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TOM TORLAKSON
CHAIR

ITEM NO. 8

May 15, 2002

Gloria Young
Executive Officer
San Francisco County LAFCO
1 Dr. B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Young:

The most important changes to the state's boundary laws in 40 years took effect on January 1, 2001. I am writing to ask your help in understanding how your LAFCO has implemented the legislative reforms contained in AB 2838 (Hertzberg, 2000).

LAFCOs are the Legislature's watchdogs over local boundaries. The Legislature has delegated its authority over the boundaries of cities and special districts to LAFCOs, and your commission acts as an agent of this legislative power. It is important that state legislators know how our statutes really work. If there are flaws, we need to know about the problems so we can fix them. The enclosed questionnaire asks 10 questions about how your LAFCO implemented AB 2838. Having your candid responses will help us continuously improve the boundary laws.

I am asking that you place this request on your Commission's next agenda. Please review your preliminary responses with your commissioners. Then, after you have discussed the answers with your Commission, please return your completed questionnaire by Friday, June 14.

We will gather the responses from the 58 LAFCOs and produce a summary of what we learn. I appreciate your willingness to help with this project.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson
Chair

..... 5/1/2011

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TOM TORLAKSON
CHAIR

May 15, 2002

Senate Local Government Committee
Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act
Implementation Survey --- May 2002

The Senate Local Government Committee requests the help of LAFCO executive Officers and commissioners in completing this survey. Each Executive Officer should place this request on the Commission's next agenda and review the preliminary responses with the commissioners. Please sign, date, and mail the completed survey by June 14.

1. AB 2838 enacted more explicit statewide policies to guide LAFCOs (Government Code §56001). LAFCOs had until January 1, 2002 to adopt written policies and procedures to implement the statutory policies (Government Code §56300 [a]).

When did your LAFCO adopt its policies? _____

2. AB 2838 made it easier for special districts to gain LAFCO representation (Government Code §56332.5). Please check one of the following:

Our LAFCO had special district members before AB 2838. _____

Our LAFCO added special district members after AB 2838. _____

Our LAFCO does not have special district members. _____

3. AB 2838 required LAFCOs to hold a public hearing to discuss the adoption of rules for the disclosure of contributions. LAFCOs with active proposals had until March 31, 2001 to hold a hearing; other LAFCOs had to hold their hearings within 90 days of receiving a proposal (Government Code §56100.1 and §56300 [b]).

When did your LAFCO hold this hearing? _____

Did your LAFCO adopt rules for disclosing contributions? _____

4. AB 2838 allowed LAFCOs to adopt lobbying disclosure and reporting requirements. LAFCOs with active proposals had until March 31, 2001 to hold a public hearing; other LAFCOs had to hold their hearings within 90 days of receiving a proposal (Government Code §56300 [c]).

When did your LAFCO hold this hearing? _____

Did your LAFCO adopt lobbying requirements? _____

5. Each LAFCO must appoint its own Executive Officer (Government Code §56384 [a]). *When did your LAFCO appoint its independent Executive Officer?*

6. Each LAFCO must appoint its own Legal Counsel (Government Code §56384 [b]). *When did your LAFCO appoint its independent Legal Counsel?*

7. LAFCOs must update the spheres of influence for all cities and special districts every five years (Government Code §56425 [f]).

Has your LAFCO adopted a schedule to revise spheres by January 1, 2006?

When did your LAFCO adopt this schedule (work plan): _____

Has your LAFCO budgeted funds to carry out this work plan? _____

8. To prepare to update those spheres of influence, LAFCOs must conduct service reviews of municipal services (Government Code §56430).

Has your LAFCO started its service reviews?

Has your LAFCO adopted a work plan for these service reviews?

Has your LAFCO budgeted funds to carry out those service reviews?

9. AB 2838 required cities and special districts to share with the county government in providing the LAFCO budget (Government Code §56381).

Did the cities in your county follow the statutory formula? _____

Did the special districts in your county follow the statutory formula? _____

10. LAFCOs can charge fees to recover their processing costs (Government Code §56383).

Did your LAFCO charge fees before AB 2838? _____

Did your LAFCO raise its fees after January 1, 2001? _____

11. Please compare your LAFCO budget for 2001-02 (the current fiscal year) to the budget for 1999-00 (the fiscal year before AB 2838 took effect).

The 2001-02 budget was higher than in 1999-00. _____

The 2001-02 budget was about the same as 1999-00. _____

The 2001-02 budget was lower than in 1999-00. _____

12. Why you think your 2002-02 budget was higher or lower than in 1999-00?

Thank your for answering these questions. Please complete this final section and then mail the completed survey by June 14.

