

California
[UN]inc.

Democracy & Local Control for Unincorporated Communities



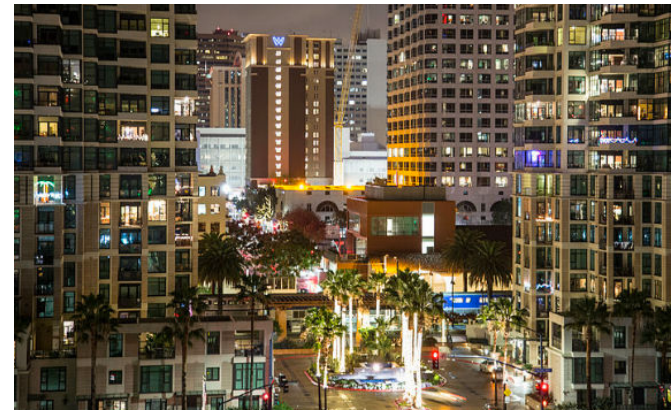
Presentation to Office of Planning and Research, August 29, 2019

California (un)Incorporated Statewide Coalition

- Alameda County: *Ashland, Castro Valley*
- El Dorado County: *El Dorado Hills*
- Humboldt County: *McKinleyville (?)*
- Los Angeles County: *East Los Angeles, Walnut Park*
- Placer County: *North Lake Tahoe*
- Orange County: *Ladera Ranch*
- Sacramento County: *Arden Arcade, Rio Linda Elverta*
- Santa Barbara County: *Isla Vista*
- San Joaquin County: *Mountain House*
- Stanislaus County: *Salida*

Cities are Important

- Centers of commerce & culture
 - ✓ Home to 83% of Californians
 - ✓ Provide municipal services
 - ✓ Infrastructure stewardship
- CA policies depend on cities
 - ✓ Affordable housing, quality-of-life
 - ✓ Sustainability, GHG reduction, infill, smart growth
 - ✓ Open space, farmland preservation
- Serving a growing California
 - ✓ Commercial prosperity
 - ✓ Valued Activity Centers
 - ✓ Transportation hubs
 - ✓ Housing and Sense-of-Place



Problems

- 6M+ Californians in urbanized unincorporated areas
 - ✓ No Mayors/City Councils to focus on local priorities
 - ✓ Effective denial of democratic representation
 - *County elected officials/constituents: LA 1:2M, Orange 1:638K, Ala/Sac 1:300K*
 - *Communities don't matter: Ladera Ranch, East L.A., Mountain House, Ashland <10% of Supervisor's constituents, El Dorado Hills is 2x county's largest city & 4x it's other city*
 - *Appointed bodies not beholden to voters*
 - ✓ Outsiders make decisions
 - *Infrastructure, local law enforcement, land use*
- Current policies impede incorporation
 - ✓ Reflective of bygone budget issues
 - ✓ Process inequities
 - *Tilted towards special interests with agendas*
 - *Prohibitive costs (\$500K and up) for grassroots proponents*
 - ✓ Substantive inequities
 - *Revenue neutrality agreements are unbounded in time and scope*
 - *Revenues all other cities get are denied to new cities*
 - ✓ Significant barriers to local control



Solutions – LAFCO Reform

- Restore VLF property tax stream
 - ✓ *Give new cities same access to revenues as existing cities*
- CEQA exemption for incorporations
 - ✓ *Pre-incorporation CEQA duplicative / serves no purpose*
 - ✓ *New city General Plan requires CEQA analysis and mitigation*
- State Controller to do primary financial analysis
 - ✓ *Need for centralized, uniform process to assess viability*
 - ✓ *Controller already does this analysis upon appeal*
- Reasonable Restraints on Revenue Neutrality
 - ✓ *Time limits and transparency that demonstrate fulfillment of public interest*
 - ✓ *Should protect counties during transition, not impede incorporations or hobble new cities*
- Incentives and Funding for Incorporations
 - ✓ *Remove procedural impediments to consideration of new cities*
 - ✓ *Provide grants to fund processes*

AB818 of 2019

Another Way: CSD-to-City conversion

- Districts need a smooth pathway towards cityhood
 - ✓ Already have considerable municipal powers
Government Code Section Section 61100 et seq
 - ✓ Legislative intent – transition to city
Government Code Section Section 61001 (b) (4)



What if a District:

- ✓ RESOLVED TO BE CITY
- ✓ FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
- ✓ CONTROLLER REVIEW
- ✓ BALLOT MEASURE

WHY NOT?

Please Consider Support For

- Municipal Incorporations
 - ✓ Neglect does not serve California
 - ✓ Urbanized Californians want/expect Mayors & City Councils
 - ✓ Responsive local governance for residents and businesses
- CSD Conversions
 - ✓ Mechanism for CSDs to become cities
 - ✓ Concept could apply @ other districts
- Make LAFCOs job easier
 - ✓ Relieve CEQA & financial analysis (CFA) burdens
 - ✓ Provide at least some funding

Small grants for LAFCOs and grassroots proponents



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