

SAN DIEGO LAFCO



COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

SAN DIEGO LAFCO

Agenda Item No. 7a

**Draft Legislative Proposal | Implementing UC Report
to Enhance LAFCOs' Effectiveness**



2/2/2026



U.C. Berkeley Report

1



Report Focus: Improve public water systems through consolidations with emphasis on underserved communities.

2



Key Recommendations: Regular communications between LAFCOs and State water regulators.

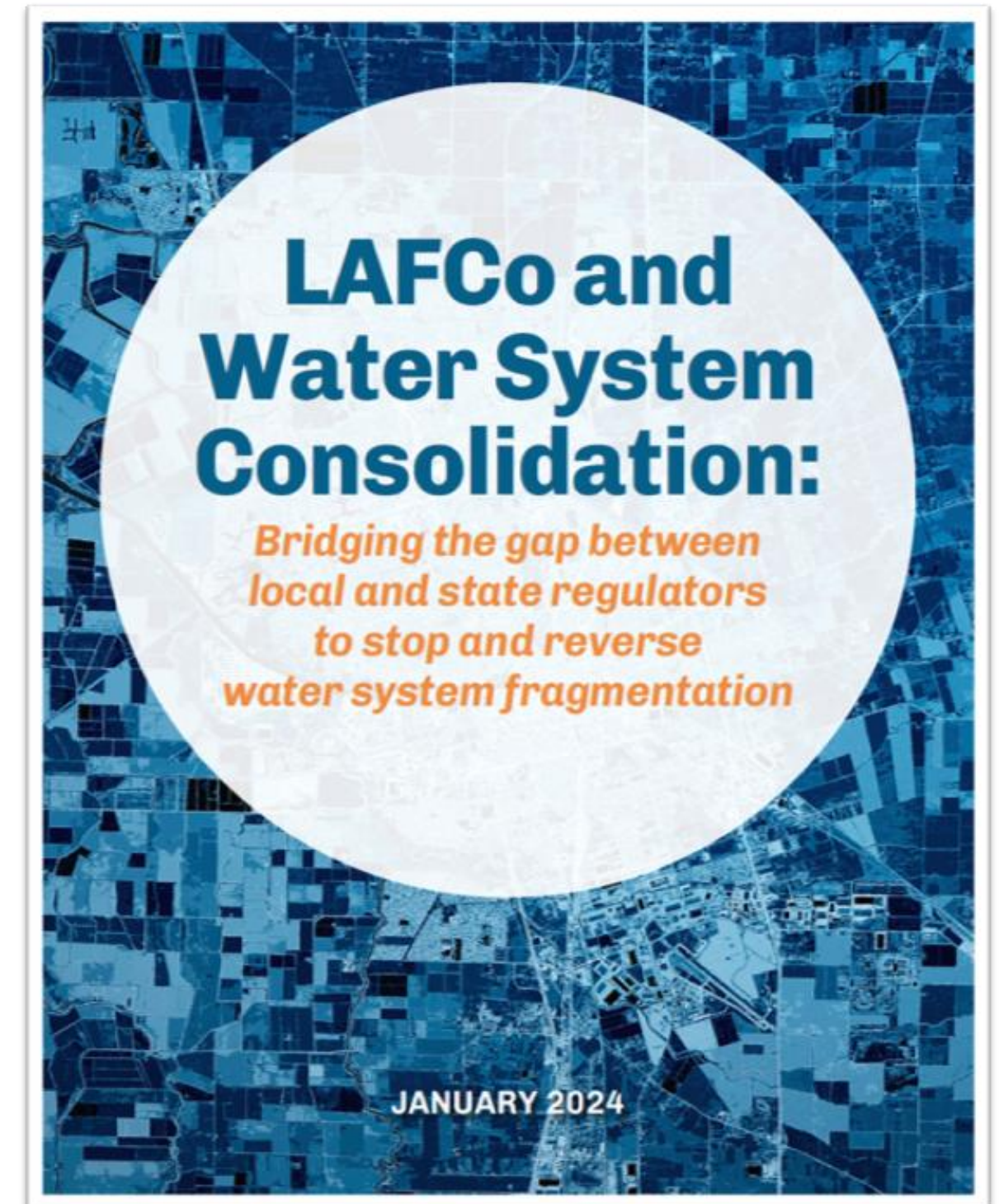
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MSR Importance: Well-funded MSRs to identify and prioritize consolidations, small system mergers, and seek annexation authority.





