

Corkey Harmon
County Member

Chris Kelstrom
County Member

Allen Long
County Member Alternate

Susie Baugh
City Member

Mike Littau
City Member

Pam Morgan
City Member Alternate



Fred Ryness
Special District Member

Ronnean Lund
Special District Member

Rosemary Smith
Special District Alternate

Larry Russell
Public Member

Michael Spencer
Public Member Alternate

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, December 4th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
City of Shasta Lake, City Council Chambers
4477 Main Street, Shasta Lake, CA 96019-0777

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Lund

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are invited to address the Commission at this time regarding any item not scheduled for discussion as part of this agenda, and that is within the jurisdiction of LAFCO. Comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. No action will be taken by the Commission at this meeting as a result of items presented at this time.

3. AGENDA ADOPTION

- a. Agenda - Additions/ Changes
- b. Business/ Campaign Conflict Disclosures

Note: Only the following additions/changes are permitted: (1) to change the order of noticed agenda items, (2) determine to continue or not consider a noticed agenda item, or (3) discussion/action on an item not appearing on the posted agenda if a defined statutory emergency situation is determined to exist by majority vote (G.C. 56954.2(b)(1) and G.C. 54956.5).

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Recognition of Outgoing Public Member Larry Russell

5. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION ITEM

All consent items are considered routine and may be enacted by the Commission under one motion. With concurrence of the Chair, a Commissioner may request that an item be removed for discussion.

- a. October 2, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes
- b. September - October 2025 Financial Summary
- c. Regular Meeting Schedule for 2026

6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

This item is reserved for any items that the Commission wishes to pull from the consent calendar to discuss prior to taking action.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

8. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

Any member of the public may address the Commission on scheduled public hearing items. The Chair may regulate the order of such presentations and reserves the right to limit the time allowed for each person to speak.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

Business items are for review and possible action by the Commission.

a. Appointment of Regular Public Member

The Commission will receive a report from the Public Member Selection Committee regarding applications received for the open seat, and consider appointing a new Public Member based on the Committee's recommendation.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

An applicant or member of the public may provide comments on an item at the discretion of the Chair. General direction to staff for future action may be provided by the Commission.

a. Status of Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Update Preparations

The Commission will receive an update on MSR/SOI preparation for Anderson FPD, CSA #4, and CSAs #2, #3, #6, & #13.

b. Status of Current and Future Applications

The Commission will receive an update on current and future applications.

c. CALAFCO Legislative Report

The Commission will receive an update on legislation that is currently being tracked by CALAFCO.

d. CALAFCO "The Sphere"

The Commission will receive a brief overview of "The Sphere" which is CALAFCO's annual report detailing the work of CALAFCO and member LAFCOs over the past year.

11. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

12. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

13. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 9:00am at the City of Redding Council Chambers located at 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA.

SHASTA LAFCO

If you choose not to observe the LAFCO meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment to amber@shastalafco.org. Your comment will be placed into the record at the LAFCO meeting.

Notice:

This agenda has been posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in a location freely accessible to members of the public, in accordance with the Brown Act. The full agenda packet (including staff reports) is also available on the LAFCO website at www.shastalafco.org.

For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for consideration by the Commission. The Chair will call for public comment as each item is heard by the Commission. For items not appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments during the Public Comment period for non-agenda items. All speakers are invited to state their names but are not required to do so. If you wish to submit written material at the meeting, please supply 10 copies.

FPPC - Notice to All Parties and Participants in LAFCO Proceedings:

State law requires that a participant in LAFCO proceedings who has a financial interest in the decision and who has made a campaign contribution to any Commissioner in the past year must disclose the contribution. If you are affected, please notify LAFCO staff before the hearing.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Commission meetings are held in a wheelchair accessible facility. Individuals requiring special accommodation to participate in this meeting are requested to contact the LAFCO representatives at (707) 825-8260. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Commission to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

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REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Burney Fire Protection District Fire Hall
37072 Main Street, Burney, CA 96013

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Burney Fire Protection District Fire Hall.

a. Roll Call

Present: Chair Russell; Commissioners Harmon, Kelstrom, Baugh, and Ryness; Alternate Commissioners Morgan (seated as a voting member), Smith (seated as a voting member), and Spencer

Absent: Commissioners Littau and Lund; Alternate Commissioner Long

Staff Present: Executive Officer Krystle Brogna; Legal Counsel Jim Underwood

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided.

3. AGENDA ADOPTION

a. Agenda - Additions/ Changes

b. Business/Campaign Conflict Disclosures

No changes were made to the agenda or disclosures made.

Motion Kelstrom/ Morgan to adopt the agenda. Motion passed by 7-0-0 voice vote.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - NONE

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. August 7, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

b. July - August 2025 Financial Summary

Motion Kelstrom/ Baugh to approve the consent calendar. Motion passed by a 7-0-0 voice vote.

6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. SDRMA Award

Executive Officer Brogna introduced the item; Shasta LAFCO received an award from the Special District Risk Management Authority recognizing the Commission's lack of paid claims for the Property/Liability Program from 2020-2025. No Commissioner questions.

8. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Burney Fire Protection District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

The Commission continued the public hearing from the August 7, 2025 Regular Commission meeting. Executive Officer Brogna explained the changes that had been made to the document since the Commission last reviewed it including minor clarifications and updates to the District's proposed sphere of influence (SOI). Staff worked to develop three options for the District's proposed SOI update based on input from the District, legal considerations, and discussions with neighboring fire service provider, County Service Area (CSA) #1. Commissioners discussed the three options.

Burney FPD Fire Captain Cleckler provided comment in support of Option A, highlighting that including Cassel in the District's SOI would bring ambulance service coverage and other benefits to the community, should the area be annexed in the future. Commissioners asked Captain Cleckler clarifying questions. Burney FPD Board Member Irene May provided comment, explaining that Cassel VFD previously inquired if the District would consider providing services to the Cassel area. She indicated that the District is amenable to providing services, notably ambulance services, to the area since they have increased their staffing. A CAL FIRE Representative indicated that CSA #1 Fire Chief Sean O'Hara, who was not able to attend, supports Option C and would like to see a special study regarding Cassel completed prior to inclusion in Burney FPD's SOI. Battalion Chief Steve Chapman, who oversees Battalion 1 including Cassel VFD and CAL FIRE Burney Station 14, provided a brief history of why CAL FIRE stopped staffing the Cassel station. Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

Members of the public provided comment. Howard Fincher, Cassel community member and Cassel VFD Board President, noted that there have been Cassel community members requesting that options, including annexation into Burney FPD, be explored. The Cassel VFD is currently looking to gather information on all the potential options and bring the information to the community to see how they would collectively like to proceed. Discussion was held on the difference between a jurisdictional boundary and SOI; it was clarified that the public hearing was regarding the District's SOI amendment, not annexation of territory into the District's jurisdictional boundary.

The public hearing was closed. EO Brogna provided clarification on what the Commission was considering at this meeting, which was adoption of Resolution 2025-06 approving the MSR as it appears in the meeting packet and setting the District's SOI. A Cassel community member provided comment that she does not see any benefit to being included in the District's boundaries. Discussion was held regarding how a potential future annexation process would work and what approving the District's SOI would change at this point in time. It is the District's understanding that they would be able to send an ambulance to areas within the updated SOI if it was expanded, but that Mayers Memorial Hospital would also still send an ambulance unless the agreement between the two agencies was adjusted.

Motion Baugh to conduct a workshop prior to making any decisions on the Burney Fire Protection District's Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update. Motion rescinded.

Motion Ryness/ Russell to adopt Resolution 2025-06, approving the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Burney Fire Protection District and amending the SOI as shown in Option A as presented in the staff report, which includes areas along Hatchet Ridge and the community of Cassell. Motion passed by a 7-0-0 voice vote.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS - NONE

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

a. Status of Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Update Preparations

Executive Officer Broгна introduced the staff report and explained that the Burney FPD MSR/SOI Update was discussed today, and that MSR/SOI Updates are in progress for CSAs #2, 3, 6, and 13, the Anderson FPD, and CSA #4. She explained that the MSR/SOI Update for CSA #4 would be abbreviated and set a zero SOI in anticipation of dissolution. No Commissioner comments or discussion.

b. Status of Current and Future Applications

Executive Officer Broгна introduced the staff report and provided an update on the current status of a proposed annexation for CSA #8 and a proposed annexation for Fall River Valley CSD. No Commissioner comments or discussion.

c. CALAFCO Legislative Report

Executive Officer Broгна provided the Commission with an update on legislation pertaining to LAFCO. She also noted that Commissioners Lund and Baugh would be attending the CALAFCO Annual Conference later in the month. No Commissioner comments or discussion.

d. Expiring Commissioner Terms

Executive Officer Broгна provided a summary of how Commissioners are appointed to LAFCO and noted that the Regular Public Member seat, currently occupied by Chair Russell, would be open at the end of December. A Public Member Selection Committee was appointed consisting of Commissioners Ryness, Baugh, and Kelstrom.

11. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

12. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Baugh stated that she will be attending the CALAFCO Annual Conference and is looking forward to that experience.

Commissioner Ryness reminded the Commission that CSDA will be launching nationwide.

Alternate Commissioner Morgan noted that there was a celebration of life held for her late husband and former LAFCO Commissioner, Steve Morgan, that went well.

SHASTA LAFCO

Chair Russell thanked everyone for attending the meeting, noting that it was a further commute for most than normal. He also commented that LAFCO is an important and helpful organization.

13. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT - 10:15 AM

DRAFT

Profit and Loss Detail

Agenda Item 5b

Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission

September 1-October 31, 2025

TRANSACTION DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	LOCATION	CLASS FULL NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	ITEM SPLIT ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Ordinary Income/Expenses									
Income									
Cost of Goods Sold									
Gross Profit									
Expenses									
B Professional Services									
Accounting Audits and Bookkeeping									
09/08/2025	Bill	1145	Bookkeeping Systems			QBO Reconcilliation and Clean Up	Accounts Payable	\$1,440.00	
								1,440.00	1,440.00
Total for Accounting Audits and Bookkeeping								\$1,440.00	
Contractor Executive Officer									
09/30/2025	Bill	25-235-09	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	\$21,377.92	
								12,333.80	12,333.80
10/31/2025	Bill	25-235-10	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	9,044.12	21,377.92
Total for Contractor Executive Officer								\$21,377.92	
InfoTech - Website									
10/31/2025	Bill	26463	Obsidian IT				Accounts Payable	\$72.63	
								72.63	72.63
Total for InfoTech - Website								\$72.63	
MSR/SOI Expenses									
09/30/2025	Bill	25-235-09	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	\$11,042.50	
								7,935.00	7,935.00
10/31/2025	Bill	25-235-10	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	3,107.50	11,042.50
Total for MSR/SOI Expenses								\$11,042.50	
Planning and GIS									
09/30/2025	Bill	25-235-09	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	\$187.50	
								187.50	187.50
Total for Planning and GIS								\$187.50	
Legal Services and Council									
Miscellaneous Legal Service									
09/23/2025	Bill	10324	Underwood Law Offices, PC				Accounts Payable	\$1,380.00	
								400.00	400.00
10/20/2025	Bill	10360	Underwood Law Offices, PC				Accounts Payable	980.00	1,380.00
Total for Miscellaneous Legal Service								\$1,380.00	
Total for Legal Services and Council with sub-accounts								\$1,380.00	
Total for B Professional Services with sub-accounts								\$35,500.55	
D Memberships and Fees									
Conferences & Sponsorships									
10/13/2025	Expense	1516	CALAFCO			Annual Conference 2025	Tri Counties Bank Checking	\$3,220.04	
								1,400.00	1,400.00
10/31/2025	Bill	25-235-10	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	1,820.04	3,220.04
Total for Conferences & Sponsorships								\$3,220.04	
Memberships									
10/01/2025	Bill	8017-2026	CSDA			2026 Annual Membership Dues	Accounts Payable	\$1,398.00	
								1,398.00	1,398.00
Total for Memberships								\$1,398.00	
Total for D Memberships and Fees with sub-accounts								\$4,618.04	

Profit and Loss Detail
Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission
September 1-October 31, 2025

TRANSACTION DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	LOCATION	CLASS FULL NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	ITEM SPLIT ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
C Office & Supplies									
Storage Rent								\$110.00	
09/23/2025	Expense	1513	Crown Storage			Rent for Storage Unit 468	Tri Counties Bank Checking	110.00	110.00
Total for Storage Rent								\$110.00	
Total for C Office & Supplies with sub-accounts								\$110.00	
Total for Expenses with sub-accounts								\$40,228.59	
Net Ordinary Income								-\$40,228.59	
Other Income/Expense									
Other Income									
Other Expense									
Application Processing Costs								\$1,817.50	
10/31/2025	Bill	25-235-10	Planwest Partners, Inc.				Accounts Payable	1,817.50	1,817.50
Total for Application Processing Costs								\$1,817.50	
Total for Other Expense with sub-accounts								\$1,817.50	
Net Other Income								-\$1,817.50	
Net Income								-\$42,046.09	

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AGENDA ITEM 5.C.

