

*CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAFCOS*

WHEREAS, after World War II, California experienced dramatic growth in population and economic development. This brought demands for housing, jobs and public services. To accommodate these demands, the State formed many new local government agencies, often with little forethought as to the ultimate governance structure in a given region; and

WHEREAS, the lack of coordination and adequate planning led to a multitude of overlapping, inefficient jurisdictional and service boundaries, and the premature conversion/loss of California's agricultural and open space lands; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this problem, Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown appointed the *Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems* in 1959. They were charged to study and make recommendations on the "misuse of land resources, and the growing complexity of local governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, California State Assemblyman John T. Knox, a second-term assemblyman from Richmond, who served as Chairman of the Assembly Local Government Committee in 1963, originally introduced AB 1662, a bill in the 1963 Legislative Session regarding the formation of new cities and new special districts; and

WHEREAS, California State Senator Eugene T. Nisbet, a first-term senator from San Bernardino County, originally introduced SB 861, a bill in the 1963 Legislative Session to create "Local Agency Annexation Commissions" in each county in California; and

WHEREAS, the bills introduced by Assemblyman Knox and Senator Nisbet were combined into the Knox-Nisbet Act of 1963 and approved by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1963, Governor Edmund G. Brown signed AB 1662, the Knox-Nisbet Act of 1963, creating LAFCOs, which took effect on September 20th; and

WHEREAS, by April 1, 1964, LAFCOs were functioning in all counties in California except the City and County of San Francisco (San Francisco LAFCO was created in 2000); and

WHEREAS, special districts gained the right to be represented on LAFCO in 1970; and, as of today, special district representatives serve on more than half of all LAFCOs in California, including Contra Costa LAFCO; and

WHEREAS, the Knox-Nisbet Act, along with the District Reorganization Act of 1965 and the Municipal Organization Act of 1977, were succeeded by the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 1985 and later by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act); and

WHEREAS, essential concepts that are fundamental to LAFCO operations include its independence; representation of county, city, special district and public members; establishment of uniform criteria and procedures for forming new cities and special districts and changing their boundaries; the right of landowners and registered voters to protest LAFCO decisions—most of which originated in the Knox-Nisbet Act—are still found in today's CKH Act, and continue to guide LAFCO deliberations and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has empowered LAFCOs with regulatory authority over local agency boundary changes; and

WHEREAS, State law tasks LAFCOs with encouraging orderly growth, promoting the logical formation and determination of local agency boundaries, discouraging urban sprawl, and preserving open space and prime agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the State of California amended the law in 1971 requiring that LAFCOs establish Spheres of Influence for each city and special district within their respective county; and

WHEREAS, the State of California amended the law in 1993, empowering LAFCOs to initiate proposals to consolidate, dissolve, or merge special districts; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, LAFCO law was amended to allow LAFCOs to approve the extension of services outside jurisdictional boundaries under specific conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California amended the law in 2000 to require that LAFCOs prepare Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) of cities and special districts, which are reports in which LAFCOs examine future growth, the adequacy of public services; infrastructure needs or deficiencies; opportunities for shared facilities; and accountability, governmental structure, and operational efficiencies of local agencies; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa LAFCO is a public agency governed by a seven-member board which meets monthly in the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Chambers; and

WHEREAS, since 1963, Contra Costa LAFCO has approved nearly 2,200 proposals, including hundreds of changes of organizations and reorganizations, and the incorporation of seven of the 19 cities in Contra Costa County, the first being the City of Clayton in 1964, and the most recent being the City of Oakley in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa LAFCO completed MSRs for all 19 cities and 75 special districts in Contra Costa County, which can be found on the LAFCO website; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa LAFCO recently processed and approved the reorganization of a health care district, one of the few examples of its kind in the State; and

WHEREAS, the website for Contra Costa LAFCO promotes transparency by providing information of interest to the public, including a Directory with profiles and boundary/SOI maps for each city/special district in the County, LAFCO meeting agendas/, MSR reports, application forms and checklists, and Commission adopted policies and procedures; and


WHEREAS, Contra Costa LAFCO has actively supported its state association - the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO). Commissioners from Contra Costa LAFCO have served with distinction on the CALAFCO Board of Directors; Contra Costa LAFCO staff has served as Deputy Executive Officer and Executive Officer of CALAFCO; Commissioners and staff have served on CALAFCO committees (legislative, awards, nominations) and have participated in planning for annual conferences, staff workshops and organizing educational workshops' assisting in preparing CALAFCO white papers and contributing to the CALAFCO newsletter; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, Contra Costa County local agencies, individuals, and legislators have seven times been recipients of the annual CALAFCO Achievement Awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) hereby commemorates the 50th anniversary of the founding of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs).

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of August 2013.


Bette Boatman, Chair


Mark Cornelius, Vice Chair