San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

5h

AGENDA REPORT
Consent | Information

August 4, 2025

TO: Chair Whitburn and Commissioners

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Report on Recent Committee Meeting | Special Districts Advisory Committee's July 18, 2025 Meeting**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a report on the most recent meeting of its Special Districts Advisory Committee held on July 18th. The report is in the form of draft minutes and is being presented for information only consistent with an earlier request by Commissioner MacKenzie.

BACKGROUND

Special Districts' Advisory Committee

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (SDAC) was established in 1971 to help inform and advise the Commission on related topics. SDAC's role has actively evolved from its initial focus on just jurisdictional changes affecting special districts to now expand into LAFCO's planning duties, highlighted by the Commission's municipal service review program. The Committee includes 15 elected members drawn from the 57 eligible independent special districts in San Diego County. The current Chair and Vice Chair are Kim Thorner (Olivenhain Municipal Water District) and Jack Beebe (Fallbrook Public Utility District), respectively.

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John McCann, Alt., City of Chula Vista
Chair Stephen Whitburn, City of San Diego
Marni von Wilpert, Alt., City of San Diego
Vice Chair Barry Willis, Alpine Fire Protection
Jo MacKenzie, Vista Irrigation
David Drake, Alt., Rincon del Diablo
Vacant, General Public
Brigette Browning, Alt., General Public

DISCUSSION

San Diego LAFCO will receive a report on the most recent meeting of its Special Districts Advisory Committee held on July 18th and hosted by the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District. The report is in the form of the attached draft minutes and comports with a recent request by Commissioner MacKenzie for the Commission to receive timely updates on deliberations of its two standing agency committees—Special Districts and Cities.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to San Diego LAFCO for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on San Diego LAFCO's agenda as part of the consent calendar. A successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on the staff recommendation unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachments:

1) SDAC Roster
2) DRAFT: SDAC Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2025

LAFCO
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Special Districts Advisory Committee was created in August 1971 by San Diego LAFCO. The 16 members committee provides feedback (including recommendations) on germane topics to assist LAFCO in fulfilling its regulatory and planning functions.



Kimberly Thorner
Chair
Olivenhain MWD



Jack Bebee
Vice Chair
Fallbrook PUD



Ann Baldridge
RCD of
Greater San Diego



Paul Bushee
Leucadia
MWD



Jeff Egkan
North County
FPD



James Gordon
Deer Springs
FPD



Rachel Mason
Fallbrook Regional
Health District



Albert Lau
Santa Fe Irrigation
District



Hector Martinez
South Bay Water
District



Dave McQuead
Rancho Santa Fe
FPD



Marty Miller
Vista Irrigation
District



Mark Robak
Otay Water
District



Joel Scalzitti
Helix Water
District



Mike Sims
Bonita-Sunnyside
FPD



Oliver Smith
Valley Center
MWD

For more information visit:

https://www.sdlafco.org/about/advisory-committees/special-districts-advisory-committee

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DRAFT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
July 18, 2025

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
18027 Calle Ambiente, Suite 101, Cielo Boardroom
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

1. 9:30 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

Chair Kimberly Thorner called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Item 1a
ROLL CALL

Chair Kimberly Thorner requested a roll call from the Committee Secretary.

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Chair Kimberly Thorner (Olivenhain MWD)	Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD)
Vice Chair Jack Bebee (Fallbrook PUD)	Jeff Egkan (North County FPD)
Ann Baldridge (RCD Greater San Diego County)	Hector Martinez (South Bay ID)
James Gordon (Deer Springs FPD)	Marty Miller (Vista ID)
Albert Lau (Santa Fe ID) (arrived at 9:43 a.m.)	Joel Scalzitti (Helix WD)
Rachel Mason (Fallbrook Regional HD)	Oliver Smith (Valley Center MWD)
Dave McQuead (Rancho Santa Fe FPD)	
Mark Robak (Otay WD)	
Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD)	

The Committee Secretary confirmed a quorum with nine members present. The following members of San Diego LAFCO staff were present at roll call: Executive Officer Keene Simonds; Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower; Local Government Analyst II Michaela Peters; Local Government Analyst I Meghan Traynor; Communications Associate Aiden Velasquez; GIS Analyst Dieu Ngu; and Commission Clerk Erica Sellen serving as Committee Secretary. LAFCO Consultants Pat Bouteller, Mike Stein, and Tom Kennedy were also present.