Date: December 4, 2025

From: Krystle Broгна, Executive Officer

Subject: Approval of Meeting Calendar for 2026

The Commission will consider approving a regular meeting schedule for the 2026 calendar year. This item has been agendized as part of the consent calendar. Accordingly, if interested, the Commission is invited to pull this item for additional discussion and/or to provide future direction with the concurrence of the Chair.

BACKGROUND

It is the policy of the Commission to hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of every even numbered month commencing at 9:00am. The location of the meeting rotates between the three cities and the county seat. The Commission may also schedule special meetings, as necessary.

DISCUSSION

The proposed regular meeting schedule for 2026 is as follows:

February 5 th	City of Redding City Council Chambers
April 2 nd	City of Anderson City Council Chambers
June 4 th	Shasta County Board of Supervisors Chambers
August 6 th	City of Shasta Lake City Council Chambers
October 1 st	City of Redding City Council Chambers
December 3 rd	City of Anderson City Council Chambers

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission approve the regular meeting schedule for 2026 as proposed.

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AGENDA ITEM 9.A.

Date: December 4, 2025

From: Krystle Broгна, Executive Officer

Subject: **Appointment of Regular Public Member**

The Commission will receive a report on the regular public member selection, including a recommendation from the Public Member Selection Committee, and consider appointing a Regular Public Member for the 2026-2029 term.

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 states the composition of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) shall generally include seven regular members consisting of county (two), city (two), special district (two), and public (one) representation. Each category represented on LAFCO also has one alternate member. Appointments for the county, city, and special district seats are made by the Board of Supervisors, City Selection Committee, and independent special district selection by mail ballot processed by LAFCO, respectively. Appointments for public seats are made by the other regular Commission members. The term of office of each member shall generally be four years and until the appointment and qualification of his or her successor in accordance with Government Code Section 56334.

At the October 2, 2025, Regular LAFCO meeting, Commissioners Baugh, Kelstrom, and Ryness were appointed to serve on the public member selection subcommittee for purposes of reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and providing a recommendation to the full Commission.

DISCUSSION

Chair Russell's term of office ends on December 31, 2025, and the upcoming term for the Regular Public Member seat extends from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2029. As such, a public notice and press release were distributed in October to all LAFCO member agencies, the Redding Record Searchlight, and multiple community organizations within the County. A total of two applications were received by the November 7th deadline.

The subcommittee conducted interviews with the two candidates on November 20th. Based on the review of the applications and the conversations held during the interviews, the subcommittee is recommending Brenda Haynes to serve as the new regular public member on LAFCO. This recommendation is based on Ms. Haynes' many years of service with both the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District and LAFCO, her ability to provide stable leadership through times of conflict, and her familiarity with Shasta County. Each candidate was notified of the subcommittee's recommendation and invited to attend the December 4th Commission meeting. The Commission is invited to discuss this item and interview or otherwise ask questions of any attending candidate prior to taking action.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission consider the subcommittee's recommendation, receive statements from each candidate, obtain public comment, and appoint a new Regular Public Member for the 2026-2029 term. This appointment requires a majority vote of the Commission, and the affirmative vote of at least one county, city, and special district member.

Alternatively, the Commission may choose to continue this item to the next regular Commission meeting scheduled for February 5, 2026.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Regular Public Member Applications Received



P.O. Box 8693, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158
(530) 242-1112
www.shastalafco.org

APPLICATION FORM: PUBLIC MEMBER

To be considered for the Public Member position, completed applications must be submitted by email to amber@shastalafco.org or by mail at P.O. Box 8693, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158 no later than 5:00 pm on November 7, 2025.

NAME:	Williams "Bill" Goodwin	ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]
TELEPHONE:	[REDACTED]	E-MAIL:	[REDACTED]
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN SHASTA COUNTY:	25 years		
ARE YOU A COUNTY, CITY OR SPECIAL DISTRICT OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE?	No		
PRESENT EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION:	Retired		
SUMMARIZE YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE COMMISSION:	<p>My career has been dedicated to the provision of public services in the most efficient and cost effective manner while protecting natural resources and communities of interest. I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve as the Public Member of the Shasta LAFCO to further this commitment on behalf of the citizens of Shasta County.</p>		
SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, EDUCATION, OR BACKGROUND:	<p>I have served in leadership positions in County, City, Special District, and Engineering Consulting firms. As a Board member of the Los Alisos Water District, I was elected by the Independent Special Districts in Orange County to serve as one of two representatives on LAFCO. I was the Chief Administrator of Tehama County for 16 years, the Director of Public Works for 2 years, and the City Engineer of Redding for over 3 years. I was awarded a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an MBA from the California State University, Long Beach and hold current California Professional Licenses as Land Surveyor and Civil Engineer.</p>		

LIST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:	<p>I have served on or staffed numerous Boards and committees over the past 25 years related to all aspects of governance. I am a former Rotarian and served 5 years on The McConnell Foundation scholarship selection committee for Tehama County students. I continue to attend and participate in local public forums and meetings such as the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan.</p>
PROVIDE THREE REFERENCES (NAME AND PHONE):	<p>Bob Williams, former Tehama Co. Supervisor ██████████</p> <p>Tim Potanovic, Tehama County Director of Environmental Health, Retired ██████████</p> <p>Frank Lehmann, PLS, RPF, Lehmann and Associates Consulting ██████████</p>



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NAME:	BRENDA HAYNES	ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]
TELEPHONE:	[REDACTED]	E-MAIL:	[REDACTED]
LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN SHASTA COUNTY:	60 years		
ARE YOU A COUNTY, CITY OR SPECIAL DISTRICT OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE?	No		
PRESENT EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION:	U.S. Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Sr. Distict Rep		
SUMMARIZE YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE COMMISSION:	I'm interested in seeing Shasta County continue to grow in a thoughtful and well planned manner that allows for commercial growth while also preserving agricultural resources for a well balanced community.		
SUMMARIZE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, EDUCATION, OR BACKGROUND:	As a long time resident of Shasta County, I'm very familiar with most all areas of our county. I served on Shasta LAFCO for many years as a Special District member, so I feel confident I could be up-to-speed in a very short time. I would be honored to serve as a Public Member on Shasta LAFCO.		
LIST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:	Redding Republican Women board, campaign chair Shasta Co Republican Central Committee, vice chair Shasta Co Cattlemen, member I'm interested in everything involving Shasta County		
PROVIDE THREE REFERENCES (NAME AND PHONE):	Dick Fyten, past LAFCO member [REDACTED] Mike Johnson, Shasta Co Sheriff [REDACTED] Kevin Crye, chair of Shasta Co Supes [REDACTED]		

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AGENDA ITEM 10.A.

Date: December 4, 2025

From: Krystle Broгна, Executive Officer

Subject: **Status of MSR/SOI Updates**

As part of the FY2025-26 workplan, staff are preparing several MSR/SOI updates for agencies covering fire services and County services.

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act directs Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to regularly prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) in conjunction with establishing and updating each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI). The legislative intent of MSRs is to proactively assess the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services. MSRs may also lead LAFCOs to take other actions under their authority, such as forming, consolidating, or dissolving one or more local agencies in addition to any related sphere changes.

DISCUSSION

Burney Fire Protection District MSR/SOI Update

The Draft MSR/SOI Update was presented at the August 7th Regular Commission meeting. Staff discussed potential SOI options with Chief May and reviewed timberland boundaries around the District in order to develop three SOI options for Commission consideration. The final MSR/SOI Update was adopted at the October 2, 2025 Regular Commission meeting with SOI Option A which includes the majority of the area the District requested and the community of Cassell.

County Service Area #2 - Sugarloaf, #3 - Castella, #6 - Jones Valley, and #13 - Alpine Meadows MSR/SOI Update

Staff met with County staff to discuss the MSR process and additional information needs. Staff is reviewing financial documents for the various CSAs and continuing to work with County staff on information needs. After internal review of the document is completed, an administrative draft will be provided to the County for review and comment.

Anderson Fire Protection District MSR/SOI Update

Staff is continuing to coordinate with District staff on information needs.

CSA #4 MSR/SOI Report for Dissolution

Staff reviewed historical information available for the CSA and is working on an initial draft of the document. After internal review is completed, an Administrative Draft will be provided to the County for review and comment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission review the status of the upcoming MSR/SOI Updates and provide direction to staff as needed.

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AGENDA ITEM 10.B.

Date: December 4, 2025

From: Krystle Broгна, Executive Officer

Subject: **Status of Current and Future Applications**

The Committee will receive an update on the current status of applications and provide direction to staff as necessary.

BACKGROUND

LAFCOs are responsible, under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, for regulating the formation and development of local governmental agencies and their municipal services. This includes approving or disapproving proposed changes of organization, such as boundary changes (e.g. annexations), consistent with adopted policies and procedures pursuant to California Government Code (G.C.) §56375. LAFCOs have broad discretion in amending and conditioning changes of organization as long as they do not directly regulate land use, property development, or subdivision requirements.

DISCUSSION

The following application(s) are active with LAFCo:

- Proposed SOI Amendment and Annexation to CSA #8 (Palo Cedro): The proposal includes two parcels (APNs: 059-390-003 & 059-390-002) along Deschutes Road totaling approximately 5.4 acres. The applicants are requesting annexation to CSA #8 in order to obtain wastewater services for their properties. Water services are currently provided by Bella Vista Water District and no change of provider is proposed at this time. The applicants' request for rezoning was denied by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and as such, they will not be able to proceed with the project as planned. Staff informed the applicants that they can still move forward with the annexation process, but additional information is still needed.
- Proposed Annexation to Fall River Valley CSD: The EO received an application for annexation of several parcels to the Fall River Valley CSD. The annexation would include parcels along Williams Road in McArthur that are adjacent to the District's boundary and within its current SOI. The parcels are currently served by a private water system that provides inconsistent water quality. A Notice of Filing was prepared and sent out to potentially affected agencies in and hear the annexation area. A request for a tax exchange agreement was also sent out to the County for consideration. At this time, the application is still considered incomplete as the tax exchange process has not been completed.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report and provide direction to staff as needed.

