



August 17, 2025

Mark Hemmendinger, LAFCO Chair
Sonoma LAFCO
111 Santa Rosa Avenue, Suite 240
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

SUBJECT: 2025/2026 CALAFCO Dues – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Hemmendinger and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support towards staff's recommendation to approve the CALAFCO dues for the new fiscal year. As the Coastal Regional Officer for CALAFCO, I also wanted to personally inform your commission that CALAFCO is on the right track.

While CALAFCO has faced challenges in recent years, I believe the organization is making meaningful strides toward stability and renewed effectiveness. Notable improvements include the adoption of necessary amendments to CALAFCO's policies, the CALAFCO's board unanimous recommendation to adopt pending bylaw amendments for membership action in October, the successful rejuvenation of the CALAFCO U webinar series, the near hiring of a capable interim executive director with LAFCO experience, the creation of two promising leadership development programs (Mentorship Program and LAFCO Academy), and the formation of a working group to restructure CALAFCO's regions and board to ensure proper representation (draft plan is tentatively scheduled to be developed by December 2025 and considered by the member LAFCOs for approval in February 2026). In other words, CALAFCO is adding more value to your membership dues – as they should.

These actions demonstrate CALAFCO's commitment to supporting LAFCOs across the state, including the Coastal Region, and strengthening its own operational foundation. Continued participation and support from member LAFCOs, such as Sonoma LAFCO, are critical to sustaining this momentum.

Thank you for considering your renewal for the new fiscal year – I value your membership, the region values your membership, and CALAFCO values your membership. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or need more information about CALAFCO's ongoing efforts. I can be reached by phone at (831) 454-2055 or by email at joe@santacruzlafco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe A. Serrano', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joe A. Serrano
Executive Officer