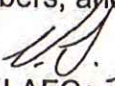





Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

May 27, 2009

To: LAFCo Executive Officers, CALAFCo Members, and Friends
From: Victor P. Lopez, Chairman—Fresno LAFCo 
Rick Ballantyne, Executive Officer—Fresno LAFCo 
Subject: **2009 CALAFCo Conference at Tenaya Lodge, Yosemite**

Fresno LAFCo cordially invites you to attend the 2009 CALAFCo Conference scheduled for October 28th through 30th. The Conference setting is at the beautiful Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park and is to take place during the foliage season when the leaves of the Sierra Nevada turn their bright colors.

Our Conference will begin with a Mobile Workshop in Fresno County that “spotlights” the San Joaquin River Parkway—a regional public conservation effort aimed at restoring a 23-mile segment of the San Joaquin River by placing 6,000 acres of land into public trust. Come join us for a morning along the River to learn how this effort had its beginning and what the future holds for this unique California natural resource.

This year's Conference theme is “A New Deal or a House of Cards: LAFCo's Role in Preparing for California's Recovery and the Future”. The Conference Program Committee has purposely planned its sessions and discussions around this topic which we believe will be of great interest to our local governments. This year's Conference even invites discussion of LAFCo's role in dealing with Native American Tribes, their Casinos, infrastructure needs, and relationships with LAFCos.

The Conference Reception will take place in the Lodge's “Western Village” where you will be greeted by musicians and a wine/beer competition and tasting event. It is a great way in which to network and meet new friends. We understand that John Muir will also be able to visit us and will appear as our “guest speaker” on Thursday at noon. The Awards Banquet will have a Western theme and casual clothing is encouraged.

Tenaya Lodge offers reduced room rates for Conference attendees and the Lodge may serve as a home base for those wishing to spend a day (or the weekend) in Yosemite National Park—or seeing portions of California's historic Gold Country along Highway 49. The Host Committee is also providing activities for spouses this year. Make your reservations early and plan on joining us for a few days of fun in the High Sierras!

P.S.—The swimming pool and Lodge facilities are 1st class—don't forget to pack your swimming suits!

YOUR INVITATION TO THE 2009 CALAFCO Annual Conference

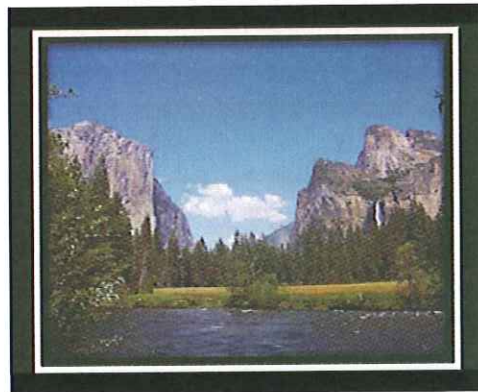
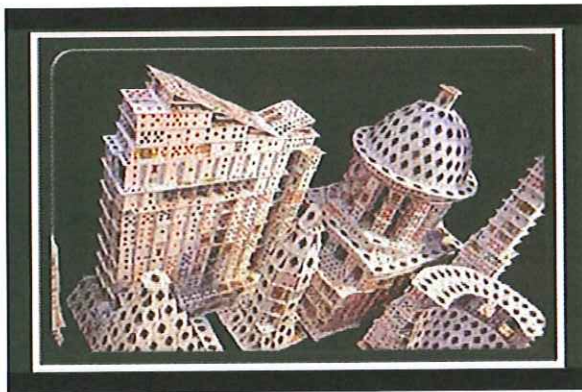
28-30 October 2009



TENAYA LODGE
AT YOSEMITE



A NEW DEAL OR A HOUSE OF CARDS? *LAFCo's Role in Preparing for California's Recovery and the Future*



INFORMATIVE GENERAL SESSIONS

Come on Wednesday to learn about *"Water Supply (and Drought) and the Challenges it Creates"* with speakers Guido Franco from the California Energy Commission, Robert Shibatani, from the Shibatani Group, and Don Kendall from Calleguas Municipal Water District.

And Thursday's topic is *"Regional Governance as a Model"* with Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Carol Whiteside (invited) from the Great Valley Center and Susan Anderson, County Member of Fresno LAFCo.

