



Regional Planners Remove Opposition To Wilk Bill Creating New Water Retailer

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A regional planning agency removed opposition Wednesday to a bill that would fundamentally change water distribution in the Santa Clarita Valley.

LAFCO, or the Local Agency Formation Commission of Los Angeles County, removed its opposition to the bill after months of negotiation between agency officials and community leaders. LAFCO is the agency with the constitutionally delegated responsibility to settle boundary disputes between cities and local agencies.

"We are grateful for LAFCO's unanimous support to remove its past opposition to Senate Bill 634 – the Santa Clarita Valley Water District Act," said Maria Gutzeit

and Bob DiPrimio, presidents of Newhall County Water District (NCWD) and Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA). "The Commission's positive action is a result of months of collaboration to ensure we answer the primary concern, which was to establish a formal role for LAFCO in the formation of the new water district." The agency originally posed its opposition to the bill because LAFCO believed the legislative process that authors of the bill were using bypassed their procedure for public participation.

Past KHTS coverage of SB 634: [Santa Clarita Water Districts Stand Firm Behind SB 634 To Create New Retailer](#)

However, an amended version of the bill, created in April, ensured both unified water management in the region and established a formal role for LAFCO within the agency creating process.

"We now look forward to LAFCO's future analysis of the new district once it is established. This direct involvement will benefit the new agency and the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley," said Gutzeit and DiPrimio.

SB 634, authored by Senator Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita, would create a unified water retailer in the Santa Clarita Valley in order to improve water distribution throughout the valley. The bill has the support of existing water agencies within the SCV.

A comprehensive economics and efficiencies study found that the new district would generate \$14 million of savings in its first 10 years, create a new, more accessible governance structure, enhance environmental and watershed protections, and lead to stronger local water reliability, including the development of recycled water, according to officials.

Past KHTS coverage of City Council Endorsement: [Santa Clarita City Council Backs Water Bill After Lengthy Discussion](#)

For the full text of the bill, visit [here](#).