Survey completed by:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The Executive Officer discussed these questions and responses with the LAFCO on: _____ (date).

Please mail your completed survey to:

LAFCO Survey
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 410
Sacramento CA 95814

RESPONSES TO SURVEY

May 15, 2002

Senate Local Government Committee
Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act
Implementation Survey --- May 2002

The Senate Local Government Committee requests the help of LAFCO Executive Officers and commissioners in completing this survey. Each Executive Officer should place this request on the Commission's next agenda and review the preliminary responses with the commissioners. Please sign, date, and mail the completed survey by June 14.

1. AB 2838 enacted more explicit statewide policies to guide LAFCOs (Government Code §56001). LAFCOs had until January 1, 2002 to adopt written policies and procedures to implement the statutory policies (Government Code §56300 [a]).

When did your LAFCO adopt its policies? 2000

2. AB 2838 made it easier for special districts to gain LAFCO representation (Government Code §56332.5). Please check one of the following:

Our LAFCO had special district members before AB 2838. - NO

Our LAFCO added special district members after AB 2838. NO

Our LAFCO does not have special district members. CORRECT

3. AB 2838 required LAFCOs to hold a public hearing to discuss the adoption of rules for the disclosure of contributions. LAFCOs with active proposals had until March 31, 2001 to hold a hearing; other LAFCOs had to hold their hearings within 90 days of receiving a proposal (Government Code §56100.1 and §56300 [b]).

When did your LAFCO hold this hearing? 2001

Did your LAFCO adopt rules for disclosing contributions? YES

4. AB 2838 allowed LAFCOs to adopt lobbying disclosure and reporting requirements. LAFCOs with active proposals had until March 31, 2001 to hold a public hearing; other LAFCOs had to hold their hearings within 90 days of receiving a proposal (Government Code §56300 [c]).

When did your LAFCO hold this hearing? YES

Did your LAFCO adopt lobbying requirements? YES

5. Each LAFCO must appoint its own Executive Officer (Government Code §56384 [a]). - 2000

6. Each LAFCO must appoint its own Legal Counsel (Government Code §56384 [b]). *When did your LAFCO appoint its independent Legal Counsel? – 8/2001*

7. LAFCOs must update the spheres of influence for all cities and special districts every five years (Government Code §56425 [f]).

Has your LAFCO adopted a schedule to revise spheres by January 1, 2006?

- NO

When did your LAFCO adopt this schedule (work plan): NOT YET

Has your LAFCO budgeted funds to carry out this work plan? NO

8. To prepare to update those spheres of influence, LAFCOs must conduct service reviews of municipal services (Government Code §56430). - NO

Has your LAFCO started its service reviews?

Has your LAFCO adopted a work plan for these service reviews?

Has your LAFCO budgeted funds to carry out those service reviews?

9. AB 2838 required cities and special districts to share with the county government in providing the LAFCO budget (Government Code §56381).

Did the cities in your county follow the statutory formula? ONE

CITY/COUNTY – BUDGET ADOPTED BY SF LAFCO 6/01 AND 5/10/02

Did the special districts in your county follow the statutory formula? N/A

10. LAFCOs can charge fees to recover their processing costs (Government Code §56383).

Did your LAFCO charge fees before AB 2838? NO

Did your LAFCO raise its fees after January 1, 2001? NO

11. Please compare your LAFCO budget for 2001-02 (the current fiscal year) to the budget for 1999-00 (the fiscal year before AB 2838 took effect).

The 2001-02 budget was higher than in 1999-00. NO

The 2001-02 budget was about the same as 1999-00. NO

The 2001-02 budget was lower than in 1999-00. YES

12. Why you think your 2002-02 budget was higher or lower than in 1999-00?

The budget in 2001-02 budget was lower than 1999-00 because that was the initial budget and included substantial funding for consultants and environmental reviews

Thank your for answering these questions. Please complete this final section and then mail the completed survey by June 14.

Survey completed by:

Signature:

Date: May 16, 2002

Print name: Gloria Young

Title: Executive Officer

Phone: 415-554-7747

Email: Gloria.L.Young@sfgov.org

The Executive Officer discussed these questions and responses with the LAFCO on N/A. It was forwarded to SF LAFCO as an informational item for its meeting of June 7, 2002.

Please mail your completed survey to:

LAFCO Survey
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 410
Sacramento CA 95814