



San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Friday, July 17, 2026
9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

In-Person Participation

County of San Diego Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402A
San Diego, California 92101

Chair Kimberly Thorner
Vice Chair Jack Bebee

Ann Baldridge
RCD of Greater SDC

James Gordon
Deer Springs FPD

Hector Martinez
South Bay Water

Joel Scalzitti
Helix WD

Jack Bebee
Fallbrook PUD

Tracy Largent
Port of San Diego

Rachel Mason
Fallbrook Regional HD

Mike Smith
Bonita-Sunnyside FPD

Paul Bushee
Leucadia WWD

Albert Lau
Santa Fe ID

Dave McQuead
Rancho Santa Fe FPD

Kimberly Thorner
Olivenhain MWD

Jeff Egkan
North County FPD

Lindsay Leahy
Valley Center MWD

Marty Miller
Vista ID

The Special Districts Advisory Committee is responsible for helping to inform the Commission on all germane items relating to San Diego LAFCO's regulatory and planning responsibilities affecting special districts.

The Committee will hold the July 17, 2026 meeting in person at the County of San Diego Administration Center 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, California 92101. In person attendance by the public is welcomed. The public may also watch, listen, and otherwise participate in the meeting remotely by any of the following options.

1. The public may watch and listen to the meeting live on YouTube using the link provided on our website homepage (www.sdlafco.org).
2. The public may watch, listen, and participate in the meeting by Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) or by telephone at (669) 900-9128 using Meeting/Webinar ID: 895 6767 7168 and Passcode 508649. Please use the "raise your hand" function in Zoom or push *9 by telephone if/when you wish to speak. Then wait until your name is called before speaking.
 - a) The public may provide eComments on any item by emailing erica.sellen@sdcounty.ca.gov
 - eComments received before 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 16, 2026, will be forwarded to the Committee and posted online before the meeting. They will also be referenced during the meeting.
 - eComments received during the meeting and before the subject item is concluded will be referenced and later posted online.

The Committee may proceed with the meeting, even where there is a disruption that prevents the Committee from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public or from receiving public comment from members of the public using a call-in option or internet-based service option, unless such disruption prevents a member of the Committee is participating under Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e) or (f).

1. 9:30 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

- a) Welcoming Comments
- b) Roll Call
- c) Pledge Of Allegiance

2. AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

3. OPEN EXPRESSION

This time is reserved for any member of the public to address the Committee on germane topics that are not directly part of the agenda. This includes requests for future Committee topics. Individuals are limited to three minutes.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2026 (action)

The Committee will consider draft summary minutes prepared for the last meeting held on April 17, 2026. Staff recommends approval as presented. (Pages 5-12)

b) Report on 2026-2027 Workplan (information)

The Committee will receive a report on the Commission's recently adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 workplan. Information only. (Pages 13-18)

c) Legislative Report (information)

The Committee will receive an update on legislative proposals germane to the LAFCO's oversight and related interests during the second year of the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session. Information only. (Pages 19-28)

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) Draft Update to the Rolling Five-Year Study Schedule (discussion)

The Committee will receive a draft update to the Commission's rolling five-year municipal service review (study) schedule. The proposed update 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 while also incorporating refinements based on recently completed studies, prior Commission direction, and evolving service delivery models. This item is for information and possible discussion. (Pages 29-34)

Contact: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

b) Final Report on State Planning Grant |

Helping Bridge the Economic Gap of Small-Scale Farming (SALC 2.0) (discussion)

The Committee will receive the final report for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) 2.0 Planning Grant, prepared by LAFCO in collaboration with the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services (PDS). The report provides a framework to support the long-term viability of small-scale agriculture in San Diego County. This item – both the report and suggested implementation measures going forward (including a potential agricultural water working group for the greater Escondido region) – is presented for discussion and feedback. (Pages 35-50)

Contact: Michaela Peters, Analyst II

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED ...

c) Resource Conservation Districts 2.0 Update (information)

The Committee will receive an update on the Commission's RCDs 2.0 initiative, a workplan priority involving the region's three resource conservation districts (RCDs): Mission RCD (MRCD), Upper San Luis Rey RCD (USLRRCD), and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC). RCDs 2.0 builds on the Commission's earlier RCDs 1.0 effort, which implemented recommendations from the 2021 countywide Municipal Service Review (MSR) on RCDs by establishing a Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address unauthorized out-of-agency services between the districts. The current phase focuses on aligning district boundaries with actual service areas through boundary reorganizations and, where appropriate, consolidation. Information only. (Pages 51-62)

Contact: Michaela Peters, Analyst II + Adam Wilson, LAFCO Consultant

**d) Workplan Update on Medium Priority Project |
San Diego LAFCO Website Refresh + Content Expansion (information)**

The Committee will receive an update on a project in San Diego LAFCO's adopted Fiscal Year 2026–2027 workplan. Carried forward from the prior fiscal year and underway with consultant Chase Design, the project focuses on redesigning the LAFCO website. Staff welcomes the Committee's input while the site is still under development. Information only. (Pages 63-66)

Contact: Aiden Velasquez, Communications Associate

e) Approval of Meeting Calendar and Special District Spotlight (action)

The Committee will consider approving its regular meeting schedule for the remainder of 2026 and the 2027 calendar year. Staff recommends the Committee approve quarterly meetings on the third Friday of October 2026 and January, April, July, and October 2027 – consistent with its policy. The Committee will also consider confirming the next round of Special District Spotlight hosts and meeting locations. (Pages 67-76)

Contact: Erica Sellen, Committee Secretary

6. COMMENDATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS MARK ROBAK

The Committee will recognize Mark Robak (Otay Water District) for his service as a member of the Special Districts Advisory Committee.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

9. ADJOURNMENT

Attest to Posting:



Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

Any person with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may receive a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet for a meeting upon request. Any person with a disability covered under the ADA may also request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in a public meeting.