Joint Legislative Group

- **Kristin Dobbin**, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension, U.C. Berkeley and the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- **Justin McBride**, PhD Candidate in Urban Planning, U.C. Los Angeles
- **Orange LAFCO**
- **Napa LAFCO**
- **Sacramento LAFCO**
- **Alameda LAFCO**
- **Butte LAFCO**
- **Santa Cruz LAFCO**
- **Community Water Center**
- **Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**

1

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Legislative Proposals



1

1

Expand LAFCOs Ability to Initiate jurisdictional changes or Out-of-Agency Service Agreements to Support Timely Water Or Wastewater Services Consistent With Community Needs.

(Amend GCS 56375)

2

3

4

2

Amplify MSRs Role in Communicating Community Needs. Requiring Publicly Noticed Hearing (LAFCO + local agencies).

(Amend GCS 56430)

5

3

Address Service Barriers for Mutual Water Companies and Mobile Home Parks by making them subject to LAFCO.

(Amend GCS 56430 and Health and Safety Code)

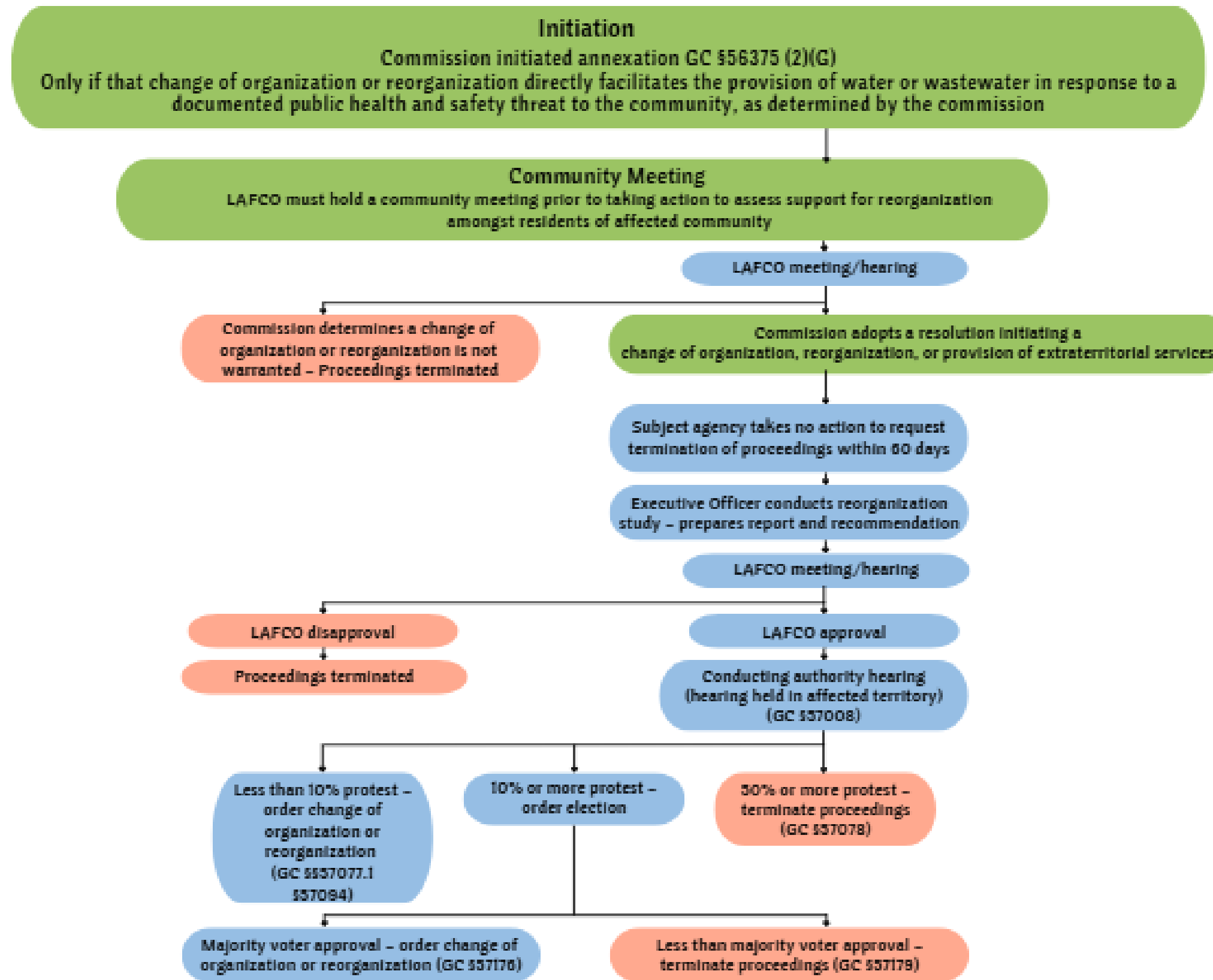
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Agenda Item No. 7a
Comments/Questions?