CALAFCO List of Current Bills 9/12/2025

[AB 259](#) ([Rubio, Blanca](#) D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 4/21/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/16/2025

Last Amend: 4/21/2025

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was JUD. on 5/14/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 7/17/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body complies with prescribed requirements. Current law requires a member to satisfy specified requirements to participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including that specified circumstances apply. Current law establishes limits on the number of meetings a member may participate in solely by teleconference from a remote location pursuant to these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including prohibiting such participation for more than 2 meetings per year if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less. This bill would extend the alternative teleconferencing procedures until January 1, 2030.

[AB 351](#) ([McKinnor](#) D) Campaign contributions: agency officers.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/30/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Status: 4/30/2025-In committee: Set, second hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.

Location: 2/18/2025-A. ELECTIONS

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits an officer of an agency from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$500 from any party, participant, or a party or participant's agent, while a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending before the agency and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, if the officer knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest, as defined. The act also prohibits an officer of an agency from making, participating in making, or in any way attempting to use the officer's official position to influence the decision in a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use pending before the agency if the officer has willfully or knowingly received a contribution of more than \$500 within the preceding 12 months from a party or a party's agent, or from any participant or a participant's agent, if the officer knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest in the decision, as defined. This bill would increase the contribution thresholds described above from \$500 to \$1500.

[AB 356](#) ([Patel](#) D) Health care districts: County of San Diego.

Current Text: Amended: 6/26/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Last Amend: 6/26/2025

Status: 7/17/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was L. GOV. on 7/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 7/17/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Local Health Care District Law authorizes the organization, incorporation, and management of local health care districts. Current law establishes the Department of Health Care Access and Information to oversee and administer various health programs related to health care infrastructure, such as health policy and planning, health professions development, and facilities design review and construction, among others. This bill would require the department to convene a working group to study and make recommendations regarding the provision of health care services in the northern San Diego region. The bill would require that the working group include representatives of certain health care districts, among other entities, and that it issues a report to the Legislature, on or before June 1, 2026, with its findings and recommendations. The bill would repeal these provisions on June 1, 2030.

AB 370 (Carrillo D) California Public Records Act: cyberattacks.

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/14/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/3/2025

Last Amend: 3/12/2025

Status: 7/14/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 34, Statutes of 2025

Location: 7/14/2025-A. CHAPTERED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The California Public Records Act requires state and local agencies to make their records available for public inspection, except as specified. Current law requires each agency, within 10 days of a request for a copy of records, to determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in possession of the agency and to promptly notify the person of the determination and the reasons therefor. Current law authorizes that time limit to be extended by no more than 14 days under unusual circumstances, and defines "unusual circumstances" to include, among other things, the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine records during a state of emergency when the state of emergency currently affects the agency's ability to timely respond to requests due to staffing shortages or closure of facilities, as provided. This bill would also expand the definition of unusual circumstances to include the inability of the agency, because of a cyberattack, to access its electronic servers or systems in order to search for and obtain a record that the agency believes is responsive to a request and is maintained on the servers or systems in an electronic format.

AB 568 (Macedo R) Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.

Current Text: Amended: 7/18/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/12/2025

Last Amend: 7/18/2025

Status: 9/10/2025-From committee: That the Senate amendments be concurred in. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (September 10).

Location: 9/4/2025-A. CONCURRENCE

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 9/12/2025 #13 ASSEMBLY CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. The act authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin. The act deems certain agencies created by statute to manage groundwater the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory boundaries with powers to comply with the act and authorizes these agencies to opt out of being the exclusive groundwater management agency. This bill would create the Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would establish the agency's initial boundaries. The bill would authorize the boundaries of the agency to be adjusted, as specified. The bill would require the agency to elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for that portion of the Tule Subbasin that lies within the boundaries of the agency and would require the agency to develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan to achieve sustainable groundwater management within the territory of the agency. The bill would generally specify the powers and purposes of the agency.

AB 810 (Irwin D) Local government: internet websites and email addresses.

Current Text: Amended: 4/10/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Last Amend: 4/10/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/7/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 5/23/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law requires that a local agency that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website uses a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain no later than January 1, 2029. Current law requires that a local agency that maintains public email addresses to ensure that each email address provided to its employees uses a “.gov” domain name or a “.ca.gov” domain name no later than January 1, 2029. Current law defines “local agency” for these purposes as a city, county, or city and county. This bill would recast these provisions by instead requiring a city, county, or city and county to comply with the above-described domain requirements and by deleting the term “local agency” from the above-described provisions. The bill would also require a special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision to comply with similar domain requirements no later than January 1, 2031.

**AB (Macedo R) Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act.
1044**

Current Text: Amended: 5/23/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 5/23/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(8). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 6/9/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 6/5/2025-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	2 year	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. The act authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin. The act deems certain agencies created by statute to manage groundwater the exclusive local agencies within their respective statutory boundaries with powers to comply with the act and authorizes these agencies to opt out of being the exclusive groundwater management agency. This bill would create the Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would establish the agency's initial boundaries. The bill would authorize the boundaries of the agency to be adjusted, as specified. The bill would require the agency to elect to be a groundwater sustainability agency under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for that portion of the Tule Subbasin that lies within the boundaries of the agency and would require the agency to develop and implement a groundwater sustainability plan to achieve sustainable groundwater management within the territory of the agency. The bill would generally specify the powers and purposes of the agency. The bill would prescribe the composition of the 5-member board of directors of the agency and would require members and alternates to be chosen, as specified. By imposing duties on the agency and the County of Tulare, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would deem the Tule East Groundwater Sustainability Agency the exclusive local agency with powers to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

**AB (Wicks D) Solar-use easements: suspension of Williamson Act contracts: terms of easement:
1156 termination.**

Current Text: Amended: 9/9/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/20/2025

Last Amend: 9/9/2025

Status: 9/10/2025-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 9/10/2025-S. THIRD READING

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 9/12/2025 #59 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, authorizes a city or county to contract with a landowner to limit the use of agricultural land to agricultural use if the land is located in an agricultural preserve designated by the city or county, as specified. The act authorizes the parties to mutually agree to rescind the contract in order to simultaneously enter into a solar-use easement if approved by the Department of Conservation, as specified. Current law defines the term "solar-use easement" for these purposes to mean any right or interest acquired by a county, or city in a parcel or parcels determined to be eligible, as provided, where the deed or other instrument granting the right or interest imposes certain restrictions that effectively restrict the use of the land to photovoltaic solar facilities for the purpose of providing for the collection and distribution of solar energy and certain other incidental or subordinate uses or other alternative renewable energy facilities. This bill would revise the definition of the term "solar-use easement" to, among other changes, expand the authorized uses of the land under the easement to include solar energy storage and appurtenant renewable energy facilities.

SB 5 (Cabaldon D) Enhanced infrastructure financing districts and community revitalization and investment areas: allocation of taxes: agricultural land exclusion.

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/9/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/2/2024

Last Amend: 9/2/2025

Status: 9/9/2025-Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 33. Noes 6.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Location: 9/9/2025-S. ENROLLMENT

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, otherwise known as the Williamson Act, authorizes a city or county to enter into contracts with owners of agricultural land to preserve the land for agricultural use, as specified, in return for reduced property tax assessments. The act also authorizes a landowner of specified agricultural land to petition the city or county to cancel the Williamson Act contract in order to designate the land as a farmland security zone, whereby the land is eligible for a specified property tax valuation and taxed at a reduced rate for specified special taxes. Current law authorizes the legislative body of a city or a county to establish an enhanced infrastructure financing district, with a governing body referred to as the public financing authority, to finance public capital facilities or other specified projects of communitywide significance. Current law requires the public financing authority to prepare and adopt a proposed infrastructure financing plan, as specified. Current law authorizes the plan to require a certain portion of specified taxes levied upon property within the district to be allocated to the district each year, as specified. Current law authorizes certain local agencies to form a Community Revitalization and Investment Authority within a community revitalization and investment area to carry out a community revitalization plan in that area for specified purposes. Current law authorizes the plan to require a certain portion of specified taxes levied upon property within the area to be allocated to the authority to finance improvements, as specified. This bill would exclude the taxes levied upon a parcel of land enrolled in or subject to a Williamson Act contract or a farmland security zone contract, as specified, from the above-described allocations to the district or authority, as applicable.

SB 239 (Arrequin D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.

Current Text: Amended: 4/7/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/30/2025

Last Amend: 4/7/2025

Status: 6/5/2025-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(8). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE on 6/3/2025)(May be acted upon Jan 2026)

Location: 6/5/2025-S. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	2 year	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative

body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as specified. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes specified neighborhood city councils to use alternate teleconferencing provisions related to notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed, if, among other requirements, the city council has adopted an authorizing resolution and 2/3 of the neighborhood city council votes to use alternate teleconference provisions, as specified. This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions and would impose requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The bill would require the subsidiary body to post the agenda at each physical meeting location designated by the subsidiary body, as specified. The bill would require the members of the subsidiary body to visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, as specified.

SB (Cortese D) California Farmland Conservancy Program: conservation easements: funding.
462

Current Text: Amended: 4/10/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Last Amend: 4/10/2025

Status: 5/23/2025-May 23 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

Location: 4/21/2025-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Farmland Conservancy Program in the Department of Conservation and authorizes the program to offer financial assistance, including grants or contracts, for projects and activities on agricultural lands that support agricultural conservation and sustainable land management. Existing law creates the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund and requires moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to be used for purposes of the program. Notwithstanding that provision, existing law continuously appropriates moneys in the fund from federal grants and gifts and donations to the department for purposes of the program. This bill would require the Controller to transfer \$20,000,000 on July 1 of each fiscal year, commencing with the 2025–26 fiscal year, from the General Fund to the California Farmland Conservancy Program Funding Account, which the bill would create within the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund. The bill would continuously appropriate moneys in the account to the department for expenditure as provided. The bill would require that the funding only be awarded for agricultural conservation easements on agricultural land, as defined.

SB (Arrequin D) Local agency formation commissions: written policies and procedures: Permit
489 Streamlining Act: housing development projects.

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/9/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/19/2025

Last Amend: 8/26/2025

Status: 9/9/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Location: 9/9/2025-S. ENROLLED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 governs the procedures for the formation and change of organization of cities and special districts and establishes a local agency formation commission in each county consisting of members appointed as provided. The act expresses the intent of the Legislature that each local agency formation commission, by January 1, 2002, establish written policies and procedures and exercise its powers in a way that encourages and provides planned, well-ordered, efficient urban development patterns, as specified. The act requires these written policies and procedures to include forms to be used for various submittals to the commission, as provided. The act requires each commission to provide access to notices and other information to the public on an internet website, as specified, including notice of all public hearings and commission meetings. This bill would require that each local agency formation commission establish the written policies and procedures described above. The bill would require that the written policies and procedures include any forms necessary for a complete application to the commission concerning a proposed change of organization or reorganization.

SB (Durazo D) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.
707

Current Text: Amended: 9/5/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Last Amend: 9/5/2025

Status: 9/5/2025-Assembly Rule 69(b)(1) suspended. Read third time and amended. Ordered to third reading.

