



January 19, 2023

Cities Association of Santa Clara County
City Selection Committee
P.O. Box 3144
Los Altos, CA 94024

Dear Members of the City Selection Committee,

Please accept my letter of interest for appointment as the Cities Association’s Primary Representative to Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

It has been an honor to serve as the Cities Association’s Alternate Representative to LAFCO for the past six years, during which time I have attended nearly every public hearing. Since March 2019, I have also served LAFCO as Chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

LAFCO is unique as a State Agency with the County of Santa Clara as its jurisdiction. The mission of Santa Clara LAFCO is to promote sustainable growth and good governance in the County by:

- Preserving agricultural lands and open space
- Curbing urban sprawl
- Encouraging efficient delivery of services
- Exploring and facilitating regional opportunities for fiscal sustainability
- Promoting public accountability and transparency of local agencies

This mandate comes from State law, originally adopted by the Legislature in 1963 to promote good governance and curb urban sprawl. Today, an important aspect of LAFCO has become protection of the environment, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the slowing of global warming. This is especially through LAFCO’s mandate to preserve agricultural lands and open space, and to curb urban sprawl.

Some refer to LAFCOs at the Legislature’s “watchdog institutions” in carrying out the State’s power to regulate local government boundaries. I take LAFCO’s mandate seriously and my pledge to the Cities Association is to diligently consider each

Larry Klein
Mayor

Omar Din
Vice Mayor

Russ Melton
Councilmember

Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember

Richard Mehlinger
Councilmember

Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember

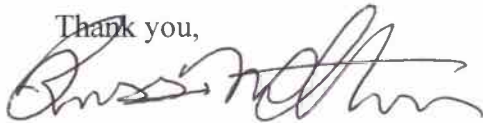
Linda Sell
Councilmember

application with it in mind. Each of our Cities has a Climate Action Plan, all of which benefit by votes taken at LAFCO that are in line with the mandate.

LAFCOs are also tasked by the State to perform service reviews of agencies throughout the County (excluding School Districts), conducted on a five-year cycle. My goal is to ensure timely, consistent, and fair reviews, with a focus on governance, transparency, and efficiency of budget and service delivery.

I will be happy to answer any questions regarding my application and I appreciate the consideration of the City Selection Committee.

Thank you,



Russ Melton
Councilmember, City of Sunnyvale