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

4a

AGENDA REPORT
Consent | Action

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Erica Sellen, Committee Secretary

SUBJECT: Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive action minutes prepared for the last meeting held on Friday, April 17, 2026. The minutes are in draft form and are presented for formal approval, subject to any corrections identified by the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Ralph M. Brown Act was enacted in 1953 and establishes standards for the public to attend and participate in meetings of local government bodies. The Brown Act requires public agencies, among other items, to maintain written minutes for qualifying meetings.

DISCUSSION

This item is for the Committee to consider approving action minutes prepared by the Committee Secretary for the April 17, 2026 meeting consistent with the Brown Act.

ANALYSIS

The attached action minutes for the April 17, 2026 meeting accurately reflect the Committee's deliberations as recorded by the Committee Secretary. A video recording of the meeting has also been posted online at www.sdlafco.org/meetings.

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City of San Diego

Vice Chair Barry Willis
Alpine Fire Protection

Jo MacKenzie
Vista Irrigation

David Drake, Alt.
Rincon del Diablo

Brigette Browning
General Public

Eileen Delaney, Alt.
General Public

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Committee approve the draft action minutes recorded and prepared for the April 17, 2026 special meeting as presented and consistent with Alternative One in the following section.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternatives are available to the Committee through a single motion:

Alternative One (recommended):

Approve the draft action minutes prepared for the April 17, 2026 meeting with any desired corrections or clarifications.

Alternative Two:

Continue to the next regular meeting and provide direction to staff as needed.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the Committee'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 as provided unless otherwise specified by the Committee.

Respectfully,



Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

Attachment: as stated

DRAFT

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
April 17, 2026**

Fallbrook Public Utility District Boardroom
990 E Mission Road
Fallbrook, California 92028

1. 10:00 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

Chair Kimberly Thorner called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Item 1a
Welcoming Comments**

Chair Thorner thanked Jack Bebee for hosting the meeting.

**Item 1b
Roll Call**

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

Members Present:

Chair Kimberly Thorner (Olivenhain MWD)
Vice Chair Jack Bebee (Fallbrook PUD)
Ann Baldridge (RCD Greater San Diego County)
Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD)
Jeff Egkan (North County FPD)
James Gordon (Deer Springs FPD)
Tracy Largent (Port of San Diego)
Albert Lau (Santa Fe ID)
Lindsay Leahy (Valley Center MWD)
Hector Martinez (South Bay ID)
Rachel Mason (Fallbrook Regional HD)
Dave McQuead (Rancho Santa Fe FPD)
Marty Miller (Vista ID)
Joel Scalzitti (Helix WD)
Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD)

Members Absent:

None

The Committee Secretary confirmed a quorum with all (15) 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 Joelle Burila; Local Government Analyst I Meghan Traynor; Communications Associate Aiden Velasquez; GIS Analyst Dieu Ngu; and Commission Clerk

Erica Sellen serving as Committee Secretary. Consultants Tom Kennedy and Michael Stein were present. Chris Palmer, Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, CSDA, was also present.

Item 1c

Pledge Of Allegiance

Jack Bebee (Fallbrook Public Utility District) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chair Thorner provided an overview and stated no changes were needed to the agenda.

3. OPEN EXPRESSION

Chair 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 registered speakers and no live email comments.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2026 (action)

The Committee considered draft action minutes prepared for the last meeting held on January 16, 2026. Recommendation to approve as presented.

b) Progress Report on 2025-2026 Workplan (information)

The Committee received an update on the adopted workplan and activities related to the 30 special projects scheduled for 2025-2026. Information only.

c) Legislative Report (information)

The Committee received a legislative update on existing and anticipated bills affecting LAFCO operations, both directly and indirectly, as part of the second-year legislative session. Information only.

On motion by Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD) and seconded by Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD), the Committee unanimously approved the Consent Calendar.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) Adopted Draft Workplan and Budget for 2026-2027 (discussion + possible action)

The Committee reviewed a draft workplan and budget for 2026-2027, which were tentatively adopted by the Commission at its March 2, 2026 meeting. The draft workplan largely rolls forward the existing special project commitments from this fiscal year that are expected to remain active past July 1st, anchored by continuing high-priority municipal service reviews involving wholesale water service providers, healthcare districts, and SANDAG. The total budget – combining operating and non-operating units – is proposed

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED ...

Item 5a Continued...

to decrease overall by (8.2%) to \$2.904 million in balanced expenses and revenues, largely attributable to the wind-down of grant activities. The operating budget is set to increase 3.4% – or \$90,379 – primarily driven by the addition of a ninth full-time position (Analyst I) and a preapproved cost-of-living adjustment, with costs partially offset through reduced consultant usage. Agency apportionments, however, are proposed to increase 18.7% – or \$407,580 – over the current fiscal year, exceeding the growth in operating expenses and entirely attributable to eliminating reserves as offsetting revenues. The item was for Committee review and feedback with the opportunity to forward specific recommendations for consideration ahead of final Commission action in May.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst I Burila.

Chair Thorner invited public comments from the following registered speaker:

- Kurt Worden, Lower Sweetwater Fire Protection District

Chair Thorner thanked Mr. Worden for his comments and asked staff to address the comment. Executive Officer Simonds responded to the comments.

