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AGENDA REPORT
Business | Discussion

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Proposed Draft Update to the Rolling Five-Year Study Schedule**

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive a proposed draft update to the Commission's rolling five-year municipal service review (study) schedule. The proposed draft follows the Commission's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 workplan and advances the existing schedule by one year, resetting the planning horizon to Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 to maintain alignment, while also incorporating refinements based on recently completed studies, prior Commission direction, and evolving service delivery models.

Consistent with prior practice, the first two years (FY2027–FY2028) reflect studies authorized and funded in the adopted workplan and budget. The remaining three years (FY2029–FY2031) serve as a long-range planning tool, providing local agencies and the public with advance notice of the Commission's anticipated review schedule. This item is presented to the Committee for review and discussion. Committee comments will be incorporated in preparing a final proposed schedule for Commission action in August 2026, with any formal comments and/or recommendations also forwarded to the Commission for its consideration.

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BACKGROUND

State and Local Policy Directives | Municipal Service Reviews + Sphere of Influence Updates

State law requires San Diego LAFCO to prepare municipal service reviews to independently assess the availability and adequacy of local services relative to present and future community needs. The Commission's policies governing preparation of municipal service reviews are codified in Policy L-106, including direction to maintain a five-year study schedule. These municipal service reviews directly inform the mandated sphere of influence updates that State law directs LAFCO to complete approximately every five years, through which the Commission actively manages local agencies' appropriate current and future boundaries and service areas.

Rolling Study Schedule + Implementation Practices

San Diego LAFCO annually reviews and updates its rolling five-year study schedule to program future municipal service reviews and corresponding sphere of influence updates consistent with adopted policy. Implementation of the schedule is guided by two practices:

1. **Years One and Two** cover all municipal service reviews separately authorized and funded by the Commission under the annual adopted workplan and budget. The combination of the first two years provides LAFCO flexibility to pace work in line with accommodating the agencies' resources and abilities to participate in the data collection and review process.

2. **Years Three through Five** of the study schedule serve to telegraph the Commission's expectations of initiating future municipal service reviews to affected agencies and other interested stakeholders. Actual work on these studies does not begin until the Commission formally authorizes the expenditure of LAFCO resources through a future adopted annual workplan.

DISCUSSION

This item is for the Committee to review a draft update to the Commission's rolling five-year study schedule covering Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031. The proposed update generally rolls the existing schedule forward by one fiscal year while incorporating several refinements based on recently completed studies, prior Commission direction, and evolving service delivery models. Key details follow.

- **Years One and Two (FY2027–FY2028)** of the proposed study schedule align with the recently adopted workplan and encompass all municipal service reviews authorized and funded by the Commission. The proposed schedule generally carries forward previously authorized studies while reflecting recently completed work, incorporating studies advanced from the long-range planning horizon, and refining the scope of several planned reviews.

- **Studies Continuing**
  The proposed schedule reflects the Commission's direction to continue work on previously authorized studies involving Healthcare Services, SANDAG, the San Diego Unified Port District, the North County communities of San Marcos and Vista, the North Coastal communities of Del Mar and Solana Beach, and their overlapping special districts. The schedule also retains Part II of the Carlsbad–Encinitas Subregional Municipal Service Review involving the Encinitas Subregion, which staff anticipates completing by the end of calendar year 2026.

  The Healthcare Districts Municipal Service Review has also been broadened into a two-part Healthcare Services review. Part I will continue evaluating the County's four healthcare districts, while Part II expands the study to include major quasi-public healthcare providers, including Sharp HealthCare, UC San Diego Health, and other community providers, to provide broader context regarding regional healthcare service delivery.

- **Studies Removed**
  The proposed schedule reflects the completion of recently authorized studies. This includes Part I of the Carlsbad–Encinitas Subregional Municipal Service Review following its adoption by the Commission in June 2026, leaving only the Encinitas Subregion to carry forward. The proposed schedule also removes the Wholesale Water Service Providers Municipal Service Review from the FY2027–FY2028 implementation window following Commission direction to suspend work at its May 2026 meeting. Consistent with that direction, separate municipal service reviews involving the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority are instead programmed in FY2030 and FY2031, respectively.

- **Studies Advanced and Calendared**
  The proposed schedule also reflects recent Commission direction by advancing the City of San Diego Municipal Service Review and Part II of the South Coast Region Municipal Service Review into the established FY2027–FY2028 implementation window. Both studies were previously identified as tentative FY2028 studies in the adopted schedule.

  - The South Coast Region review will align with the previously authorized Part I review involving the Cities of Chula Vista and National City and evaluate the overlapping special districts, including South Bay Water District, Sweetwater Authority, Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District (FPD), and Sweetwater FPD, allowing both phases to proceed on a coordinated timeline.