Location: 9/3/2025-A. THIRD READING

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 9/12/2025 #61 ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS

Summary: Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. This bill would, beginning July 1, 2026, and until January 1, 2030, require an eligible legislative body, as defined, to comply with additional meeting requirements, including that, except as specified, all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend via a 2-way telephonic service or a 2-way audiovisual platform, as defined, and that the eligible legislative body take specified actions to encourage residents to participate in public meetings, as specified. The bill would require an eligible legislative body, on or before July 1, 2026, to approve at a noticed public meeting in open session a policy regarding disruption of telephonic or internet services occurring during meetings subject to these provisions, as specified, and would require the eligible legislative body to comply with certain requirements relating to disruption, including for certain disruptions, recessing the open session for at least one hour and making a good faith attempt to restore the service, as specified. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 735 (Committee on Local Government) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/14/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 7/14/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 54, Statutes of 2025

Location: 7/14/2025-S. CHAPTERED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This bill would enact the First Validating Act of 2025, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 736 (Committee on Local Government) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/14/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 7/14/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 55, Statutes of 2025

Location: 7/14/2025-S. CHAPTERED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This bill would enact the Second Validating Act of 2025, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

SB 737 (Committee on Local Government) Validations.

Current Text: Chaptered: 7/14/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Status: 7/14/2025-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 56, Statutes of 2025

Location: 7/14/2025-S. CHAPTERED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: This bill would enact the Third Validating Act of 2025, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

SB (Richardson D) Abandoned cemeteries: report.
777

Current Text: Amended: 7/9/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Last Amend: 7/9/2025

Status: 9/11/2025-Re-referred to Com. on RLS. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10(d). From committee: Be re-referred to Com. on B. P. & E.D. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10(d). (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) Re-referred to Com. on B. P. & E.D.

Location: 9/11/2025-S. B., P. & E.D.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 9/12/2025 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 112 SENATE BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ASHBY, ANGELIQUE, Chair

Summary: Current law requires the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, on or before July 1, 2027, to convene a workgroup composed of representatives from the cemetery, county government, and other interested stakeholders to discuss options for ensuring continued care, maintenance, and embellishment of abandoned cemeteries, including the possibility of requiring counties to assume responsibility for abandoned cemeteries. Current law requires the bureau to submit a report to the Legislature summarizing the workgroup's discussions and its recommendations by January 1, 2028. Current law repeals those provisions on January 1, 2029. This bill would instead require the bureau to convene the workgroup on or before March 1, 2026, would revise the list of representatives required to be included in the workgroup, and would instead require the workgroup to discuss the possibility of requiring counties to assume responsibility for maintenance, irrigation, public works, and burial services for abandoned cemeteries. The bill would require the board to submit the report on June 1, 2026, and would repeal those provisions on January 1, 2027.

SB (Gonzalez D) Local agency officials: training.
827

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/9/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/21/2025

Last Amend: 9/2/2025

Status: 9/9/2025-Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 30. Noes 10.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.

Location: 9/9/2025-S. ENROLLMENT

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law imposes ethics training on specified local agency officials. Current law requires each training to be 2 hours and requires the officials to receive each training every 2 years, and as described otherwise, with the first training within one year of commencing service. Existing law requires the local agency to maintain records of the trainings, as prescribed. This bill would expand which local agency officials are required to complete the above-described ethics training to include department heads, or other similar administrative officers, as specified, and would instead require officials who commence service on or after January 1, 2026, to receive their initial training within 6 months of commencing service. The bill would require the local agency to publish post clear instructions and contact information for requesting the training records on its internet website, as specified. This bill would additionally require all local agency officials, as defined, to receive at least 2 hours of fiscal and financial training, as described. The bill would require the training to be received at least once every 2 years, as provided. The bill would exempt from these requirements specified local agency officials if they are in compliance with existing education requirements specific to their positions. This bill would authorize a local agency or an association of local agencies to contract with or otherwise collaborate with a provider of a training course to offer one or more training courses, or sets of self-study materials with tests, to its local agency officials to meet the training requirement, as described. The bill would require the training courses and materials to be developed in consultation with experts in local government finance. finance, as specified.

SB (Committee on Local Government) Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025.
858

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/5/2025 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 3/12/2025

Last Amend: 7/8/2025

Status: 9/5/2025-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 2 p.m.

Location: 9/5/2025-S. ENROLLED

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law authorizes a county board of supervisors, by resolution, to authorize the use of a facsimile signature of the chairperson of the board on all papers, documents, or instruments requiring the signature of the chairperson, as provided, if certain requirements are met relating to the personal signature of the chairperson. Under current law, if those requirements are met, the papers, documents, or instruments bearing the facsimile signature are accorded the same force and effect as though personally signed by the chairperson. This bill would remove the requirement for that authorization to occur by resolution of the board. The bill would authorize the board, in addition to authorizing a facsimile signature, to authorize the use of an electronic or digital signature of the chairperson on all papers, documents, or instruments requiring the signature of the chairperson.

The Sphere

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Finding Our Voice Together
*Reflections on CALAFCO's March 2025
Communications Workshop*

**Charting a Stronger Future
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Report is Helping a Small District Meet Big
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GOLD ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



SILVER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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The mission of CALAFCO is to promote efficient and sustainable government services based on local community values through legislative advocacy and education.



The Chair's Corner:

Shaping CALAFCO's Next Chapter

By Gay Jones, CALAFCO Chair

CALAFCO is not the same organization it was a year ago, and that is a good thing. Change has required us to ask hard questions about who we are as an Association, what we offer our Members, and how we prepare for the future. As your Chair, I view this not as a setback, but as an opportunity to sharpen CALAFCO's focus and strengthen the connections that bind us together.

Serving on a Fire District Board has shown me firsthand how wildfires cross jurisdictional boundaries. When one community is in danger, the entire region is at risk. The same principle applies to our work at CALAFCO: **our strength comes from a network of LAFCOs supporting each other, not from isolated efforts.**

Whether the issue is fire protection, water supply, or growth management, collaboration is vital—it is not optional.

Looking ahead, our Board will be tackling important questions: How should our Bylaws adapt to reflect today's Membership? What is the right balance of regional representation on the Board?

And as we prepare for future legislation, how do we ensure every LAFCO's voice is heard? These aren't just technical exercises; they are decisions that will shape CALAFCO's relevance for years to come.

This work will succeed only if it reflects the energy and ideas of our members. Engagement doesn't always mean joining a committee (though we welcome that, too). It can be as simple as reaching out to a peer LAFCO, sharing your lessons in this very publication, or encouraging a new commissioner to get involved. Each of these actions strengthens CALAFCO.

The challenges facing local government will not get easier. But I am optimistic because I see CALAFCO evolving into a more engaged, connected, and resilient Association.

Together, we are not trying to return to where we were. We are building something more substantial, for each other and for the communities we serve.

Where We've Been

By José C. Henríquez, Outgoing Interim Executive Director, CALAFCO

Let's be honest; this past year has been challenging. I don't say that to ask for pity, to be snarky, or to chastise anyone. It's simply the truth. The difficulties were felt by the LAFCOs that remained, those that left, the Board, and the Transition Team (Pamela, Steve, Jeni, and me).

And yet, recognizing those challenges should also inspire a deep sense of pride.

Together, we've achieved significant progress in rebuilding the Association. I

am deeply grateful for the patience shown by our Members, for the Regional Officers past and present, for the many volunteers who dedicated their time and effort, and for every LAFCO that kept communication lines open regardless of Membership status.

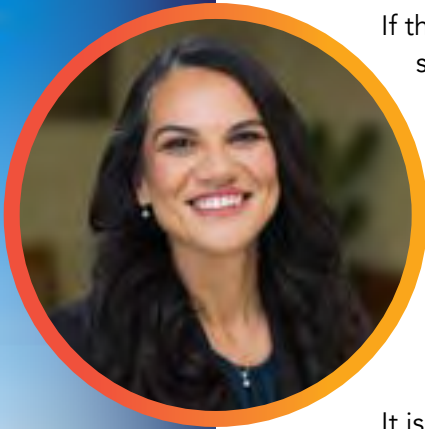
I thank the Board for trusting me, and above all, I am thankful for the partnership of Pamela, Jeni, and Steve.

Looking ahead, I am eager to see how Michelle's stewardship and energy will shape CALAFCO and what the new Transition Team will accomplish in taking the Association to the next level. And while my role is shifting, you have not seen the last of me. I remain committed to assisting as CALAFCO EO to the best of my ability.



Looking Ahead

By Michelle McIntyre, Incoming Interim Executive Director, CALAFCO



If this year has taught us anything, it's that CALAFCO's greatest strength is not just in its structure, but in the people who continue to show up, contribute, and believe in the value of collaboration. Even as several LAFCOs have chosen to step away earlier in the year, many of those same LAFCOs remain engaged. They are registered for our upcoming Conference and continue to welcome CALAFCO staff to their meetings. That speaks volumes: our relationships are resilient, and CALAFCO's value is recognized even beyond formal membership.

It is against this backdrop of resilience that I step into the role of Interim Executive Director on November 1, 2025. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working with many of you, and I've seen firsthand the dedication, camaraderie, and professionalism that make our LAFCO family so special. These experiences inspire me as I begin this new chapter with CALAFCO.

Thanks to the steady leadership of José Henríquez as Interim Executive Director, and the commitment of the Board, Transition Team, and Regional Officers, CALAFCO has regained its footing. CALAFCO-U sessions are once again bringing us together to learn and grow. Updated policies are giving us a stronger framework. And the Legislative Committee has returned to providing a unified voice in Sacramento.

Of course, there's still work to do. Rebuilding trust and enhancing the Association's value will require ongoing effort. Nevertheless, the momentum is real. My goal is to help CALAFCO serve as a steady guide during this time, while encouraging more opportunities for collaboration, learning, and shared success.

To everyone: Board Members, Associate Members, staff, and Commissioners of every LAFCO, I want to thank you.

Your patience, dialogue, and ongoing engagement have helped CALAFCO navigate a tough period and prepare us for the future. A future centered on strengthening our connections, amplifying CALAFCO's voice, and continuing to show the value we offer not only to each other but also to the communities we serve.

I look forward to connecting with you at the Conference and rolling up our sleeves together as we chart CALAFCO's next chapter.



Partners in Progress

Finding Our Voice Together:

Reflections on CALAFCO's March 2025 Communications Workshop

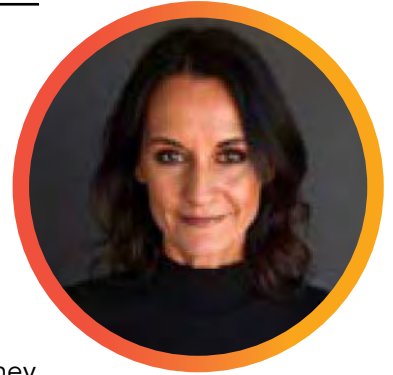
By Erin LaCombe, CEO & Founder, CV Strategies

When CALAFCO leaders gathered this March for our statewide communications workshop, it was clear from the start that we were stepping into more than just a training session. We were stepping into a moment of transition defined by both challenge and opportunity.

This reflection is admittedly personal for me. I have been a CALAFCO Associate Member for more than a decade, and I truly understand the power and promise of this organization. Nearly 20 years ago, I founded CV Strategies with the belief that communications could transform how public agencies connect with the communities they serve. Today, our team has the privilege of representing LAFCOs across California and seeing firsthand how CALAFCO helps its members grow stronger, more responsive, and more effective. That perspective has only deepened my appreciation for CALAFCO's role in shaping efficient and sustainable governance and in supporting those who serve their communities every day.

What emerged over the course of two days was not only a roadmap for improved messaging, but also a deeper sense of shared purpose among Board Members, Regional Officers, and all participants.

