 7, 2025, the Board approved and immediately implemented key policy changes developed in collaboration with member LAFCo staff. An updated policy manual reflecting these changes will be published soon.

Additionally, a series of recommended changes to CALAFCO's Bylaws have been approved for presentation and potential member adoption at the October 2025 Annual Business Meeting. These recommendations will be widely discussed in advance through member outreach efforts to ensure full transparency and active participation.

Engaging Membership & Next Steps

We are committed to listening to you, our membership, and including you throughout this transition. To that end, we are:

- Hosting regional focus groups and visioning sessions to engage members in shaping CALAFCO's future.
- Facilitating a focus group for staff at the upcoming staff workshop.
- Providing ongoing updates and open forums for discussion.

We understand that trust is built through action, and we are dedicated to making the necessary improvements to better serve you. Your voices matter, and we encourage you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or insights.

For more information or to provide feedback, please contact:

- José Henríquez: jhenriquez@calafco.org
- Pamela Miller: pmiller@millermcg.com
- Jeni Tickler: jtickler@calafco.org

We appreciate your patience, engagement, and commitment to the future of CALAFCO. Together, we will strengthen our organization and reaffirm our mission to support LAFCos statewide.

Sincerely,

CALAFCO Board of Directors