



of Merced County

Local Agency Formation Commission
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DATE: November 1, 2018 (Agenda)
TO: LAFCO Commissioners
FROM: ^{BN} Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer
RE: Summary of 2018 CALAFCO Annual Conference
(Agenda Item VII.A.)

The 2018 CALAFCO Annual Conference was held in Fish Camp outside Yosemite, from October 3-5, 2018. The Conference theme was: "A Vision for California." One primary topic carried through in sessions each day addressed the wildfires that impacted the Sierra Nevada and many other parts of the state, and how tree mortality, droughts and forest management policies have contributed to the increase and extent of fires in California. From a LAFCO perspective, this crisis has helped many LAFCOs successfully consolidate numerous independent fire districts into larger, more capable organizations.

Other topics covered in the three-days of sessions included: the value and use of Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs); agricultural preservation (with an overview of the recent CALAFCO White Paper; Local agency accountability and transparency; LAFCOs in a perfect world (ideas to make LAFCOs more effective); State tools for climate smart growth. Another session involving Chair McDaniel and myself, addressed the link between LAFCO and affordable housing (not a very strong link). The closing day included the annual legislative update with presentations from the Senate Local Governance and Finance Committee, the Assembly Local Government Committee and Pamela Miller, Executive Director of CALAFCO.

As an easy reference to some of the LAFCO activities and legislative efforts over the past year, enclosed is a copy of "The Sphere" for those Commissioners who did not attend the Conference.

Copies of most presentations are available under "Annual Conference" in the "Education" section of the CALAFCO website at: www.calafco.org.

REQUESTED ACTION

There is no action requested of the Commission for this agenda item.