The workshop led by Pamela Miller of Miller Consulting Group was designed to strengthen communication and collaboration across CALAFCO.



As a facilitator, I was reminded yet again that facilitation is everything. The process of guiding dialogue, asking questions, and creating space for honest reflection is not a simple task. It is, in fact, the work. And yet, it is in this work that breakthroughs occur. Each exercise, whether a SWOT analysis of our communications strengths and weaknesses or the collective drafting of key message statements, required hard work and a willingness to lean into discomfort. The CALAFCO leadership team did just that, with humility and focus.

The Board's engagement was especially encouraging. Rather than sitting back, members actively participated, sharing candidly where communication has fallen short and offering constructive ideas for building trust, confidence, and transparency. Their involvement set a tone that invited others to do the same. Participants' contributions underscored CALAFCO's unique strength: a statewide network of practitioners who balance policy with practice, carrying decades of institutional and community knowledge.

Together, we tackled some of CALAFCO's most persistent communication challenges. We acknowledged where clarity and consistency have been lacking and began building the framework for a more unified approach. We discussed the need to foster two-way communication with our members, ensuring that CALAFCO not only delivers information but also listens and responds. We explored how to adapt our messaging more effectively in times of crisis and how to ensure that trust remains the foundation of everything we communicate. These conversations were not always easy, but they were always worthwhile.

There was also joy in the room, rooted in the collaborative spirit of CALAFCO and the shared belief in the value of this organization.

Personally, working alongside Pamela Miller was a highlight for me. Pamela brought a steady hand, a thoughtful perspective, and a genuine warmth to the facilitation process. Her deep understanding of CALAFCO, combined with her ability to blend structure with empathy, made her a trusted partner throughout. The collaboration reminded me that while facilitation requires skill, it also requires heart.

I am equally grateful for the CV Strategies team, who embody the same values of service and collaboration that CALAFCO represents. Their behind-the-scenes support, ideas, and energy made this workshop even better and ensured the work will continue long after.

The outcomes of the workshop are significant. Out of this hard work will come two foundational tools: a Communications Code of Conduct and a Communications Framework.

The Code of Conduct will guide how we, as CALAFCO leaders, communicate with professionalism, respect, transparency, and consistency. It will be both a compass and a commitment, and a reminder that how we say something is often as important as what we say.

The Communications Framework, meanwhile, will provide structure and guidance.

It will identify our key messages, define our channels, establish crisis protocols, and ensure we have feedback mechanisms in place.

These tools will strengthen CALAFCO's voice, align our leadership, and increase our value to members.

But beyond the documents and frameworks, perhaps the most important outcome was the shared experience itself.

There is something powerful about sitting in a room together, grappling with questions, and emerging with a common understanding. It builds trust. It fosters respect. And it reminds us that CALAFCO's strength lies not only in the resources we provide, but also in the relationships we nurture.

As I reflect on those two days in March, I am filled with gratitude for the openness of the participants, the wisdom of the Board and Regional Officers, Pamela's partnership, and the willingness of everyone to do the hard work. Transition is never easy, but it is necessary. And when we embrace it together, with humility and determination, it becomes a source of renewal.



Ultimately, facilitation is not about leading people to a predetermined outcome. It is about creating conditions for people to discover the outcome together. That is what we experienced in March. And that is why I believe CALAFCO's future is bright. We are finding our voice. And with that voice, we will continue to serve our members with humility, stewardship, and dedication.

As we move forward, I am thankful for the chance to contribute to this important work. Supporting CALAFCO's leadership through this period of transition is a responsibility and a privilege, and I look forward to the progress that lies ahead.

SCV Water Improves Local Groundwater Quality

With Support from DWR Grant Programs Treatment Facilities Restore Water Affected by PFAS

By SCV Water, yourscvwater.com/PFAS

Dedicated to providing clean water to its customers, Santa Clarita Valley Water (SCV Water), located in Los Angeles County, is addressing PFAS contamination through the construction of treatment facilities to restore groundwater quality in the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV). Like many communities throughout the nation, traces of long-lasting synthetic chemicals, per- and

polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), have seeped into water supplies. These chemicals can cause a myriad of negative health effects through repeated exposure.

SCV Water partners with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), utilizing grant programs that

fund local activities and projects aimed at improving water quality, ensuring water supply reliability, and promoting groundwater sustainability in the SCV.

Since 2020, SCV Water has constructed four PFAS treatment facilities, two of which received State grant funds:

- **Santa Clara and Honby Wells PFAS Treatment Facility** – Completed in 2024, SCV Water received a \$3 million grant to restore groundwater supplies through the treatment of two wells, providing enough water to serve 1,700 families annually.
- **T&U Wells PFAS Treatment Facility** – With anticipated completion in December 2025, SCV Water has received a little over \$1.5 million to restore groundwater supplies through the treatment of three additional wells, providing enough water to serve 5,000 families annually.

To date, SCV Water has been awarded \$11.6 million from the State for PFAS treatment projects, with \$4.5 million awarded outright and \$7.13 million from a revolving grant fund that subsidizes water quality projects.

To ensure success when building a grant application, SCV Water tailors each application to align with the respective requirements of each grant, thoroughly reviewing them to guarantee compliance.

Simple tip: *Grants submitted even a minute after a deadline will not be considered, so the Agency also submits its applications on time.*

At the core of SCV Water's successful grant writing is the art of storytelling. In its applications, the Agency highlights the project's importance, detailing its positive impact on the local community and environment. Applications also discuss the consequences for the service area should the project not receive funding. Letters of support from the community, including city officials, legislators, and environmental groups, further strengthen the narrative of the project's necessity and enhance the application.

SCV Water has six other PFAS treatment projects in the planning or design phase. Over \$225 million in capital improvement project costs are estimated at the full buildout of PFAS treatment facilities in the SCV, with anticipated annual operations and maintenance costs of \$12-15 million. Because building treatment plants can be very costly, anticipating future expenses allows SCV Water to better prepare and take advantage of grant funding opportunities that help make these projects more affordable.



From Excel to Excellence:

Strengthening LAFCO Processes Together

By Ryder Ross, Founder, CivicBound, civicbound.com

On a Tuesday morning in a LAFCO office somewhere in California, a spreadsheet is open on one screen, and a to-do list of sticky notes litters the desk. The spreadsheet lists every active change of organization application, MSR/SOI update, and special project, along with dates, statuses, and notes. It's familiar territory for staff and, although commissioners rarely see it, the information in that spreadsheet quietly shapes the decisions they make. Excel has served many LAFCOs well. It's flexible, inexpensive, and easy to format. But, as the number of projects grows, deadlines begin to overlap, and staff transitions occur, a spreadsheet alone can start to feel stretched.

In many offices, deadlines and procedures live mostly in the memories of long-serving staff. That experience is invaluable, but it is also vulnerable to change. Documenting "how we do it," and pairing that with reminders or notifications tied to key statutory dates, creates a safeguard. Even modest improvements, whether that's an operations manual, refinements to a tracking spreadsheet, or the adoption of digital project management tools, make it easier for staff and commissioners alike to see the whole picture.

The strongest systems go beyond simply holding data. They reduce errors, cut down on duplicate work, and provide a single "source of truth" so staff can coordinate seamlessly. For commissioners, these systems ensure that the materials they receive are accurate, timely, and complete—a critical requirement when actions must follow the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act's varying and specific timelines.

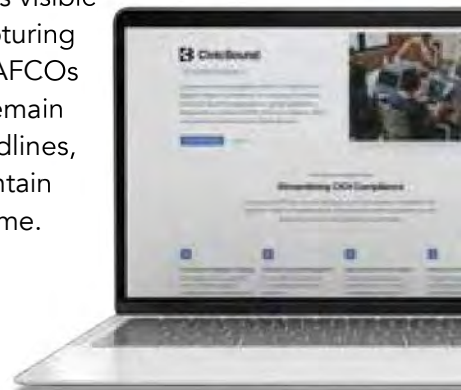
Some LAFCOs have already taken steps to document and standardize their procedures. Fresno LAFCO, for example, developed a robust operations manual. It's more than a binder of checklists: it's a living roadmap that ties each step directly to statutory requirements, with links to the document templates needed for that step.

This kind of resource not only helps staff remain consistent but also gives commissioners confidence that proposals are handled transparently and predictably.

Fresno's operations manual is among the most comprehensive I've seen, but even there, staff recognize the value of pairing strong documentation with digital tools. Fresno is working with CivicBound, an online project management system designed specifically for LAFCOs, to build upon the foundation established in their manual. The fact that a LAFCO with such well-established procedures sees value in implementing a digital system underscores a broader lesson: even the best internal guides can benefit from reminders, centralized access, and tools that facilitate easier collaboration.

The goal isn't to discard tools that work, but to make sure they can carry the weight of the work ahead. A spreadsheet may be the tool of choice today, but as technology evolves, so do the opportunities to manage proposals in ways that are clearer, more accessible, and more resilient. Some commissions are beginning to explore integrated systems that combine tracking, communication, and document access into a single platform like CivicBound. Others are strengthening their existing spreadsheets with structured procedures to back them up.

However it's done, the aim is the same: accurate, timely, and transparent information that supports effective governance. By maintaining a single source of truth, making project status visible to all who need it, and capturing institutional knowledge, LAFCOs can ensure its processes remain strong, ready to meet deadlines, adapt to change, and maintain public trust for years to come.





Setting the Bar: Why Performance Measures Belong in Every MSR

By Amanda Ross, South Fork Consulting, southforkconsulting.com

When Rocklin's population surpassed 72,000, the question wasn't just how big the city had become; it was whether public services were keeping pace. Could police respond quickly enough? Were dispatchers meeting state standards for answering 911 calls? Was the city planning for infrastructure needs?

These questions are central to every Municipal Service Review (MSR). However, too often, MSRs depend on broad narrative statements or agency assurances instead of clear, measurable benchmarks. That's why Placer LAFCO's recent MSR for the City of Rocklin is notable; it used consistent performance measures across 32 service areas, providing commissioners with data to make informed decisions.

The results presented a balanced picture. Rocklin scored "above average" on 21 measures and "average" on nine. For example:

- **Police Dispatch:** 95.38% of 911 calls were answered within 15 seconds, just above the CalOES standard of 95%.
- **Police Staffing Levels:** Rocklin maintains 0.89 officers per 1,000 residents, similar to neighboring agencies, but still short of meeting long-term demand.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** The City has clear strategies for replacing facilities, vehicles, and equipment on a regular cycle.

This information was displayed in a table format with clearly identified icons, allowing for a quick visual cue of the adequacy, or not, of each performance measure. Instead of vague statements, commissioners could clearly identify where Rocklin was meeting standards and where service levels might fall short in the future.

Why Benchmarks Matter

The Rocklin case highlights a broader truth: performance measures transform MSRs from simple reports into practical tools for accountability and strategic planning.

Without benchmarks, comparisons across agencies or even from one MSR cycle to the next may seem subjective. With benchmarks, LAFCOs provide a consistent method for evaluating service quality, thereby fostering public trust in the process.

Imagine if every LAFCO adopted a standard set of benchmarks in its local policies. These could include:

- Agency maintains a published reserve fund policy.
- Stormwater and drainage infrastructure replacement is planned and funded.
- Fire staffing meets the standard of three firefighters per engine.
- Local water demand is monitored and integrated into drought contingency planning.