THOUGHT-PROVOKING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

We have nine exciting sessions planned for Thursday and two for Friday. Topics include:

- ☞ Casinos, Infrastructure Needs and LAFCo.
- ☞ Annexation as a Means to Preserve Open Space Lands: Creative Planning Tool or Heresy?
- ☞ Is the Williamson Act Sustainable?
- ☞ LAFCo's Role in Coping with Local Agency Financial Stress.
- ☞ State Regulatory Requirements – How They Effect LAFCo Decisions.
- ☞ Judicial Review of LAFCo Decisions.
- ☞ LAFCo's Role as a Regulatory Agency – Crafting Effective Terms and Conditions
- ☞ Environmental Justice as a Factor LAFCo's Must Consider.
- ☞ CEQA for Beginners.
- ☞ Real Time Survey and Opinion Workshop for LAFCo Commissioners.
- ☞ New Paradigms for Managing Growth.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSIONS

CALAFCO

Sharing information and resources

www.calafco.org

LAFCo

Hosted by Fresno LAFCo

Get the Most From Your Conference Attendance

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Hotel The conference will be held at the beautiful Tenaya Lodge at the south entrance to Yosemite National Park. Tenaya is a classic mountain resort surrounded by noble evergreen forest and a rich range of Sierra recreation. The Tenaya experience is classic, yet perfectly modern, with contemporary conference amenities such as wireless internet, spa services, fine dining, and gracious guest service.

Reservations CALAFCO has secured a special conference rate of \$139/night (plus taxes) for rooms on Tuesday through Thursday nights. *Make it a mini-vacation!* A limited number of rooms are available at the \$139 rate for the three days before and after the conference on a first-come-first-served basis. Reservations may be made by phone or on-line. Please use group code **30B9SV** for the conference rate.

877-635-5807 ♦ www.tenayalodge.com

Parking Free

Travel Tenaya Lodge is located 12 miles north of Oakhurst on State Highway 41. Driving times are approximately 3½ hours from the Bay area; 4½ hours from Los Angeles; 3 hours from Sacramento; and 1½ hours from Fresno. Tenaya is located two miles south of the entrance to Yosemite National Park; a park entrance fee is **not** required unless you choose to drive through the park.

Airline service is available to Fresno International Airport (www.fresno.gov/DiscoverFresno/Airports) by a number of carriers. Amtrak San Joaquins (www.amtrak.com) provides rail service to Fresno.

Yosemite National Park Entrance fee is \$20/car and is valid for seven days. An annual permit to the park is available for \$40 (www.nps.gov/yose).



A NEW DEAL OR A HOUSE OF CARDS?

LAFCo's Role in Preparing for California's Recovery and the Future



California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

2009 Annual Conference

TENAYA LODGE
AT YOSEMITE

28-30 October 2009

Registration Fee The early registration fee is \$390; the same rate as the last several years. Registration includes all materials, sessions, Wednesday reception, Thursday breakfast, lunch and banquet, Friday breakfast, and breaks. Special meal packages are available for guests. All conference partici-pants and guests must be registered to attend conference activities.

PROGRAM FEATURES

The Conference Program Committee has planned an exceptional program focused on timely LAFCo issues. Designed for Commissioners, staff and stakeholders, program highlights include:

General Sessions

- Regional Governance as a Model: Opportunities and Challenges for Local Government and LAFCo
- Water Supply (and Drought) and the Challenges it Creates
- 2009 LAFCo and Local Government Legislation

Breakout Sessions

- Casinos, Infrastructure Needs, and LAFCo
- Is the Williamson Act Sustainable?
- LAFCo's Role in Coping with Local Agency Financial Stress
- State Regulatory Requirements - How They Effect LAFCo Decisions
- Judicial Review of LAFCo Decisions
- LAFCo's Role as a Regulatory Agency - Crafting Effective Terms and Conditions
- Environmental Justice as a Factor LAFCos Must Consider
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LAFCo 101

For new and experienced commissioners alike this preconference course provides an excellent primer of LAFCo history and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. It examines the LAFCo practices and policies, and provides an opportunity to get answers to questions from experienced LAFCo staff, commissioners and counsel.

Wednesday, 11:00 to 1:00. Lunch included. Free, but registration is required.

Mobile Workshop

An unforgettable opportunity to explore and learn about the history and formation of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1988 to establish a continuous greenway along 33 miles of river in the rapidly urbanizing Fresno-Madera region. In partnership with state and federal agencies and local governments, the River Parkway Trust has been successful in protecting land through fee title acquisition and wildlife habitat restoration.



Wednesday, 8:30 am-1:00 pm. Depart Tenaya Lodge at 7:30 am. Lunch included. \$40.

Professional Credits



Conference participant can earn professional credits. CALAFCO is accredited to provide MCLE credits for LAFCo counsel, and up to eight AICP credits for all professional planners.

MCLE credits require advance registration - \$50; AICP credits included in registration fee.

Meet John Muir

A trip to Yosemite is incomplete without hearing from John Muir. Join John Muir for a very special lunch on Thursday as he talks about the incredible Yosemite resources.

