



Local Agency Formation Commission  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
Phone (209) 385-7671 / Fax (209) 726-1710  
www.lafcomerced.org

Date: May 20, 2021 (Agenda)  
To: LAFCO Commissioners  
From: <sup>BN</sup> Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer  
RE: Appointment of Regular Public Member (**Agenda Item VII.A**)

The term of the Regular Public Member of the Commission (Bob Bertao) expired on May 3, 2021. In compliance with Section 56325(d) of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000, notification of the vacancy has been sent to all cities, independent special districts and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for the required 21 day posting, along with a copy of the application form for interested candidates.

The only valid application received was from the current regular Public Member of the Commission, Bob Bertao, confirming his interest and qualifications in continuing to serve as the Commission's regular Public Member (copy of application attached). One other application was received from a person who is currently serving on the Board of Directors of an independent special district. In accordance with Government Code section 56331, due to the representation on a special district, this individual does not qualify to serve as a public member on LAFCO.

#### REQUESTED ACTION

Reappoint Commissioner Bertao as the Alternate Public Member of the Commission for a four year term extending to May 2024.

Attachment: Candidate application form



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APPLICATION FOR LAFCO
"REGULAR PUBLIC MEMBER"

Name: Robert Bertao Date of Birth: 7/13/1947
Address: 5277 Mint Rd
City: Dos Palos State: CA Zip: 93620
Phone: Home 209-392-3375 Cell 209-769-2615

REASON YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THIS POSITION:

I am re-applying for the position of Regular Public Member of Merced LAFCO because my experience of the past 20 years as the Regular Public Member has given me the knowledge of the operational aspects and regulations pertaining to the laws governing annexations, detachments, dissolutions, and municipal service reviews of cities and special districts which all must be approved by LAFCO. We are empowered by the state to make sure all the regulations and laws are in compliance. My years of service to LAFCO and the citizens of Merced County, including being open minded and fair in the decisions I make are reason to be considered for re-appointment.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS POSITION?

Current Regular Public Member (since 2001)
Have served as Chairman and am current Vice Chairman of Merced LAFCO
Have a good working relationship with commission members, Executive Officer, Legal Counsel, and staff
I listen to all sides of an issue and make open minded and independent decisions
My votes are in the best interest of the residents of Merced County.

PROVIDE A BRIEF STATEMENT HOW YOU FEEL LAFCO CAN BALANCE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORDERLY AND LOGICAL EXPANSION OF URBAN BOUNDARIES WHILE DISCOURAGING URBAN SPRAWL AND PRESERVING OPEN SPACE AND PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

The pressure of urban development in our county continues to grow whether it be from the 6 incorporated cities, the University of California, or special districts. The unincorporated communities also continue to grow which puts more pressure on the special districts who serve them for more and better services. We are still dealing with periodical drought and water depletion. The state with their SIGMA regulations are also now something to consider. Agricultural, urban, and environmental uses of water must be used wisely. The orderly expansion of the urban into the agricultural areas has been a concern addressed by LAFCO many times and I have always considered the facts and needs of both before making my decisions. LAFCO needs to carefully consider the rules, regulations, and stipulations for a specific application before approval of an annexation to a city or special district. Merced County has all the resources for major economic growth but the cooperation of all entities involved in projects is a must. One group can not dictate to another. There has to be give-and-take of all the parties involved. If we do this great accomplishments can be made.

Robert A Bertao
Signature

5/12/2021
Date