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

While no formal recommendation was made, the Committee agreed to communicate the following consensus items to the Commission:

- With respect to the workplan, the Committee expressed support in concept for the Commission to pursue legislation to add a ninth voting member to the Commission with a preference that the seat be designated for an additional public member.
- With respect to the proposed budget, the Committee expressed support while communicating its collective interest for the Commission to continue to fund professional services sufficiently in order to retain consultants and their technical expertise to aid and advance the municipal service review program.

On motion by Jack Bebee (Fallbrook PUD) and seconded by James Gordon (Deer Springs FPD), the Committee unanimously recommended the Commission continue discussion and consideration of adding a ninth public member to the Commission.

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED ...

b) Draft Municipal Service Review on Carlsbad-Encinitas Region (Part I): City of Carlsbad and Carlsbad Municipal Water District (discussion)

The Committee received a draft municipal service review covering two agencies within the Carlsbad subregion: the City of Carlsbad and Carlsbad Municipal Water District (MWD). The draft report represents Part I of a broader regional municipal service review encompassing the Carlsbad-Encinitas region and is being advanced as part of the Commission's adopted workplan. The draft report evaluates the availability, need, and adequacy of key public services supporting the subregion's growth and development and includes determinations required by statute to inform future LAFCO actions, including sphere of influence updates and potential boundary changes. At its April 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft report, provided feedback to staff, and agreed the scope and content met expectations at this stage, authorizing staff to proceed with initiating a 45-day public review and comment period. The item was presented for discussion with an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback as well as formal comments and recommendations. Given the Committee's composition, the presentation focused on the Carlsbad MWD.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst II Peters.

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

General discussion ensued with overall support of the report. No action.

c) Special District Spotlight: Fallbrook Public Utility District Highlights (information)

The Committee received a presentation from General Manager Jack Bebee on recent and ongoing projects at the Fallbrook Public Utility District.

6. COMMENDATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS MARK ROBAK AND MIKE SIMS

Chair Thorner recognized and thanked Mark Robak (Otay Water District) and Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District) for their service as members of the Special Districts Advisory Committee. Chair Thorner noted that a formal commendation would be presented to Mr. Robak at a future meeting.

Chair Thorner then presented a commendation to Chief Mike Sims. Executive Officer Simonds also thanked Chief Sims for his service on the Committee.

Following the commendation, and as authorized under policy, Chair Thorner appointed Mike Smith (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District) as the newest member of the Committee, succeeding Chief Sims.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Thorner invited members of the committee to provide updates and/or information regarding their respective agencies.

- Joel Scalzitti (Helix Water District) reported his agency has completed electrification of its fleet vehicles with the support of 90% grant funding.
- Albert Lau (Santa Fe Irrigation District) reported his agency recently completed a solar project expected to generate approximately \$4 million in electricity savings.
- Chair Thorner noted that April 17 marked the close of the comment period for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulations.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

On behalf of the Executive Officer, Consultant Tom Kennedy reported the draft County Water Authority MSR is available online for review and noted San Diego LAFCO's continued commitment to the Alliance of LAFCOs. Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower supplemented the update with additional information regarding procedural next steps following presentation of the draft MSR to the Commission in May.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Special Districts Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Attest:

Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

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4b

AGENDA REPORT
Consent | Information

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee
FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Report on Adopted 2026-2027 Workplan

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive a report on the Commission's recently adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 workplan for information only.

BACKGROUND

San Diego LAFCO adopted its Fiscal Year 2026-2027 workplan at a public hearing in May 2026. The workplan includes 30 special projects organized into two categories—statutory and administrative—with priority assignments established by the Commission.

DISCUSSION

This item serves as the Committee's first report on the Commission's adopted Fiscal Year 2026-2027 workplan. A brief summary of returning and new projects follows.

Returning Projects

Of the 30 projects, 19 were carried forward from the prior fiscal year, reflecting the multi-year nature of many of the Commission's larger initiatives. Returning high-priority projects include the Healthcare Districts Municipal Service Review (MSR), SANDAG MSR, and two major white papers examining homeless services and public recreation opportunities at City of San Diego-owned reservoirs.

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New Projects

Eleven projects were added to the workplan to address emerging Commission priorities and statutory responsibilities. Many of these newly initiated efforts are in the early stages and include, among others, the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis associated with the proposed incorporation of La Jolla, recruitment of an additional analyst, and a review of LAFCO Policy L-107 (Jurisdictional Issues Associated with Proposed or Pending Changes of Organization or Reorganization). While the latter two projects are anticipated to be completed during the current fiscal year, the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis is expected to extend beyond the current fiscal year due to the complexity and statutory nature of the incorporation process.

Staff anticipates providing the Committee with periodic reports throughout the fiscal year, particularly on projects involving special districts or those of regional significance.