These standards wouldn't eliminate local nuances, but they would establish consistency across reviews and enhance the credibility of LAFCO's findings. Commissioners could monitor trends over time, while agencies would understand in advance what expectations they will be evaluated against. This format also allows agencies to make preemptive changes towards good governance.

Moving Forward

MSRs are more than just a statutory requirement; they are a commitment to communities that growth will not outpace the provision of essential services. Rocklin's review demonstrates how benchmarks lend credibility to that promise by basing decisions on evidence rather than anecdotes.

As LAFCOs look ahead, establishing performance measures as a matter of local policy would ensure that every MSR is not only a snapshot in time but also a roadmap for the future. Benchmarks transform service reviews into dynamic documents, tools that highlight both achievements and gaps, and incorporate accountability into our planning for growth.

With clear standards, LAFCOs can lead the way in showing that "adequate services" is more than a phrase in statute: it's a measurable goal, and one worth championing.

Key Takeaways

- **Benchmarks Build Confidence:** Comparing to peer cities or national standards makes findings more defensible and easier to explain.
- **Continuity Counts:** Standardized metrics allow commissioners to track agency performance over time, even when staff or consultants change.
- **Flexibility is Key:** Core measures and local context create consistency to guide final conclusions.
- **Better Communication:** Dashboards or tables of key indicators help commissioners and the public quickly see how services measure up.



Resilient by Design:

Modern Tools for Every Size Commission

By Hamish Howard, Managing Director/CEO, Assura Software
assurasoftware.com/LAFCO

For decades, LAFCOs have relied on whatever resources they had, including spreadsheets, binders, sticky notes, and a great deal of institutional memory, to meet the changing and increasing demands of not just CKH but CEQA, the Brown Act, and other laws that impact them. These tools served their purpose, but anyone who has had to dig through old project folders, policy binders, or depend on a single person's memory knows how easily deadlines can be missed or records can become inconsistent. As calls for greater transparency and accountability grow, LAFCOs of all sizes are feeling the pressure to accomplish more with fewer resources.

A Shared Solution for Smaller LAFCOs

Smaller LAFCOs often operate with limited staff and tight budgets. In 2022, CALAFCO conducted a biennial survey that included responses from 51 LAFCOs. The survey revealed that nearly 30 percent of these LAFCOs rely on contract consultants for staffing, while an additional 12 percent use a combination of consultants and staff. Additionally, 37 percent of LAFCOs have fewer than two full-time equivalent employees. It was also found that nearly 57 percent handle five or fewer projects each year. For these LAFCOs, which typically manage only a few proposals annually, the pressure to meet all requirements and statutory deadlines can be overwhelming.

To address this challenge, CALAFCO partnered with Assura Software to develop a shared, cloud-based workflow system designed explicitly for smaller LAFCOs. Input was collected from El Dorado, Shasta, San Joaquin, and Marin LAFCOs to create this tool, which guides staff through each step of the process, ensuring deadlines and requirements are met. For a single-staff office, this kind of support can provide significant peace of mind.

Scaling Up: Lessons from San Diego

Larger LAFCOs are also recognizing the value of these tools. In 2024, San Diego LAFCO became the first to implement a fully customized version of the platform. Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower notes that it "streamlines proposal management and keeps the executive team updated on all ongoing proposals." Executive Officer Keene Simonds emphasizes that, in a hybrid work environment, digital systems are "an investment in bridging the communication gap to help ensure proposals are proceeding as intended." Their experience demonstrates that technology isn't just about efficiency, it's about keeping teams aligned and work progressing smoothly.

Why This Matters to All LAFCOs

Regardless of size, every LAFCO faces similar pressures. The CKH Act is complicated. New requirements from the Brown Act, CEQA, and other laws impacting LAFCOs continue to arise and evolve. Communities expect more transparency and accessibility than ever. And all of this comes as budgets tighten and staff capacity is stretched thin. Additionally, leadership transitions can leave commissions vulnerable to losing institutional knowledge.

Digital systems help ease those pressures by integrating statutory requirements into workflows, automatically tracking deadlines, and maintaining a clear administrative record, they allow staff to focus more on professional judgment. For smaller LAFCOs, this provides cost-effective compliance support. For larger ones, it ensures consistency and efficiency. And for everyone in between, it boosts resilience, making sure the work continues regardless of who is in charge or how many applications are pending.

Built for LAFCOs—And Built for Flexibility

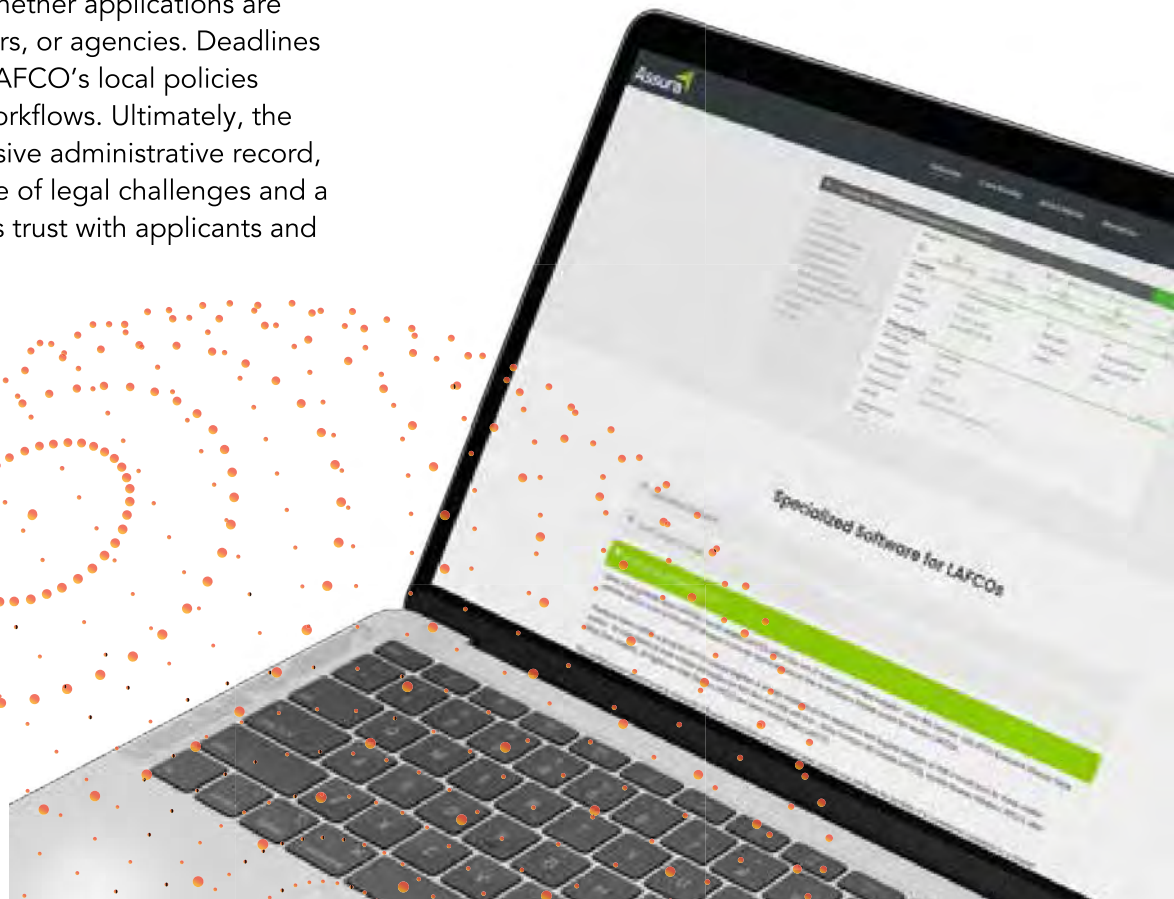
The advantage of this approach is its flexibility. Processes adjust based on whether applications are initiated by landowners, voters, or agencies. Deadlines are set automatically. Each LAFCO's local policies can be integrated into the workflows. Ultimately, the system creates a comprehensive administrative record, serving as a safeguard in case of legal challenges and a valuable resource that fosters trust with applicants and the public.

Why It Matters

The size of LAFCO staffing statewide varies greatly. Some LAFCOs are run by a single part-time contract worker, while others handle a steady flow of proposals with a whole team of employees. Regardless of size, the expectations remain the same: deadlines must be met, and the public deserves transparency. Digital tools don't replace staff expertise; they support it. They act as a safety net, ensuring that critical steps aren't left to memory or luck.

Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges

LAFCOs have always been resourceful: finding ways to get the job done with persistence and creativity, even if it meant relying on old binders or handwritten notes. But today's reality makes that harder to maintain. For small LAFCOs, digital tools can make the difference between feeling overwhelmed and feeling in control. For larger commissions, they help keep teams consistent and work flowing smoothly. And for all LAFCOs, they build resilience. That's how commissions, together, can meet today's demands while preparing for tomorrow's challenges.





Reuniting Special Districts With Their Rightful Assets

Unclaimed Property Program

By California Special Districts Association

In August, State Controller Malia M. Cohen announced special districts from throughout California will be reunited with a combined \$181,728 in unclaimed property. Controller Cohen presented an unclaimed property check during her remarks at the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase in Monterey.

California's Unclaimed Property program is administered by the State Controller's Office (SCO), which currently safeguards unclaimed properties worth a total of \$14 billion. Since 1959, this consumer protection program has been designed to ensure businesses and other entities return properties belonging to a customer with whom they have lost contact.

Common types of unclaimed property include bank accounts, stocks, bonds, uncashed checks, insurance benefits, and safe deposit box contents.

"Reuniting Californians — and the communities that serve them — with their rightful assets is a core mission of the State Controller's Office," said Controller Cohen. "I am proud to highlight that commitment here today with our special district partners. As California's chief fiscal officer, I remain focused on working with local governments to strengthen financial stewardship and ensure resources reach every corner of our state so that we can continue to move California forward so that everyone thrives."

"When state and local leaders partner together, California's communities win," stated California Special Districts Association CEO Neil McCormick. "Controller Cohen's proactive efforts are helping our local service specialists make every dollar work for its intended purpose."

Controller Cohen urges all Californians to visit SCO's claimit.ca.gov website to learn more about and search for their unclaimed property.



**California Special
Districts Association**
Districts Stronger Together



News from the LAFCO Community

Lake Hodges
San Diego County

Announcing the CALAFCO Regional/Board Restructuring Working Group

By Pamela Miller, Miller Management & Consulting Group, CALAFCO Transition Team Consultant

While significant progress has been made since February in CALAFCO's transformation, there is still a substantial amount of work to be done. I will continue the work of Policy & Procedure review and reforms, assisting the Board in strengthening its governance capabilities, supporting the Interim Executive Director, Regional Officer Team, and Membership.

A comprehensive structural review of CALAFCO as an organization, including the structure of the Board, Regional Officers, Committees, and the regions themselves, began earlier this year, leading to several preliminary recommendations. This work will continue, now with a working group consisting of the Interim Executive Director (IED) and nine (9) Executive Officers (EOs). Members of the working group include: Michelle McIntyre (Incoming IED); Regional Officers José Henríquez (CALAFCO EO/Central); Joe Serrano (DEO/Coastal); Shannon Costa (DEO/Northern); and Tyler Salcido (DEO/Southern); Kai Luoma, EO, Ventura; Jason Fried, EO, Marin; Christine Crawford, EO, Yolo; Brian Spaunhurst, EO, Fresno; and Colette Santsche, EO, Trinity/Humboldt.