Item 1b
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dave McQuead (Rancho Santa Fe FPD) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chair Kimberly Thorner asked the Assistant Executive Officer if there were requests to remove or rearrange items on the agenda. The Assistant Executive Officer stated no changes were needed to the agenda.

Chair Thorner invited Chief Dave McQuead to go over house rules and discuss the option of taking a tour after the meeting.

3. OPEN EXPRESSION

Chair Kimberly Thorner asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Committee on a germane topic that is not directly part of the agenda.

The Committee Secretary confirmed there were no pre-registered speakers and no live email comments.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2025 (action)
The Committee considered draft summary minutes prepared for the last meeting held on April 18, 2025. Recommendation to approve as presented.

b) Progress Report on 2025-2026 Workplan (information)
The Committee received an update on LAFCO's adopted workplan and activities related to the 30 special projects scheduled for 2025-2026. Information only.

c) Policy Amendments |
Commission Approved Special Districts Advisory Committee Rules (information)
The Committee received an update on the recently approved amendments to its formal rules. These amendments were presented to the Commission at its June 2, 2025 meeting – following the Committee's approval in April – and received approval with a few modifications. Information only.

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On motion by Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD) and seconded by Dave McQuead (Rancho Santa Fe FPD), the Committee unanimously approved the Consent Calendar.

(continued…)

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) Legislative Report (information)

The Committee received a report summarizing legislative items of interest related to LAFCO's regulatory and planning responsibilities. The report specifically highlights seven bills with potential material implications for LAFCOs, including two measures – AB 356 (Patel) and AB 448 (Patel) – that directly involve the Palomar Healthcare District. During the June 2, 2025 LAFCO meeting, the Commission formally voted to adopt a support position for AB 356, if amended, and AB 448. Information only.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst I Meghan Traynor.

Chair Thorner proceeded to invite questions and/or comments from the Committee.

General discussion followed. No action.

b) Current Workplan Update on High Priority Project | Municipal Service Review on Healthcare Districts in San Diego County (information)

The Committee received an update on LAFCO's scheduled municipal service review on the four healthcare districts in San Diego County including: Fallbrook, Palomar, Grossmont, and Tri-City. The review will be divided into two parts and will encompass an overarching analysis of the agencies' services, followed by a detailed examination. The update was provided for information with an opportunity for Committee members to provide feedback to staff on behalf of special districts in San Diego County.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst II Michaela Peters.

Chair Thorner proceeded to invite questions and/or comments from the Committee.

General discussion followed. No action.

c) Current Workplan Update on High Priority Project | Municipal Service Review on Wholesale Water Agencies in San Diego County (information)

The Committee received an update on LAFCO's scheduled municipal service review of wholesale water agencies operating within San Diego County. This study includes a comprehensive review of the San Diego County Water Authority and a proportional review of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The update was provided for information with an opportunity for Committee members to provide feedback to staff on behalf of special districts in San Diego County.

Staff presentation provided by Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower.

Chair Thorner proceeded to invite questions and/or comments from the Committee.

General discussion followed covering topics including CWA rates, financial matters, the recent settlement with MWD, and governance issues. No action.

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED…

d) Special Governance Study on the Oceanside Small Craft Harbor District (discussion)
The Committee reviewed a preliminary scope of work involving a special governance study approved as part of the new workplan involving the Oceanside Small Craft Harbor District. This study ties to a formal recommendation adopted as part of the recently completed municipal service review on the Oceanside region and supported by several community members. This item was presented to the Committee for discussion with an opportunity to offer input prior to staff finalizing the scope of work.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst II Michaela Peters.

Chair Thorner proceeded to invite questions and/or comments from the Committee.

General discussion followed. The Executive Officer then invited members to form a working group to help inform the progression of the governance study. No action.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Committee members made the following comments:

- Mike Sims noted that the SDCWA will provide a "Water 101" presentation to the Fire Chiefs Association on August 7th at 9:30am.

- Dave McQuead thanked Albert Lau and Kimberly Thorner for their collaboration at a recent town hall meeting held on July 16th to discuss emergency preparedness and coordination between utility and fire service providers.

- Ann Baldridge provided a final SALC 1.0 bounded report.

- Chair Kimberly Thorner provided an update on a recent presentation she delivered at the State Senate.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Officer Keene Simonds noted the following items:

- Introduced new LAFCO Consultant Pat Bouteller.

- Local Government Analyst I Joelle Burila welcomed a baby girl and will be on maternity leave through the balance of the calendar year.

- A regular public member is expected to be appointed at LAFCO's August 4th meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Special Districts Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Attest:

Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

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