A complete listing of all 30 workplan projects is provided as Attachment One.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

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

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment:

- 1) 2026-2027 Workplan Status

ADOPTED WORKPLAN FY2026-2027

Status as of July 10, 2026

■ Pending

■ Underway

■ Near Complete

■ Complete

Ongoing Priorities

Type	Project	Description
Statutory	Applicant Proposals and Requests	Prioritize resources to address applicant proposals and related requests
Administrative	Targeted LAFCO Presentations	Coordinate timely public outreach; emphasis on informing stakeholders ahead of MSR work
Statutory	Workplan and Budget Management	Actively manage the workplan and budget resources with regular updates to the Commission

FY2026-2027 Priorities

#	Type	Project	Description	Status
HIGH PRIORITY				
1	Statutory	MSR Healthcare Districts	Macro service-specific study of the four healthcare districts in San Diego County	Underway
2	Statutory	MSR SANDAG	Agency-specific study of SANDAG (transportation, housing, + climate adaption planning)	Underway
3	Statutory	MSR Carlsbad-Encinitas Region: Part II	Part II of Regional Study Covering Encinitas, Leucadia WD, Olivenhain MWD + San Dieguito WD	Near Complete
4	Statutory	Proposed Incorporation: La Jolla CFA	Independent assessment of financial viability and developing key assumptions + benchmarks	Underway
5	Administrative	White Paper Homeless Services	Evaluate the scope-scale of homeless services in SD County + potential governance options	Underway
6	Statutory	MSR San Marcos Region	Regional study on City of San Marcos + special districts (Vallecitos and San Marcos FPD)	Pending
7	Statutory	MSR Vista Region	Regional study on City of Vista + special districts (Buena SD and Vista ID)	Pending
8	Administrative	White Paper Recreation @ City Reservoirs	Examine public recreation at City of SD's unincorporated reservoirs + governance alternatives	Underway
9	Administrative	Recruit + Onboard New Analyst	Expand staffing from 8.0 to 9.0 FTE through recruitment and onboarding	Pending
10	Statutory	Special Study Oceanside SCHD	Financial analysis of SCHD revenues/expenses + governance alternatives with stakeholder group	Underway

FY2026-2027 Priorities *(continued)*

#	Type	Project	Description	Status
MEDIUM PRIORITY				
11	Statutory	MSR City of San Diego	Agency-specific study covering core municipal functions (water, wastewater, public safety, etc.)	Pending
12	Administrative	Alliance of LAFCOs	Formalize Alliance organization, scope, and deliverables with member partners	Underway
13	Administrative	Website Refresh + Content Expansion	Consultant-led redesign with enhanced end-user features and expanded content	Near Complete
14	Administrative	Policy Update L-107	Review and potential update to policy covering jurisdictional disputes + applicant proposals	Pending
15	Statutory	MSR San Diego Unified Port District	Agency-specific study covering harbor, recreation, public safety, + community development	Pending
16	Statutory	MSR Solana Beach - Del Mar Region	Regional study on mid coast I-5 municipalities (Solana Beach + Del Mar) & Santa Fe ID	Pending
17	Administrative	Special Districts Advisory Committee	Administrative support with benchmark of holding three SDAC meetings in FY2027	Underway
18	Administrative	Cities Advisory Committee	Administrative support with benchmark of holding two CAC meetings in FY2027	Underway
19	Statutory	MSR South Coast Region I - Cities	Region-specific study on Cities of Chula Vista and National City	Pending
20	Statutory	MSR South Coast Region II - Districts	Region-specific study on South Bay WD, Sweetwater, Bonita Sunnyside FPD, Sweetwater FPD	Pending
LOW PRIORITY				
21	Administrative	Legislative Adding a Ninth Member	Work with legislature to add 9th voting member to resolve the structural tie-vote vulnerability	Pending
22	Administrative	Outside Audit FY2026	Independent audit of FY26 financial statements with supplemental information	Pending
23	Administrative	Nominations + Elections Special Districts	Process ISDSC nominations/elections for new four-year Regular + Alternate seat terms	Pending
24	Administrative	Alternate Public Member	Process noticing and recruitment for new four-year term for Alternate	Pending
25	Administrative	Legislative Proposal UC Berkeley Report	Develop bill with stakeholders consistent with UCB report and find author for 2027 session	Underway
26	Administrative	Legislative Proposal AB 356 (Patel)	Support two-year bill and stakeholder group assessing north county healthcare needs	Underway
27	Statutory	MSR Healthcare Districts: Addendum	Assess community healthcare needs, resources, and potential governance alternatives	Pending
28	Administrative	Annual Local Agency Directory	Update and publish annual local agency directory subject to LAFCO oversight	Pending
29	Statutory	RCD Ad Hoc Committee: Part II	Complete part II of RCD boundary true ups to inform sphere updates for local RCDs	Underway
30	Administrative	Annual SOI-MSR Registry	Update and publish annual registry of all recorded SOI and MSR actions	Pending

