LAFCo of Merced County

Local Agency Formation Commission
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DATE: May 21, 2026 (Agenda)

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer BN

RE: Summary of 2026 CALAFCO Staff Workshop in Pismo Beach, Ca
(**Agenda Item VIII.A.**)

The 2026 CALAFCO Staff Workshop was held in Pismo Beach, and hosted by San Luis Obispo (SLO) LAFCO, from May 6th through 8th. There was a high level of attendance among Executive Officer's and staff from across the State. It started with an interesting mobile workshop to an organic farm within the SLO City limits that was part of the mitigation for a neighboring mixed-use retail and residential development.

Topics covered in the sessions I attended, and a brief summary are presented below:

- Climate Change and LAFCOs, with a focus on SLO LAFCO efforts
  - This was mainly a summary of State laws like AB 32 (reaching 1990 levels of emissions by 2030 – a 40% reduction). Professor Mike Boswell from Cal State SLO made the presentation pointing out that current efforts are on "Mitigation Adaptation" focused on resilience to impacts caused by climate change that vary by geography – rising oceans, more fires, and more snow.
- A focus on CALAFCO's Future: "Is Our Regional Structure Still Working?"
  - This involved separate discussions at each table on specific goals for CALAFCO and comments on the proposed increase in Regions.
  - There was no overall consensus, but some LAFCOs do not feel well represented and only LA LAFCO returned to CALAFCO Membership while 5 other Southern California (and Kern LAFCO) have not rejoined.
- Engaging the Pubic When It Matters the Most – Public outreach strategies
  - Presented by the Public Information Officer for SLO County which was more tailored to cities and counties than LAFCOs.
- Fiscal Analysis Made Practical: Tools for Annexations and Service Reviews
  - Good overview of the fiscal and economic data and information sources that are typically available to evaluate the health of cities and special districts.
- Write to Be Believed: Clear, Credible LAFCO Reports
  - Presented by a technical writer that was somewhat off-point for LAFCOs
- Executive Officer Peer Exchange
  - Good discussion on operations, staff support and transition planning for Executive Officers who are nearing retirement.

REQUESTED ACTION

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