The working group began meeting in mid-September and picked up the research, work, and preliminary recommendations that had already been started. They will focus on redeveloping a statewide regional structure designed to allow for a more effective, efficient, and collaborative relationship among the LAFCOs and the regions themselves (to include all 58 LAFCOs); recommend restructuring the Board based on the proposed regional structure, including eligibility to serve on the Board; and examine the Regional Officer and Committee structures for greater effectiveness. All of this will lead to a comprehensive review of the dues structure (to be done in the next phase of work).

The working group is committed to a thorough and transparent process. Ideas and recommendations will be developed and shared with Member LAFCOs and the Board throughout the process, allowing all input and ideas to be evaluated in a thorough and collaborative manner.

A final draft of recommendations will be presented to the Membership at the mid-year virtual business meeting to be held February 23, 2026, at 10:00 am for consideration and adoption. Additionally, Policies & Procedures will be developed in advance of the Membership meeting and presented to the Board in order to support any pending structural changes that may be approved by the Membership.

I want to personally thank everyone who has and continues to provide input into the future of CALAFCO.

Together, you are building a stronger, more responsive, and cohesive CALAFCO.

This working group is counting on your voices to co-develop CALAFCO's future for the benefit of all.



Yolo LAFCO Welcomes New Staff JD and Desi

By Christine Crawford, Executive Officer, Yolo LAFCO

It's been a year of new beginnings at Yolo LAFCO, and we're excited to share that two wonderful folks have joined our team.

In January, JD Trebec joined our team as Deputy Executive Officer. JD has hit the ground running, bringing fresh energy and perspective to our projects and policy work. Previously, he was a Senior Planner at Yolo County and came to us with already strong community connections. Outside the office, JD is a Master Gardener who loves getting his hands in the soil and sharing plant wisdom.



Then in August, we welcomed Desi Leverett as our new Administrative Specialist/Clerk. Previously, she supported a team of 32 engineers at DWR. Desi is already keeping us organized and making sure our meetings and operations run smoothly. When not at LAFCO, Desi is studying Anthropology at San Jose State, bringing a curious and thoughtful outlook to everything she does.

Terri Tuck officially retired from LAFCO at the end of 2024, after 19 years of dedicated service, and has been assisting us through this transition as a retired annuitant through October. We congratulate Terri on her well-deserved retirement and appreciate her dedication during this changeover period.

We're thrilled to have JD and Desi on the Yolo LAFCO team, and we can't wait for all of you across the LAFCO family to get to know them, too, at the Annual Conference!





CALAFCO Mentorship Program

By Kristi Grabow, Policy Analyst,
Sacramento LAFCO, and Deborah
Gilcrest, Clerk/Analyst, Nevada LAFCO

As we all know, CALAFCO continues to make great strides in expanding learning opportunities for its members. One of the newest initiatives, recently conceived and now in its early development stages, is the CALAFCO Mentorship Program. This exciting program is designed to support the professional growth of LAFCO staff through structured, meaningful connections—and will officially launch at our 2026 Staff Workshop!

The coordinators behind this effort are a dedicated group of LAFCO professionals committed to enhancing statewide collaboration, promoting knowledge-sharing, and fostering inclusive leadership within our diverse LAFCO community.

The team currently includes Deborah Gilcrest (Nevada), Jason Fried (Marin), Kate McKenna (Monterey), Brian Spaunhurst (Fresno), Crystal Craig (Riverside), Shannon Costa (Butte), and Kristi Grabow (Sacramento).

The mission of the program is simple but powerful: to foster lasting professional relationships that provide opportunities for mutual learning, peer support, and shared growth. Whether you're brand new to LAFCO or a seasoned professional, this program offers a chance to both give and receive valuable insight, encouragement, and perspective.

We are eager to see how this program helps shape the next generation of LAFCO leaders, and we invite YOU to be part of it! Stay tuned for details on how to participate, whether as a mentor or a mentee, and consider bringing your own experience, energy, and curiosity to this important new CALAFCO initiative. We can learn from one another and continue building a stronger, more connected LAFCO community.

Navigating Change Through Regional Collaboration:

Alameda LAFCO's Strategic Regional Wastewater Committee

By Rachel Jones, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCO

Across Alameda County, the challenge of managing wastewater doesn't stop at city limits. Aging pipes, rising sea levels, and fragmented governance require a united response; one that no single agency can achieve alone. In recognition of this, our Commission launched a Strategic Regional Wastewater Committee, bringing agencies to the same table to spark dialogue, identify shared vulnerabilities, and explore collaborative solutions.

The committee acts as a platform for city, special district, and county representatives to assess long-term system resilience and interagency service strategies. Initial discussions have centered on assessing capacity, infrastructure investment requirements, and opportunities for collaborative planning. By bringing together multiple service providers in one forum, Alameda LAFCO has helped reframe wastewater planning as not only a local concern but also a regional resilience issue.

This effort also aligns with Alameda LAFCO's Resiliency Planning Project, a broader initiative aimed at enhancing the county's preparedness for climate adaptation. Wastewater systems are some of the most vulnerable public services to sea level rise, seismic activity, and extreme weather events.

Through this project, the Commission is beginning to incorporate resiliency considerations into service reviews and future boundary decisions, aiming to ensure that critical infrastructure remains reliable and sustainable.

Notably, this work has shown the importance of LAFCOs as conveners and impartial facilitators. Although LAFCO does not own or manage infrastructure, its legal authority and regional perspective give it a unique role in bridging jurisdictions and promoting collaborative planning. In Alameda County, these discussions are laying the foundation for a more coordinated, future-oriented approach to wastewater management that prioritizes both efficiency and fairness in service delivery.

As California communities continue to face pressures from growth, climate change, and aging systems, LAFCOs can play a vital role in fostering regional solutions. What began as an ad hoc committee in Alameda is becoming a blueprint for how LAFCOs can lead resilience efforts, showing that collaboration across boundaries today can safeguard communities for generations to come.



Mission Peak Regional Preserve
Alameda County

Charting a Stronger Future for Felton Fire:

How Santa Cruz LAFCO's Governance Options Report is Helping a Small District Meet Big Challenges

By Joe Serrano, Executive Officer, Santa Cruz LAFCO

Felton is the kind of community where neighbors still wave from the porch and the redwoods cradle every backyard. It's also a place where fire protection isn't abstract—it's a crystal clear experience. From wildland smoke on the horizon to medical aids on winding roads, the Felton Fire Protection District (FFPD) carries a broad remit on a lean, community-scaled organization. Like many independent fire districts across California, Felton has been navigating a shifting landscape: escalating wildfire risk, rising service demand, changing volunteerism, workforce and training standards, equipment replacement cycles, and the relentless math of inflation outpacing revenue growth.

Enter Santa Cruz LAFCO. Recognizing both the urgency and the opportunity, the Commission published the Felton Fire Protection District Governance Options Report, a practical roadmap designed to help local leaders, partner agencies, and the public evaluate credible paths to sustain (and enhance) fire and emergency services over the long term. The report's purpose was not to prescribe an answer; it was to structure a transparent, data-informed conversation about what comes next.

Why now? A convergence of pressures (and possibilities)

Across California, local fire providers are grappling with mounting pressures that challenge traditional service models. Longer fire seasons and increasingly complex incidents demand deeper staffing, specialized equipment, and stronger mutual aid networks. At the same time, agencies face workforce hurdles, from recruiting and retaining volunteers to meeting the higher standards of an increasingly professionalized fire service. Capital needs add another layer of strain, as aging engines and stations require costly replacements that far exceed the slow growth of revenues. All the while, communities expect fast response times, advanced life support, and proactive fire prevention programs, raising the bar on what local agencies must deliver.

The Felton Fire Protection District is the latest to experience these realities firsthand. Historically reliant on volunteers, Felton FPD in 2021 operated with a single full-time fire chief, one part-time employee, and 28 volunteer firefighters. In the years since, the district has faced significant turnover—including four different fire chiefs, board member resignations, and a shrinking pool of active volunteers. A two-year agreement with the neighboring Ben Lomond Fire Protection District for operational services was meant to “buy some time and get back on their feet.” Still, that partnership ended after only six months, underscoring the instability of short-term solutions. Against this backdrop, Santa Cruz LAFCO's Governance Options Report provided the district with a structured framework to evaluate its path forward, balancing the need for reliable service, fiscal sustainability, and preservation of community identity in the face of growing challenges.





How Santa Cruz LAFCO advanced the conversation

LAFCO's role in the Felton Fire Protection District process is evident in its ability to convene, provide a method, and sustain momentum. By creating a safe space for open interagency discussion, LAFCO enables stakeholders to identify shared risks and opportunities. Through the use of a consistent framework that evaluates costs, service levels, and governance implications, LAFCO ensures decision-makers and the public can make clear, apples-to-apples comparisons.

Just as importantly, LAFCO helps keep the process moving forward by outlining near-term actions and decision points, preventing the effort from stalling after the study is complete. The Governance Options Report is not a one-time exercise; it is designed to anchor ongoing public dialogue, inform board direction, and guide practical next steps—whether that means contracting for services, pursuing a revenue measure, or considering a larger reorganization. The fact that residents were discussing the situation on social media, at community events, and during FFPD's board meetings was a win in itself from LAFCO's perspective, as the community finally acknowledged that there was a problem.

Lessons other LAFCOs can use

The Felton Fire Protection District Governance Options Report offers essential lessons that LAFCOs across the state can apply. First, options should be framed around outcomes, as residents care most about reliable response times and prevention capacity; governance should follow function. Not every solution is all-or-nothing, and hybrid approaches such as administrative/ "internal" consolidation, shared battalion coverage, or regional prevention teams can deliver significant benefits with minimal disruption. Clear cost modeling is also essential, with explicit thresholds (like staffing levels, apparatus age, or overtime burdens) that trigger the need for action.

Pairing short-term, "no-regrets" collaborations with longer-term structural options allows communities to move forward cautiously while building capacity. Finally, when creating these types of special studies, it is vital to collaborate with the affected agencies to ensure that the report has been properly vetted and verified. The last thing you want to do is publish a report and have the affected agency, or neighboring agencies, speaking in opposition to the findings and/or recommendations. LAFCO staff provided an "administrative copy" of the report and allowed the agencies to provide feedback before the document was published.

So, what now?

The Felton Fire Protection District Governance Options Report exemplifies what LAFCOs do best: help communities reconcile local values with regional realities through thoughtful, transparent governance evaluation.

In a fire environment that is hotter, longer, and more complex than ever, Santa Cruz LAFCO has provided a clear, credible set of choices—so Felton can remain exactly what it has always been: protected, prepared, and proudly local. And in the end, Felton FPD is the master of its own destiny; LAFCO (in this case) was more of a "spiritual" guide.





Planning Napa's Future, One SOL at a Time

By Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCO

In 2025, Napa LAFCO's most pivotal deliberations have centered on spheres of influence (SOLs), the Commission's most powerful long-range planning tool.

In April, the Napa Commission tackled a significant SOL amendment for American Canyon's Green Island area. The hearing drew robust testimony from the Farm Bureau, Greenbelt Alliance, Save the Bay, and Napa County, highlighting the diverse interests and high stakes surrounding land use in this part of Napa County.

By August, attention shifted to the draft SOL update for the Napa Sanitation District. That process sparked a broad discussion about the long-term viability of extending sewer service to the Monticello study area.

This discussion addressed the core issue of balancing growth with resource protection.

These actions highlight LAFCO's distinct role in determining where growth occurs, how services are delivered, and how open space and agricultural lands are preserved. Looking ahead, Napa LAFCO is currently reviewing its local SOL policy, with proposed amendments set for Commission consideration in October.