  - To accommodate these changes, the Rancho Santa Fe review, Wastewater Joint Powers Authorities review, Silver Strand review, and Public Transit Services review have been shifted to FY2029.

- **Years Three through Five** (FY 29 – FY 31) continue to serve as the Commission's long-range planning framework for future municipal service reviews while incorporating several refinements based on recent Commission direction and emerging priorities.

  Most notably, the proposed schedule adds new municipal service reviews involving Mosquito Abatement and Vector Services in FY2031 and separate reviews of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (FY2030) and the San Diego County Water Authority (FY2031), as detailed in the preceding section. Additionally, the planned Cemetery Districts Municipal Service Review has been broadened into a review of Cemetery Services to catalog both public cemetery districts and other cemetery service providers in light of recent legislation and has been advanced one year to FY2029.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for discussion.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the Committee's agenda for discussion as part of the business calendar. The following procedures are recommended:

1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
2) Invite comments from interested audience members if any.
3) Discuss and provide general feedback as needed.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment:

1) Tentative Proposed: Five-Year Rolling Study Schedule (FY 2027-2031)

SAN DIEGO LAFCO:
5-YEAR ROLLING STUDY SCHEDULE

FY2027 + FY2028: SET
COASTAL COUNTY FOCUS

Carlsbad + Encinitas Region
- Part II: Encinitas Subregion
  - City of Encinitas
  - Leucadia WWD
  - Olivenhain MWD
  - San Dieguito WD

San Marcos + Vista Region
- Part I: San Marcos Subregion
  - City of San Marcos
  - Vallecitos WD
  - San Marcos FPD
- Part II: Vista Subregion
  - City of Vista
  - Buena SD
  - Vista ID

Del Mar + Solana Beach Region
- City of Del Mar
- City of Solana Beach
- Santa Fe ID

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

San Diego Unified Port District

San Diego County Healthcare Services
- Part I: Healthcare Districts
  - Palomar HD
  - Tri-City HD
  - Fallbrook HD
  - Grossmont HD
- Part II: Quasi Public Providers
  - Sharp San Diego
  - UC San Diego
  - Other Community Providers

City of San Diego

South Coast Region
- Part I: Cities
  - City of Chula Vista
  - City of National City
- Part II: Special Districts
  - South Bay Water District
  - Sweetwater Authority
  - Bonita-Sunnyside FPD
  - Sweetwater FPD

FY2029: TENTATIVE
SOUTHWEST COUNTY FOCUS

Rancho Santa Fe Region
- Fairbanks Ranch CSD
- Questhaven MWD
- Rancho Santa Fe CSD
- Rancho Santa Fe FPD
- Whispering Palms CSD

San Diego County Wastewater JPAs
- Encinitas JPA
- San Elijo JPA
- Metro JPA

Silver Strand Cities
- City of Coronado
- City of Imperial Beach

Public Transit Services
- North County Transit District
- Metropolitan Transit Service

Cemetery Services
- North County CD
- Pomerado CD
- Ramona CD
- Valley Center CD
- Other

FY2030: TENTATIVE
EAST COUNTY FOCUS

Otay WD

La Mesa - Lemon Grove Region
- City of La Mesa
- City of Lemon Grove
- Lemon Grove SD

El Cajon - Santee Region
- City of El Cajon
- City of Santee

Southeast County Water Districts
- Lakeside WD
- Helix WD
- Padre Dam MWD

East County FPDs
- Lakeside FPD
- San Miguel Consolidated FPDs
- Alpine FPD

San Diego County Sanitation District

Countywide Recycled Water Services

San Diego County Airports

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Countywide Police Protection Services

FY2031: TENTATIVE
MISCELLANEOUS

Countywide Fire Protection Services (Fire, Rescue, and EMS)

San Diego County Water Authority

County Service Areas
- CSA 17 - Ambulance, San Dieguito
- CSA 26 - Parks and Recreation, Rancho San Diego
- CSA 81 - Parks and Recreation, Fallbrook
- CSA 83 - Parks and Recreation, San Dieguito
- CSA 122 - Infrastructure Planning, Otay East
- CSA 128 - Parks and Recreation, Spring Valley
- CSA 135 - Regional Communications, Countywide
- CSA 136 - Flood Control and Drainage, Lakeside
- CSA 137 - Retail Water Services, Live Oak Springs
- CSA 138 - Parks and Recreation, Valley Center

San Diego County Flood Control District

Pauma Valley Region
- Mootami MWD
- Rincon Ranch CSD
- Pauma CSD
- San Luis Rey MWD
- Yuima MWD

Borrego Region
- Borrego WD
- Coachella Valley WD

East Laguna Summit Region
- Canebrake WD
- Descanso WD
- Jacumba CSD

Geological Hazard Abatement Districts
- Casa de Playa Geologic Hazard Abatement District
- Oceanus Geologic Hazard Abatement District

Mosquito Abatement and Vector Services