Bullpen – Queued for Future Consideration and/or Action

Type	Project	Description
Statutory	Policy Review Health + Safety Fee Reductions	Review options to revise existing fee reductions for proposals/requests involving public health or safety threats
Statutory	Special Study Escondido + Rincon	Study options to consolidate (functional and political) the City of Escondido and Rincon del Diablo MWD services
Administrative	Commissioner Onboarding	Develop digital toolkit to orient new Commissioners to LAFCO operations
Administrative	Legislator Outreach	Launch formal outreach program with benchmark of meeting with each local State representative in FY27
Administrative	Website and Social Media Tracking	Launch digital performance tracking program to measure visits, media reach, + engagement; establish baselines
Administrative	County Planning Groups	Establish formal communications with County Planning/Sponsor Groups; benchmark of three presentations in FY2026
Administrative	Digital Outreach	Produce videos spotlighting special projects and explaining LAFCO duties
Statutory	Policy Budget Committee	Adopt policies establishing and tasking a standing budget committee and related guiding provisions
Statutory	Pilot Grant Program	Establish pilot program to explore grant opportunities to help fund special projects at LAFCO
Statutory	MSR Silver Strand Cities	Region specific study covering Cities of Imperial Beach and Coronado
Administrative	Policy Officer Rotations	Adopt policies formalizing chair and vice chair rotation system and related guiding provisions
Administrative	Legislative Proposal SD LAFCO Composition	Explore options and pursue preferred composition change to establish odd number of voting members
Statutory	MSR San Diego County Wastewater JPAs	Service-specific study covering three JPAs providing public wastewater services: Encinitas, San Elijo, and Metro
Statutory	White Paper Community Choice	Evaluate the scope and scale of CCAs in SD County and connectivity to LAFCO duties and interests
Statutory	Outreach to Sunset/Melrose "Island"	Targeted outreach to the island between Oceanside + Vista to assess service needs + possible annexation interests
Administrative	Service + Fiscal Indicators	Develop online browser feature to depict service + fiscal indicators among local agencies in SD County
Administrative	Liaison with Local Tribes	Establish communication protocols with respect to shared interests in regional services + CEQA consultations
Statutory	Morro Hills CSD Follow Up	Coordinate and/or otherwise facilitate discussions with County Sheriff to enhance traffic enforcement within the CSD
Administrative	LAFCO Meeting Room	Explore opportunities to secure a dedicated LAFCO meeting room with scaled dais and A/V enhancements
Statutory	White Paper Garbage + Landfill Services	Evaluate the scope and scale of garbage collection and disposal services in SD County
Statutory	White Paper School Districts	Evaluate scope and scale of school districts and their baseline capacities for reference in municipal service reviews
Statutory	Policy Review Island Annexations	Consider options to define "substantially surrounded" and provide related mapping services
Administrative	LAFCO Workshop	Organize a special workshop for the Commission to discuss strategic objectives over the next five-year period
Administrative	Public Access Television	Establish public broadcasting LAFCO meetings on local government channels
Administrative	Procedural Flow Charts	Create user friendly flow charts for various LAFCO statutory processes for online publication
Statutory	Policy Fee Schedule Update	Review and update fee schedule to sync with current costs and related considerations
Statutory	Policy CEQA Guidelines	Review and update existing CEQA Implementation guidelines relative to current statute and best practices
Statutory	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities	Update DUC mapping designations (DUC) in San Diego County based on current census information
Statutory	Applicant Procedures	Streamline application materials and establish updated filing protocols
Administrative	Local Agency Finder Tool	Develop online feature for users to enter address to identify all overlapping local jurisdictions (cities and districts)
Statutory	Policy Commission Rule No. 4	Modernize Rule No. 4 and its provisions to regulate special districts' service functions and classes
Statutory	White Paper JPAs	Evaluate the status of JPA filings in SD County relative to LAFCO's task in SB 1261
Administrative	Policy Cities Advisory Committee	Coordinate with CAD in updating bylaws and related procedures to sync with current interests/priorities
Statutory	Legislative Proposal G.C. 56133	Sponsor/facilitate amendments to clarify LAFCOs' authority to determine out-of-agency exemptions in (e)

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San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

4C

AGENDA REPORT Consent | Information

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer
Joelle Burila, Analyst I

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will receive an update on legislative proposals germane to the LAFCO’s oversight and related interests during the second year of the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session. This report is presented for information only.

BACKGROUND

San Diego LAFCO staff actively monitors pending and proposed legislation affecting the LAFCO's regulatory and planning responsibilities, consistent with the Commission’s adopted workplan. Staff's monitoring efforts are supported through membership in the Alliance of LAFCOs (Alliance) and its contracted lobbyist, Politico Group, and government affairs consultant Patrick Bouteller. Staff provides the Commission with monthly legislative updates and separately presents a quarterly update to the Committee.

California State Legislature | 2025–2026 Regular Session

The California Legislature reconvened for the second year of the 2025–2026 Legislative Session in January 2026. The deadline for introducing new legislation passed in February 2026, and measures have since been referred to their respective policy committees for

Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org	Paloma Aguirre County of San Diego	Chair Kristi Becker City of Solana Beach	Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego	Vice Chair Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection	Brigitte Browning General Public
	Joel Anderson County of San Diego	Dane White City of Escondido	Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego	Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation	Eileen Delaney, Alt. General Public
	Monica M. Steppe, Alt. County of San Diego	John McCann Alt. City of Chula Vista		David Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo	

consideration. All legislation advancing through both houses must be passed by August 31, 2026, which is the statutory deadline for bill passage for the 2026 Legislative Session.

DISCUSSION

This item presents legislative updates on proposals of interest to San Diego LAFCO. A total of fourteen (14) bills are tracked: nine (9) measures that would directly affect LAFCO operations and five (5) measures that, while not directly impacting LAFCO, are of interest. Summaries and status of each bill are provided in Attachment One.

ANALYSIS

Staff characterizes the overall effect of this legislative session on LAFCO as limited. Several LAFCO-specific measures have stalled or been amended to remove LAFCO-related provisions. The most direct relevance to LAFCO is concentrated in two bills: AB 1600, which touches on municipal service review scope, and AB 356, which addresses healthcare district oversight.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the Committee'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 Committee.

