

LAFCO Receives Statewide Award for its Review of Water Service Providers in Santa Clara County

SAN JOSE, CA. – The Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) received the California Association of LAFCOs’ “Project of the Year” Achievement Award for successful completion of its Countywide Water Service Review.

The award recognizes LAFCO’s year-long collaborative process which resulted in recommendations for improving the services and governance of small water and resource conservation districts in the county. Among other things, LAFCO recommended that the districts submit timely audits, maintain comprehensive financial records, widely advertise board vacancies, evaluate performance, and maintain a website in order to enhance transparency and public accountability of the agencies.

LAFCO is working with these agencies to encourage timely implementation of its recommendations. Once implemented, these changes will allow the public/taxpayers to more easily follow the actions of these agencies and hold government/elected officials accountable for how they spend taxpayer funds.

Service Reviews, such as this one, are a valuable tool for LAFCO to provide greater oversight of local agencies. “These reviews help LAFCO fulfill its role of looking out for the interests of the taxpayers and the general public”, said Chairperson Pete Constant. “It is an honor to receive recognition from our peers for our efforts in this regard.”

BACKGROUND

The Countywide Water Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates Report is available on the LAFCO website www.santaclara.lafco.ca.gov and a hard copy of the report is available at the LAFCO office for reference.

LAFCO is a state mandated local agency whose mission is to promote sustainable growth and good governance in Santa Clara County by:

- preserving agricultural lands and open space,
- curbing urban sprawl,
- encouraging efficient delivery of services,
- exploring and facilitating regional opportunities for fiscal sustainability, and
- promoting accountability and transparency of local agencies.

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