2/2/2026

Empowering LAFCOs to Initiate Jurisdictional Changes (Under Certain Circumstances)





Amplifying the Role of the Municipal Service Review – Increasing Transparency

SAN DIEGO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



OCEANSIDE REGION

Municipal Service Review | Government Code 56430

Affected Agencies

City of Oceanside
Oceanside Small Craft Harbor District
Morro Hills Community Services District

Final Report

Formally Accepted November 2024

Project Team:

Michaela Peters, Analyst II, Project Manager
Dieu Ngu, GIS Analyst
Adam Wilson, Government Relations Consultant
Stephen Abbott, Fire Services Consultant
Brian Brady, Water-Wastewater Services Consultant



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FEBRUARY 2, 2026

SAN DIEGO LAFCO

Agenda Item No. 7b Chair and Vice Chair Appointments



2/2/2026

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COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Something's Wrong

Introducing San Diego Oaks — a small unincorporated subdivision in transition, where a family discovers their drinking water may not be safe.



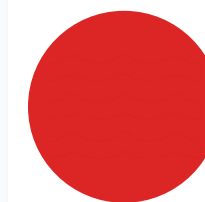
San Diego Oaks Setting

Unincorporated community near Fallbrook PUD and the local water/sewer provider — disadvantaged, in transition



The Johnsons

Young family, new to area — Lisa, Mark, and daughter Emma



The Problem

Private well contamination, aging septic — no solution in sight

The Runaround

The Johnson's have been in their house for about a month and don't know exactly what to do and who can help — they quickly discover a bureaucratic maze with no clear path forward.

THE CALL SEQUENCE

1. County Public Works

"Since you're on a private well, the County can't help directly. Try Fallbrook PUD."



2. Fallbrook PUD

"You're outside our boundary. You'd need an annexation through the Local Agency Formation Commission... You'd initiate the application with them."



3. Local Agency Formation Commission

Complex application, consultant costs for map, legal (surveyor), \$25K+ costs, and environmental review...

Two Paths

The same community. The same problem. Two very different futures.



PATH A: Current Law

The Johnson's go it alone — months of struggle, mounting costs, declining water quality

PATH B: Proposed Legislation

LAFCO steps in — coordinated process, shared costs, community engagement

Going It Alone

THE JOHNSON'S JOURNEY UNDER CURRENT LAW



Months of Paperwork

Assembling application,
coordinating with agencies



\$30K Equity Loan

Mortgage against home to cover
fees



Neighbors Say No

Can't afford it, don't trust it,
don't know them



Crisis Continues

Water worsens, Emma
gets sick

Without Legislation...

Under current law, the Johnson's have no choice but to go it alone. The family spends months trying to assemble an application. They take out a costly loan against their home. Although they try to recruit neighbors, it's difficult – they're new to the area and don't feel comfortable asking strangers to participate. Meanwhile, the water quality continues to decline. One of their children gets a stomach bug — maybe unrelated, maybe not.

A Better Path Forward

The proposed legislation gives LAFCO authority to initiate annexations when there's a documented threat to public health — with built-in safeguards at every step.

Core Principle:
Community voice is protected at every step. If residents don't want LAFCO to act, LAFCO won't act.

THE PROCESS AT A GLANCE

1. VERIFY THREAT	2. COMMUNITY INPUT	3. FORMAL PROCESS	4. FINAL APPROVAL
LAFCO confirms threat with state/local agencies	Required community meeting before action	Resolution, district notice (opportunity to request termination of proceedings), tax exchange agreement (required)	Public hearing, protest rights preserved

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