



Lou Ann Teixeira
 Executive Officer

MEMBERS

Donald A. Blubaugh <i>Public Member</i>	Mary N. Piepho <i>County Member</i>
Federal Glover <i>County Member</i>	Rob Schroder <i>City Member</i>
Michael R. McGill <i>Special District Member</i>	Igor Skaredoff <i>Special District Member</i>
Don Tatzin <i>City Member</i>	

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Candace Andersen
County Member
 Sharon Burke
Public Member
 Tom Butt
City Member
 George H. Schmidt
Special District Member

May 13, 2015 (Agenda)

May 13, 2015
Agenda Item 9

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
 651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop

Dear Members of the Commission:

This report provides an update on the LAFCO Agriculture & Open Space Preservation Workshop. In March, the Policies & Procedures Committee presented a report summarizing its work to date on developing an agricultural and open space preservation policy, which included the following:

- ❖ prepared a synopsis of the LAFCO statutes pertaining to agricultural and open space land preservation;
- ❖ prepared a summary of agricultural & open space preservation policies of other LAFCOs throughout the State; various policy options for the Commission to consider as it contemplates its own local agricultural and open space preservation policy (i.e., base policy, expanded policy options, various terms & conditions such as land replacement measures, protective easements, buffers, etc.); and
- ❖ prepared a draft outline for the workshop (see attached).

Plans for the July 8th workshop are underway. To date, LAFCO staff has secured the meeting location (30 Muir Road in Martinez), and confirmed most of the speakers. Based on input from the Commission in April, we have added a panel on economic and development challenges and sustainable communities as reflected in the updated program (attached).

At this time, we seek any additional Commission input.

RECOMMENDATIONS - Receive the report and provide input on workshop outline.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment – Workshop Outline

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) - Agricultural & Open Space Preservation Workshop
Wednesday, July 8, 2015 (1:00 – 4:30 pm)

Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development Hearing Room - 30 Muir Road, Martinez

Purpose of Workshop: To engage a range of stakeholders in the development of a local agricultural and open space preservation policy to be used by LAFCO to help guide its decisions when considering a proposal that would impact agricultural and/or open space lands.

Time Allotment	Topic	Moderator(s)	Presenter(s)
1:00 – 1:10	Welcome/Introductions		LAFCO Chair
1:10 – 1:30	<i>What is LAFCO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework/statutory mandate/definitions • LAFCO’s conditioning authority 		LAFCO staff
1:30 – 2:00	<i>Why should we care about ag and open space land</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State, regional, local efforts to preserve ag & open space land • Which areas in the County (incorporated and unincorporated) are identified as important ag and open space land and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) 	LAFCO Commissioner	-Serena Unger, American Farmland Trust -Kathryn Lyddan, BALT -Bob Doyle, EBRPD -John Kopchik, Director, DCD
2:00 – 2:30	<i>Agriculture in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How ag land has evolved in the County • What are ag uses in the County (including urban ag) and how much (e.g., crop types, grazing, etc.) • Biggest challenges facing the agricultural community 	LAFCO Commissioner	-Chad Godoy, Contra Costa County Ag Commissioner -Al Courchesne, Farmer -Nancy Shaefer or Board Member, California Rangeland Trust Barbara Cecchini, Farm Bureau (I)
2:30 – 2:40	<i>BREAK</i>		
2:40 – 3:00	<i>Open Space in Contra Costa County</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of open space in Contra Costa County • Biggest challenges to preserving open space 	LAFCO Commissioner	-Joel Devalcourt, Greenbelt Alliance -Seth Adams/Ron Brown, Save Mt. Diablo -Dick Schneider, Sierra Club
3:00 – 3:20	<i>Collaboration and Smart Growth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Communities Strategy • Economic and development challenges 	LAFCO Commissioner	-Kristin Connelly, East Bay Leadership Council/Contra Costa Economic Partnership -Heather Schiffman, Contra Costa Association of Realtors
3:20 – 3:40	<i>Case Studies –Other LAFCO Policies</i>		Commissioners Burke & Tatzin
3:40 – 4:20	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most significant challenges to ag & open space preservation in Contra Costa County • How can LAFCO help? 	LAFCO Commissioner	-All
4:20 – 4:30	NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS	LAFCO Commissioner	

(I) - Invited