On behalf of LAFCO staff,



Joelle Burila
Analyst I

Attachment:

- 1) LAFCO Tracked CA Legislative Bills as of July 10, 2026

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
ASSEMBLY BILLS							
1	AB 259	Rubio, Blanca	Open Meetings and Continued Access to Teleconferences	This bill is of statewide interest and would extend the authorization for legislative bodies of local agencies – including LAFCOs – to use modified teleconferencing procedures during declared emergencies through January 1, 2030. It preserves existing requirements related to public notice and agenda posting. San Diego LAFCO adopted a support position in March 2025. The bill passed the Assembly in 2025 and remains in the Senate Local Government Committee with no new hearing scheduled at this time.	Senate Local Government Committee	Introduced in January 2025; Last amended in April 2025	6/27/2025 In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.
2	AB 356	Patel, Darshana	Healthcare Districts in Northern San Diego County	This bill is of local interest and was initially introduced to establish a state-directed working group to assess healthcare access in northern San Diego County, with a focus on the Palomar Healthcare District's service area. In response to the Commission taking a support-if-amended position in June 2025, the bill has been amended to include LAFCO as a listed stakeholder, and in doing so connecting to the Commission's oversight of Palomar and current municipal service review activities. LAFCO Consultant Adam Wilson provided supportive testimony for the author in conjunction with them accepting the Commission's amendments. The bill passed the Assembly in 2025 and remains in the Senate Committee on Local Government with no new hearings scheduled at this time.	Senate Local Government Committee	Introduced in February 2025; Last amended in June 2025	7/10/2025 Re-referred to Com. on L. GOV.
3	AB 1600	Arambula, Joaquin	Disadvantaged Communities: Farmworker Communities	This bill is of statewide interest and would expand the definition of “disadvantaged communities” to include qualifying farmworker communities, and require CalEPA, in consultation with relevant state departments, to update screening tools and guidance to ensure their inclusion in eligibility determinations and benefit calculations. For LAFCOs, this change would affect municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates by requiring evaluation of service needs for these newly included farmworker communities. After being lifted from the Assembly Appropriations suspense file on May 14, 2026, the bill advanced to the Assembly Floor, where it passed on May 26, 2026. AB 1600 has since moved to the Senate, where it was read for the first time on May 27, 2026 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.	Senate Environmental Quality Committee	Introduced in January 2026; Last amended in March 2026	6/3/2026 Referred to Com. on E.Q.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
4	AB 1821	Pacheco, Blanca	California Public Records Act: Agency Response Time	This bill is of statewide interest and would extend the deadline for public agencies to provide an initial response to a public records request, by converting the current "calendar day" deadlines to a "business day" standard. The rationale is to give agencies – particularly smaller ones with limited staff – additional time to properly respond to requests. The bill passed the Assembly on May 27, 2026 and was sent to the Senate, where it was read for the first time on May 28, 2026. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it was read a second time and amended. The bill passed and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.	Senate Appropriations Committee	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended in June 2026	7/1/2026 Passed Senate Com. on JUD. and re-referred to Com. on APPR.
5	AB 2083	Jackson, Corey	Moreno Valley-Perris Childcare Special District	This bill is locally focused with statewide implications and, as the Moreno Valley Perris Childcare Special District Act, would establish a new special district covering the Cities of Moreno Valley and Perris and their spheres of influence for the purpose of expanding childcare capacity and operating universal childcare programs. The district would be governed by a five-member board appointed by the two cities and other designated entities. The board would develop a plan of services for LAFCO and oversee district operations, including authority to hire staff and operate or contract for childcare facilities. Notably, the bill would establish the district directly by statute, with LAFCO oversight applying thereafter. After being placed on the Assembly Appropriations suspense file in late April, the committee held the measure under submission during its May 14, 2026 fiscal review hearing, halting its advancement for the remainder of the legislative session.	Assembly Appropriations Committee – Dead	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended in April 2026	5/14/2026 In committee: Held under submission.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
SENATE BILLS							
6	SB 802	Ashby, Angelique	Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency	This bill is locally focused with an original focus to restructure the joint powers authority currently operating as the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency into a new Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency, centralizing housing and homelessness services across Sacramento County under a single regional entity. The bill passed the Senate in 2025. In its original form, the bill mandated that Sacramento LAFCO form and appoint an independent task force to facilitate the consolidation of multiple entities into the new agency, representing a bill-specific expansion of LAFCO duties into regional housing and homelessness governance. Mentions of Sacramento LAFCO were omitted from the bill on April 30, 2026. It is currently under review by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.	Assembly Committee on Appropriations	Introduced in February 2025; Last amended in June 2026	7/2/2026 Passed Committee on L. GOV and re-referred to Com. on APPR.
7	SB 910	Seyarto, Kelly	Municipal Water Districts Water Service: Indian Lands	The bill is of statewide interest with local implications and would extend, from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2032, the sunset on existing authority for municipal water districts to apply to LAFCO for authorization to provide water service to eligible Indian lands located outside district boundaries. If approved, the extension preserves an existing pathway utilized on multiple occasions by tribes in San Diego County. Following the cancellation of its March 18 hearing at the author's request, the bill remained in the Senate Committee on Local Government with no additional action taken. It did not return for further consideration and did not advance out of committee prior to the legislative deadline.	Senate Local Government Committee – Dead	Introduced in January 2026	3/12/2026 March 18 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
8	SB 994	Cabaldon, Christopher	Local Government: Nondisclosure Agreements	This bill is of statewide interest with direct LAFCO applicability and would prohibit local government officials and their staff from entering into nondisclosure agreements relating to public business that restrict information sharing among fellow officials. After being ordered to second reading under Senate Rule 28.8 on May 14, 2026 the bill passed the Senate on May 19, 2026. It has since moved to the Assembly, where it passed through the Assembly Judiciary Committee and Local Government Committee and was re-referred to the Appropriations Committee.	Assembly Appropriations Committee	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended in June 2026	7/2/2026 Passed Committee on L. GOV and re-referred to Com. on APPR.
9	SB 1291	Gonzalez, Lena	Mutual Water Companies	This bill is of statewide interest and would strengthen transparency and accountability for mutual water companies (MWCs) operating public water systems by requiring larger MWCs to offer teleconference meeting access, post notices and documents online at no charge, and annually distribute consumer confidence reports to customers. It also directs the State Water Resources Control Board to assess MWC governance and compliance by December 31, 2027, with a focus on disadvantaged communities, and recommends governance alternatives if current structures are found inadequate. After being placed on the suspense file in early May, the bill was taken up during the May 14, 2026 Senate Appropriations fiscal review hearing. The committee held the measure in committee and under submission, halting its advancement for the remainder of the legislative session.	Senate Appropriations Committee – Dead	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended in March 2026	5/14/2026 May 14 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
MONITOR ONLY (ASSEMBLY AND SENATE BILLS)							
10	AB 1383	McKinnor, Tina	Public Employees’ Retirement Benefits	This bill modifies elements of the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), lowering the maximum retirement benefit factor age from age 57 to age 55 for all Safety PEPRA retirement formulas and redefining the compensation cap established under PEPRA for Miscellaneous and Safety PEPRA members. For employees first hired on or after January 1, 2026, AB 1383 establishes new formulas: 2.5% at age 55, 2.7% at age 55, or 3% at age 55, replacing the previous PEPRA formulas of 2%, 2.5%, or 2.7% at age 57. The bill is expected to impact the pension contribution rates of public agencies. The bill passed the Assembly on January 29, 2026 and moved to the Senate. It passed Senate Com. on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement with amendments and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.	Senate Committee on Appropriations	Introduced in February 2025; Last amended in July 2026.	7/1/26 Passed Senate Com. on L., P.E. & R. with amendments and re-referred to Com. on APPR.
11	AB 2296	Papan, Dianne	Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: Regional Housing Needs Allocation	This bill extends various timelines in the Regional Housing Needs Determination and Allocation (RHNA) process and requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide specific analysis or recommended language to local governments to remedy deficiencies in their General Plan housing elements. The bill passed the Assembly on May 27, 2026 and moved to the Senate, where it was read for the first time on May 28, 2026. It passed the Senate Housing Committee with amendments and was re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations on June 29, 2026.	Senate Committee on Appropriations	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended June 2026	6/29/2026 Referred to Com. on HOUSING.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION							
Bill Number ¹		Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
12	AB 2433	Alvarez, David	Housing Development: Density Bonus	This bill makes numerous amendments to Density Bonus Law (DBL), including establishing a by-right ministerial review process for infill housing development projects, providing additional incentives for homeownership projects, and amending floor area ratio (FAR) provisions. After passing out of Assembly Appropriations on May 13, 2026, the bill advanced to the Assembly Floor, where it passed on May 27, 2026. This bill is now in the Senate, where it was read for the first time on May 28, 2026. It passed the Senate Committees on Housing and Environmental Quality with amendments, and was re-referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations on June 30, 2026.	Senate Local Government, Housing, and Environmental Quality Committees	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended June 2026	6/30/2026 Re-referred to Com. on APPR
13	SB 866	Blakespear, Catherine	Planning and Zoning: Annual Report: Emergency Shelter	For local governments that do not receive Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program funding, this bill would require the General Plan Housing Element to include data on the unhoused population and a description of key actions the jurisdiction will take to reduce homelessness. The bill passed the Senate and was then first read in the Assembly on May 27, 2026. It passed the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development and was re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations on July 1, 2026.	Assembly Committee on Appropriations	Introduced in January 2026; Last amended June 2026	7/1/26 Passed Com. on H & C.D. with amendments. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
14	SB 1085	Durazo, Maria	Water Supply Planning: Housing Developments	This bill streamlines CEQA water supply assessment requirements for certain housing development projects by triggering earlier identification of public water systems, cutting the submission deadline from 90 to 45 days, and waiving the public meeting approval requirement. This bill passed the Senate on May 18, 2026 and was first read in the Assembly on May 19, 2026. The bill passed the Assembly Committees on Water, Parks and Wildlife and Local Government and was re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations on July 1, 2026.	Assembly Committee on Appropriations	Introduced in February 2026; Last amended June 2026	7/1/26 Passed Com. on L. GOV with amendments. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION						
Bill Number ¹	Author	Title	Summary / Notes	Current Status	Introduced / Last Amended	Last Action
PENDING LEGISLATION						
15	UC Berkely Report Legislation		Developed under the Commission’s current adopted workplan and informed by a University of California, Berkeley report, the proposal sought to strengthen LAFCO authority and accountability in addressing water and wastewater-related public health and safety concerns, while expanding transparency requirements for affected agencies and mobile home park community water systems. Although the bill did not advance this legislative session, the item has been continued to the upcoming workplan, and LAFCO staff will continue refining the proposal with stakeholders for potential introduction in 2027.			

