

February 23, 2022

Dear CALAFCO Membership:

We are two years into the pandemic and find ourselves still living in challenging times, dealing with the myriad of disruptive changes thrust upon us and our agencies as we deal with what seems to be a place of “permanent in-betweenness” caused by the pandemic.

As we planned our 2022 Staff Workshop in Newport Beach for March 23 - 25 this year, and time marched on, it became very clear with only five weeks until the Workshop that our registration numbers are at an all-time low, with less than half of our normal attendance. After hearing from many of you, we understand there is still hesitancy to travel and gather in large numbers due to lingering impacts of COVID-19 and financial and organizational changes to many LAFCoS have resulted reduced training and travel in your budgets.

After careful thought and consideration, the CALAFCO Board unanimously decided to cancel this year's in-person Staff Workshop which was scheduled for March 23 - 25 in Newport Beach.

The Board conducted a special e-meeting on February 22, 2022, and after considering all the facts and options, they unanimously voted to cancel the in-person Workshop this year. This was a difficult decision as there are no clear good choices. Undoubtedly this thrice scheduled Workshop, with less than half the normal average attendance, is the anomaly due to the pandemic. The timing this year finds us in that suspended “in-between” space - between living with restrictions and the state opening up and life returning to some sense of “normalcy”.

Several factors were considered in the decision including: (1) the current transition of Executive Directors and the unrealistic responsibility for the new Executive Director (who will have been in the role only 3 weeks before the start of the Workshop) to lead and execute a Workshop with very limited resources and very few in attendance; and (2) the preservation of the integrity of the Workshop experience. There is concern that holding an event with approx. 45 people (meaning a very small percentage of the total membership) presents a variety of challenges not the least of which is the inability to capitalize on the vast intellectual capacity of LAFCo staff statewide. We know you have come to expect a certain level of quality professional and social experience at our Workshops (and Conferences and CALAFCO U sessions), and it is difficult to see, in the current circumstances, how this can realistically and effectively be executed at that high-quality level, even though the program planning team has done an outstanding job creating a valuable program.

We thank those of you who registered or planned to register and attend the Workshop. We thank all of you who chose to sponsor this year's Workshop. We thank the amazing program planning team and all our speakers who were busy preparing and working on their presentations. As we take our mission seriously and the program planned was a good one, the program planning team's great work will not go idle. They've created a strong program and several of the planned sessions for the March Workshop are being placed into the Annual Conference program this October, while other sessions will be transitioned to webinars and offered via CALAFCO U over the course of the next several months, with a few other sessions being placed into the 2023 Workshop program.

So, what's next? Before the end of March 2022:

- Any registrations paid by check in 2020 and rolled over will be refunded in full. CALAFCO will mail a check directly to the LAFCo office associated with those registrations.
- We will work with each of you to refund all registration payments made online in their entirety including the service fees.
- Any registrations received in the mail this year with a check, we will return the check. We will mail the check directly to the LAFCo office associated with those registrations.
- We will also work with all our sponsors to do the same.
- All hotel reservations at the Hyatt have been cancelled.

- We will celebrate CALAFCO's 50th + 1 this year at the Annual Conference
- Annual Conference is scheduled for October 19 - 21, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach John Wayne Airport

If you have any questions, please contact Executive Director Pamela Miller. You can reach her at pmiller@calafco.org. For questions about refunds, please contact our Administrator Jeni Tickler at jtickler@calafco.org.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you for your understanding, patience and support of the Association. We are proud to be of service to you, our members.

Yours sincerely,



Anita Paque
Chair of the Board



Pamela Miller
Executive Director

CC: CALAFCO Board of Directors