Thursday, noon. Included in registration.

Special Features

3rd Annual Wine & Beer Competition and Reception

Join us for this ever-popular reception and competition. It's an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from around the state. Each LAFCo is invited to enter their best wine or beer, and everyone can vote for their favorite. Medals are awarded to the winning wineries, breweries and LAFCo! Includes light appetizers.

Wednesday, 5:00-7:00 pm. Included in registration.





CALAFCO Awards Banquet

Every year CALAFCO recognizes those that have excelled in advancing the LAFCo mission and priorities. Join us for the reception, annual banquet and awards presentation ... with a western theme to boot!

Thursday, 6:00-8:30 pm. Included in registration.

Family & Guest Activities

There is much to do in the area for families and guests that accompany you to the conference. Special conference rates are available at Tenaya Lodge before and after the conference if you want to make this a mini-vacation!

-  Tenaya Lodge features a **full service spa**, along with excellent exercise and pool facilities
-  **Tours** of Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Valley are available starting at Tenaya Lodge. There are also a wide range of activities offered at the lodge. The Tenaya Concierge is available to assist conference participants and guests with arrangements (www.tenayalodge.com/activities).
-  **Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino.** Located just 15 miles south of Tenaya is the Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino. The resort features seven restaurants, a night club, and of course a wide variety of gaming opportunities (www.chukchansigold.com).
-  **Oakhurst and Area.** Just 12 miles south of Tenaya is the community of Oakhurst with a wide variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment options along historic Highway 49 - *The Gold Chain Highway*. Visit the Oakhurst Area Chamber for suggestions and details (www.oakhurstchamber.com).





**A NEW DEAL OR
A HOUSE OF CARDS?**
California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions
2009 Annual Conference
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite

**PRELIMINARY
Conference Program**

Wednesday – 28 October 2009

- 7:30 Registration Opens
8:30 Mobile Workshop: *San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust* (depart Tenaya at 7:30 return at 1:00)
11:00 LAFCo 101
1:15 Welcome and Opening Session
1:30 General Session: *Water Supply (and Drought) and the Challenges it Creates*
3:00 Networking Break
3:30 Roundtable Discussions
♦ Commissioners
♦ Staff
♦ LAFCo Counsel
5:30 3rd Annual Wine & Beer Competition and Reception

Thursday – 29 October 2009

- 7:30 Networking Breakfast
8:00 CALAFCo Annual Business Meeting and Elections
10:15 Networking Break
10:30 General Session: *Approaches to Regional Government*
Noon Lunch with John Muir
1:30 Breakout Session 1
2:30 Networking Break
2:45 Breakout Session 2
4:00 Breakout Session 3
6:30 CALAFCo Awards Banquet – Reception and Dinner

Friday – 30 October 2009

- 7:30 Regional Breakfasts
9:00 Breakout Session 4
10:30 General Session: *2009 Legislation*
11:45 Conference Adjourns
Noon CALAFCo Board of Directors Meeting

**Tips to Help Get More
Out of a CALAFCo Conference**

Before the Conference

- ♦ Make a public announcement at a commission meeting that representatives from your LAFCo will attend. Indicate who will attend, the purpose and value of their participation, and the approximate budgeted cost.
- ♦ Review the conference program and determine which sessions, discussions and activities will directly benefit you and your LAFCo.
- ♦ Explain the benefits and return on investment for conference participation. LAFCo is a significant and complex responsibility. Training commissioners and staff to be effective leaders and decision makers is an educational investment that benefits the entire community.
- ♦ Designate an attending representative to prepare a written or verbal summary report to the entire commission following the conference.

During the Conference

- ♦ List specific questions you want answered during the sessions. If the speakers don't satisfy your needs, ask questions during or after the presentation. Take notes on each session.
- ♦ Collect material to share with commissioners who did not attend, including handout materials that have relevance to your LAFCo.
- ♦ Get acquainted and talk informally with other attendees during breaks, receptions, and other social events. You can gain a great deal by networking with colleagues from LAFCos confronting the same challenges that you face.

After the Conference

- ♦ At a commission meeting, share the highlights of the conference and your own observations and impressions. If you discovered that your LAFCo is more successful or advanced than others in a given area or activity, point this out and compliment the staff and commission.
- ♦ Be available for response to media inquiries, interview requests, and other matters relating to the conference. Be prepared, informed, and direct in your response.
- ♦ Be positive and well-informed about the conference programming and its importance to the LAFCo. To be effective, commissioners and staff must have access to the best and most current information if they are to serve the community effectively.

Conference Registration and More
Information at www.calafco.org