



## LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA

### *Legislative Platform*

(Adopted: February 5, 2018; Last Amended: May 4, 2020)

The following core guiding principles underlie the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Napa County's activities. Each of these principles is centered on Napa LAFCO having in-depth, active communication with respect to all relevant constituents.

- Municipal Service Reviews based on local agency, Napa County, & LAFCO needs
- Re-writing policies (on a schedule) to be comprehensive, effective, and transparent
- Forecasting issues relating to local services and boundaries, as well as State legislation
- Active involvement of agency constituents in problem-solving local agency sustainability
- Engagement with local city/town general plan updates
- Active with local agencies in managing housing growth and related issues including transportation

The following serves as Napa LAFCO's Legislative Platform for purposes of informing actions relating to proposed legislation. Napa LAFCO will first review and consider the positions of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California Special Districts Association, including their stated reasons for their positions, before recommending the full Commission take a formal position on proposed legislation.

### **1. LAFCO Purpose and Authority**

- 1.1 Support legislation which enhances Napa LAFCO's authority and powers to carry out the legislative findings and authority in Government Code §56000 et seq., and oppose legislation which diminishes Napa LAFCO's authority.
- 1.2 Support authority for Napa LAFCO to establish local policies to apply Government Code §56000 et seq. based on local needs and conditions, and oppose any limitations to that authority.
- 1.3 Oppose additional Napa LAFCO responsibilities which require expansion of current local funding sources. Oppose unrelated responsibilities which dilute Napa LAFCO's ability to meet its primary mission.
- 1.4 Support alignment of responsibilities and authority of Napa LAFCO and regional agencies which may have overlapping responsibilities in orderly growth, preservation, and service delivery, and oppose legislation or policies which create conflicts or hamper those responsibilities.

- 1.5 Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the Napa LAFCO process.
- 1.6 Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote their conscience on issues affecting their own jurisdiction.
- 1.7 Support the independence of Napa LAFCO from local agencies.
- 1.8 Support recognition of Napa LAFCO's spheres of influence by other agencies involved in determining and developing long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 1.9 Support efforts to acquire funding for local projects if the funding efforts are supported by the CALAFCO Board of Directors.

## **2. Agricultural, Watershed, and Open Space Protection**

- 2.1. Support legislation which clarifies Napa LAFCO's authority to identify, encourage, and ensure the preservation of agricultural, watershed, and open space lands.
- 2.2. Support policies which encourage cities, counties and special districts to direct development away from agricultural, watershed, and open space lands.
- 2.3. Support policies and tools which protect agricultural, watershed, and open space lands.
- 2.4. Support the continuance of the Williamson Act and restoration of program funding through State subvention payments.
- 2.5. Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as a management tool to provide better planning of growth and development, and to preserve agricultural, watershed, and open space lands.