¹ Bill numbers are hyperlinked to their respective legislative information pages

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

5a

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



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

5b

AGENDA REPORT
Business | Discussion

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Michaela Peters, Analyst II
Meghan Traynor, Analyst I

SUBJECT: Final Report on State Planning Grant |
Helping Bridge the Economic Gap of Small-Scale Farming (SALC 2.0)

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive the final report for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) 2.0 Planning Grant, prepared by LAFCO in collaboration with the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services (PDS). The report provides a framework to support the long-term viability of small-scale agriculture in San Diego County, synthesizing the project's technical analyses, stakeholder input, and implementation strategies. Its findings sharpen and quantify a familiar concern: the region's small farms remain viable but operate on thin margins – averaging roughly 13% – and are readily vulnerable to changes in water and labor costs, with water affordability emerging as the most influential factor. At its June 15, 2026 meeting, the Commission formally received and filed the report and considered options for implementing certain recommendations. Consistent with Recommendation No. 1 and at the Executive Officer's suggestion, it further directed staff to work with stakeholders on a scope of work for an agricultural water working group focused on affordable supply for the greater Escondido region – a near-term step toward the broader Regional Agricultural Water Advisory Committee contemplated in the report – for Commission consideration as early as its August 3, 2026 meeting. The item is presented to the Committee for discussion and feedback.