As other Commissions across California evaluate their own SOL updates, Napa's experience serves as a timely reminder that these tools remain essential for community planning, service management, and protecting the landscapes that define them.



From Anthropology to Infrastructure:

My First Year at LAFCO

By Meghan Traynor, Analyst I, San Diego LAFCO

I joined San Diego County LAFCO as an Analyst in July of 2024. Looking back at my first year, I am astounded by how entering the world of regional planning has impacted my perspective on cities, municipal services, and development. I now look at buildings and wonder what it cost to build them, where the materials came from, and, if in rural areas, whether they're on sewer or septic.

I graduated from UC San Diego in June 2024 with a degree in Sociocultural Anthropology with minors in Human Rights and Migration and Spanish Literature. As an undergraduate, I participated in research programs focused on migration to the U.S.-Mexico border, homelessness in San Diego, and the San Diego community's responses to climate change. I also worked as a management intern for the San Diego City Council.

I am currently working on several projects at San Diego LAFCO: my proposal work, an MSR on our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (the San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG), a special study on the regional administration and funding of homelessness services, and a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Grant in collaboration with the County of San Diego.

The special study on homelessness was encouraged by one of our Commissioners. LAFCOs are responsible for evaluating the current and future municipal needs of our residents, and we have identified homelessness services and solutions as crucial ones. We are analyzing how San Diego County's federally designated Continuum of Care distributes homelessness funding to non-profits and other agencies in the region to provide homelessness services. I believe that this information is beneficial for staff, our Commissioners, and the public in understanding the technical aspects of how homelessness services are funded, delivered, and evaluated regionally.

In wanting to see a future in which all people have the basic right to housing, transportation, and other basic needs, working at LAFCO has taught me the realities of how we build housing, fund transportation, administer fire protection services, treat water, and manage natural resources. I have been introduced to County departments, Cities, Special Districts, State Assembly and Senators' offices, and have greatly enjoyed learning about their work.

Attending the CALAFCO conference in Yosemite in 2024 and the Staff Workshop in Temecula in 2025 made me appreciate the diversity of LAFCOs in our state. We all face unique contexts, but are united in interpreting the Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act and what it means to facilitate "orderly growth and development". My year working for San Diego LAFCO has shown me that LAFCOs can push the envelope and promote generative discussions about improvements to the regional administration of municipal services. I am grateful to work alongside a supportive and encouraging team and look forward to continuing to grow and serve the public.



We'll Take That, for a Dollar!

Lessons Learned on Volunteer Company Facility Transfers in Fire Agency Reorganizations

By Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer, Sonoma LAFCO

Over the past decade, Sonoma LAFCO has overseen the reorganization of a dozen fire agencies. These efforts consolidated one city department, 10 districts, and 16 volunteer fire companies into four remaining districts. While the outcomes generally enhanced service delivery and financial stability, two reorganizations uncovered an often-overlooked challenge: the transfer of facilities owned by volunteer fire companies.

"Secure the firehouse before approving the reorganization."



Case Studies: When Facilities Become Sticking Points

KNIGHTS VALLEY (2018)

The Geyserville Fire Protection District, now called North Sonoma County Fire, assumed responsibility for Knights Valley territory. While LAFCO successfully ordered the transfer of assets and liabilities from the district, it had no authority over the nonprofit Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company, which owned the firehouse. The company opposed the transfer, trying to negotiate permanent staffing at the station, despite this not being included in the Plan for Services. For nearly two years, Geyserville had to park an engine on private property until mediation resulted in a small \$1 annual lease.

BODEGA (2023)

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District reorganized 10 volunteer companies with plans to staff the Bodega station. However, the volunteer company demanded \$25,000 annually to lease its facility. Gold Ridge rejected the demand, citing fairness to taxpayers after securing other leases for \$1 per year. The impasse forced Gold Ridge to withdraw equipment and personnel, sparking community outcry. Ultimately, the company relented and signed a \$1 lease.



Why This Happens: LAFCO's Authority and Its Limits

LEGAL CONTEXT

Under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, LAFCOs can direct the transfer of assets and liabilities between government agencies during a reorganization (Gov. Code § 56375). However, volunteer fire companies are nonprofit corporations, not government entities. Therefore, their facilities fall outside LAFCO's jurisdiction. This creates a significant gap: reorganizations can proceed without guaranteed access to critical facilities.

Lessons for LAFCOs Statewide

These Sonoma experiences highlight risks that apply anywhere in California where volunteer companies own stations.

To avoid service disruptions and political backlash, LAFCOs should:

- **Require Agreements Upfront.** Make facility transfer or lease agreements a condition of approval before finalizing reorganizations.
- **Prefer Ownership, Accept Long-Term Leases.** Agencies need security to ensure, maintain, and invest in facilities.
- **Anticipate Negotiation Pressure.** Volunteer boards might seek leverage during reorganization; plan accordingly.
- **Balance Community Pride With Service Needs.** Many volunteer stations are locally funded and deeply valued. A collaborative, transparent process can ease transitions.

Quick Tips for Commissioners

- Ask staff early about volunteer-owned facilities.
- Consider requiring legal review of facility agreements.
- Build community engagement into the process.
- Document all commitments in the Plan for Services.

Final Takeaway

Most fire reorganizations succeed and provide stronger, more sustainable services. However, LAFCOs must understand that facilities owned by nonprofits pose unique challenges.

The key lesson is straightforward: secure the firehouse before approving the merger. Whether through transfer or long-term lease, a signed agreement can prevent years of conflict and ensure smooth fire protection for the communities we serve.

OC LAFCO Has a New Team Member

Welcome Policy Analyst Leo Lara

By Orange County LAFCO

OC LAFCO has a new team member, Policy Analyst Leo Lara. Leo brings valuable experience from his recent work on water efficiency topics and water policy research. A recent Master of Public Policy graduate from the University of California, Irvine, with a concentration in environmental and sustainability policy, Leo brings valuable experience and insight to the team in policy analysis, data management, and regulatory compliance, shaped by his education and previous professional experience.



Leo is looking forward to taking on new challenges, particularly in projects that intersect with water and municipal governance. He is eager to contribute new ideas and collaborate with the team to help ensure efficient and effective delivery of municipal services across Orange County. When not in the office, Leo enjoys exploring new hiking trails in Orange County, traveling, trying out new coffee shops, and scuba diving in the crystal-clear waters of Catalina Island.

LA LAFCO Welcomes Two New Commissioners

Imelda Padilla and Ryan Altoon

By Los Angeles LAFCO

LA LAFCO is proud to welcome two new commissioners, Imelda Padilla and Ryan Altoon. Commissioner Padilla serves on the Los Angeles City Council, representing the Sixth District, and is the new Alternate Member representing the City of Los Angeles. A resident of Toluca Lake, Ryan Altoon is the new Voting Member representing the San Fernando Valley. Of the 15 positions on the Commission, 14 are now filled. Welcome, Commissioners Padilla and Altoon!

In June, Los Angeles County Supervisor and LAFCO Commissioner Lindsey Horvath recently hosted a "Water Resiliency Summit" attended by more than 200 elected officials, water agency managers, community representatives, and other stakeholders. LA LAFCO Executive Officer Paul Novak was one of four speakers on a panel titled "LA County Water Plan: Innovation & Collaboration."

Supporting Recovery After the Eaton Fire

By Paul Novak, Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCO

At its July meeting, the Los Angeles LAFCO unanimously approved a fee waiver request from the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The waiver, valued at about \$75,000, applies to a proposed annexation into Sanitation Districts No. 16 and 17 covering unincorporated Altadena and Kinneloa Mesa—areas directly affected by the devastating Eaton Fire.

The annexation will enable impacted properties to connect to the Districts' sewage treatment system. Without the waiver, property owners would have faced reimbursement obligations for connection filing fees, adding financial stress during an already challenging recovery.

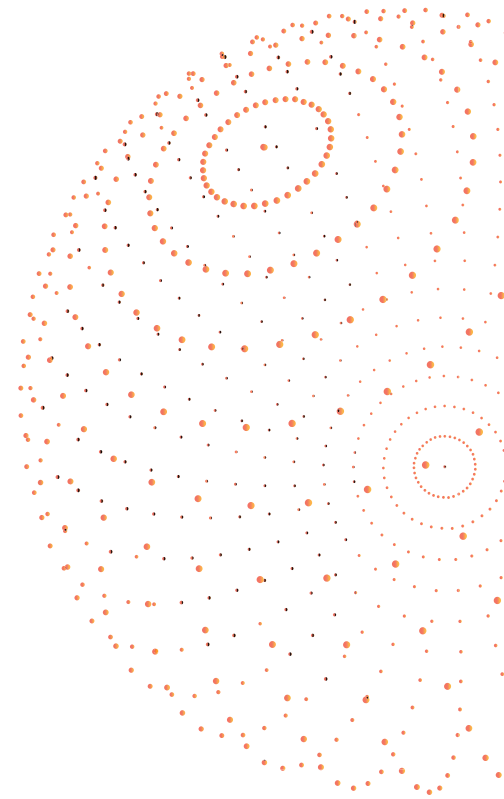
Recognizing this burden, staff recommended approval, and the Commission agreed that requiring payment of the fees would be harmful to the public interest.

"This decision is about compassion as much as compliance," staff noted in their recommendation, emphasizing the Commission's responsibility to support residents as they rebuild. By balancing regulation with community needs, Los Angeles LAFCO helped facilitate recovery efforts in the fire-affected communities.



Within the Sphere:

A LAFCO Crossword Puzzle



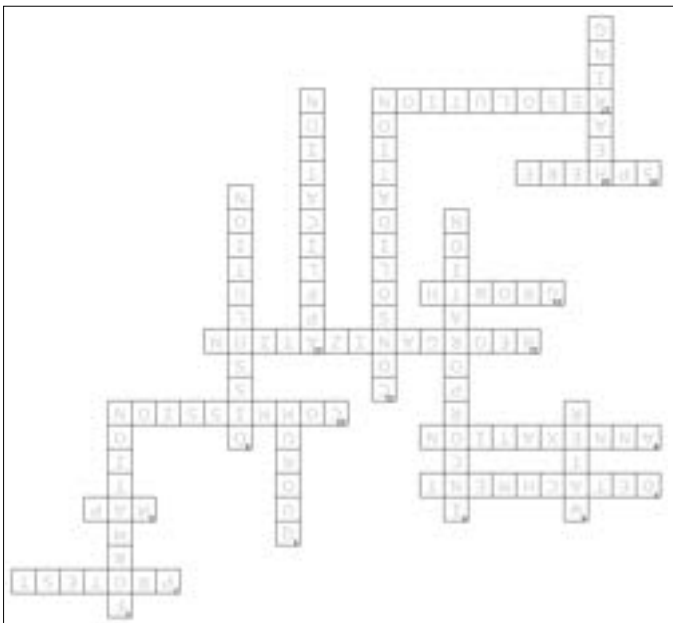
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Crossword Puzzle Answers





EXPEDITION AND SURVEY
OF A
R.D. ROUTE FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
TO THE
PACIFIC OCEAN
IN 1842

GEOLOGICAL MAP
OF A PART OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

EXPLORED IN 1852 BY
LIEUT. R. S. WILLIAMSON U.S. TOPOG.

Prepared to accompany the report of
WILLIAM P. BLAKE
GEOLOGIST OF THE EXPEDITION.

Scale of Miles



Lat. of Youngs Bay Head

California Association of
Local Agency Formation Commissions

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