



Date: May 27, 2008 for June 4th Agenda
 From: Patrick M. McCormick, Executive Officer
 To: Commissioners
 Subject: Legislation

Summary: The Commission reviews State legislation monthly during the Legislative Sessions, and can take a position on any bill.

Recommendation: Receive this report; take no new positions on pending bills.

The Legislative policy committees are actively reviewing bills. May 30th is the last date for bills to pass out of the house of origin.

I have summarized ten bills of interest to Santa Cruz LAFCO. The Commission has already acted to support two bills this year. The LAFCO staff is not recommending that the Commission take positions on any other bills at this time. The Legislative website for bill information is www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html.

SUPPORT -----

AB 1998 (Silva) Disclosure of Expenses to Influence LAFCO Proceedings.

Assembly Bill 745 of 2007 (Silva) expanded the minimum disclosure requirements for individuals and groups who raise or spend \$1000 or more to influence a proposal that is subject to LAFCO proceedings. This bill would move the applicable code sections from the Local Government Reorganization Act to the Political Reform Act, and place responsibility to administer the act with the Fair Political Practices Commission. Currently, the disclosure documents are filed with the County Elections Office. Enforcement responsibility falls with the District Attorney. The FPPC has the responsibility for administering the disclosure laws for ballot initiatives and other political campaigns. The proposal would result in more uniform administration of the disclosure requirements.

Status: Passed Assembly, in Senate Elections Committee.

SB 301 (Romero) Revenues to Cities after Incorporations and Annexations.

This bill would extend the sunset on Vehicle License Fee subventions going to new incorporations from July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2014 and would eliminate the sunset for inhabited annexations. In Santa Cruz County, the main effect of this bill would be to enhance the financial feasibility of cities annexing inhabited neighborhoods within their spheres of influence.

Status: Passed Senate, Assembly Local Government Committee June 4.

WATCH -----

AB 242 (Blakeslee) Regional Housing Needs Allocations.

AB 1019 of 2007 (Blakeslee) responded to an issue in Santa Barbara County regarding the procedure by which an annexing city and a county transfer Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA). This bill would make technical changes to the process. The City of Watsonville, the County of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz LAFCO should monitor this bill's effect upon the Atkinson Lane Specific Plan Area, which includes a potential municipal annexation.

Status: Passed Legislature, Signed by Governor.

AB 1263 (Caballero) Local Government Reorganization Act Clean-Up.

On May 18th, this bill was subject to major amendments. The bill would now make CALAFCO-sponsored amendments to the Local Government Reorganization Act including exclusion of railroads from the definition of "landowner", clarifying the definition of "municipal islands", and clarifying LAFCO's authority to collect deposits from applicants.

Status: Passed Assembly, Senate Local Government Committee June 4.

AB 2484 (Caballero) Special District Powers.

This bill would clarify the LAFCO process when special districts wish to add or discontinue a function. Sponsored by CALAFCO.

Status: Passed Assembly, Senate Local Government Committee June 4.

AB 3047 (Local Government Committee) Local Government Reorganization Act

This bill would make a series of minor corrections to the LAFCO laws. In its current form, the bill would clarify the definition of "change of organization". Sponsored by CALAFCO.

Status: Passed Assembly, Senate Local Government Committee June 4.

SB 375 (Steinberg) Transportation and Regional Planning.

This bill would make changes to the transportation and regional land use planning laws, including the creation of sustainable community strategies to guide the future growth in a region. The bill is not clear about LAFCO's role in determining orderly growth, spheres of influence, and preservation of agricultural and open space lands. CALAFCO is discussing its concerns with the author.

Status: Passed Senate, at Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1118 (Negrete-McLeod) Airport Land Use Commissions.

In counties with no scheduled airline service, like Santa Cruz County, this bill would eliminate the ability of a County Board of Supervisors to exempt the establishment of an Airport Land Use Commission.

Status: Passed Senate, Assembly Local Government Committee June 18.

SB 1458 (Local Government Committee) County Service Area Law.

This bill is a major overhaul of the County Service Area Law.

Status: Passed Senate, Assembly Local Government Committee June 4.

SB 1617 (Kehoe) State Fire Protection Fees in Wildland Areas.

This bill would establish state fire protection fees in State Responsibility Areas to be collected on the local property tax bills. The fees would help to funds CalFire.

Status: Passed Senate, At Assembly Appropriations Committee.