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BACKGROUND

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

The SALC program was created in 2014 as a component of the California Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation. It is funded primarily through California Climate Investments – the statewide program that directs cap-and-trade auction proceeds toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions – and supports both agricultural conservation easement acquisitions and planning grants. The principal goals of SALC are to:

- Protect at-risk agricultural lands from sprawl, promote infill growth within existing jurisdictions, maintain open space, and support a healthy agricultural economy.
- Further the purpose of Assembly Bill 32 by avoiding increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with conversion of agricultural lands to higher-emission uses.

Grant Application and Approval | San Diego LAFCO and County of San Diego PDS

Building upon findings from SALC 1.0 – which identified the need for commodity-specific market analyses to better understand future agricultural opportunities and constraints – San Diego LAFCO, in partnership with PDS, submitted a SALC planning grant application in September 2022.¹ The proposal sought to quantify and evaluate economic challenges facing local agricultural producers, particularly small-scale farms, and identify opportunities for public policy interventions to strengthen long-term agricultural viability. Following Commission authorization and subsequent approval by the California Department of Conservation, LAFCO was awarded a two-year planning grant in the full amount of \$500,000, with project implementation commencing in June 2023.²

San Diego LAFCO subsequently partnered with Agricultural Impact Associates and Rick Engineering, working collaboratively with PDS. The grant was organized around six primary tasks and deliverables: Grant Management; Market Analysis; Gap Analysis; Outreach & Education; Strategic Action Plan; and Final Report (*Cultivating Solutions*).

DISCUSSION

The Committee will receive the final report for SALC 2.0 (*Cultivating Solutions*), marking completion of the planning grant. The report synthesizes the project's market and gap analyses, stakeholder engagement, and Strategic Action Plan into a single framework for supporting the long-term viability of agriculture in San Diego County.

¹ The SALC 1.0 Final Report is provided for context as Attachment Three.

² San Diego LAFCO and PDS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August 2023 following the Commission's approval of a draft MOU at its August 7, 2023 meeting. The MOU formalized roles and responsibilities in proceeding with SALC 2.0 and designated specific tasks to San Diego LAFCO and PDS. The grant was originally scheduled through September 2025 and has since been amended to reach completion by June 2026.

The report is premised on the recognition that protecting farmland and maintaining profitable farming operations are fundamentally linked. Accordingly, it evaluates whether small-scale agriculture in San Diego County remains economically viable under varying conditions and at what operating margins. The analysis is anchored by a countywide market assessment of key indicators – including the number of farms, acreage in production, operating expenses, and earnings – using recent USDA Census of Agriculture data, the San Diego County Crop Report, and operating data provided by local producers. A complementary gap analysis examines profitability at the individual farm level by modeling four representative crops – avocados, lemons, strawberries, and tomatoes – and evaluating how changes in water costs, labor expenses, market prices, and crop yields affect financial performance. A more detailed discussion of the report's analytical approach and findings, organized by project task, is provided in the Final Report (Attachment One).

Based on these findings, the report identifies several recommendations to support the long-term viability of the region's agricultural sector, including the following three:

1. Coordinate with regional partners to explore establishment of a Regional Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to address water affordability and water-use efficiency.
2. Expand consideration of agricultural economic conditions and contributions in Municipal Service Reviews and other planning activities, where appropriate.
3. Support implementation of the Strategic Action Plan through the development of an implementation strategy and periodic progress reporting, including reporting to the Commission and its Committees.

At its June 15, 2026 meeting, the Commission received and filed the final report and considered options for implementing certain recommendations. In connection with Recommendation No. 1, and at the suggestion of the Executive Officer, the Commission directed staff to work with stakeholders to develop a scope of work to establish and moderate an agricultural water working group focused on affordable water supply for the greater Escondido region, for the Commission's future consideration.

ANALYSIS

See Attachment One.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for discussion and feedback only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES

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

- 1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
- 2) Discuss item and provide feedback as requested.

On behalf of staff,



Michaela Peters

Local Government Analyst II

Attachments:

- 1) [Final Report: "Cultivating Solutions"](#) (Online only)
- 2) [Strategic Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) (Online only)
- 3) [SALC 1.0: Final Report](#) (Online only)
- 4) [SALC 2.0: Market Analysis](#) (Online only)
- 5) [SALC 2.0 Gap Analysis](#) (Online only)
- 6) Correspondence/SALC Recommendation – Edward Grangetto

Appendix A

The SALC 2.0 grant produced four primary work products that collectively informed the project's recommendations. The Market Analysis established baseline economic conditions affecting agriculture in San Diego County, the Gap Analysis evaluated crop-level profitability, the Strategic Action Plan identified potential implementation strategies, and the Final Report integrated these findings into a single framework intended to support long-term agricultural sustainability.

Supporting these efforts were project management and stakeholder engagement activities, including grant administration, consultant coordination, and outreach to agricultural producers, partner agencies, and other interested parties. While these activities did not result in technical reports, they provided the administrative and public engagement foundation necessary to complete the project's analytical and planning components.

A brief summary of key tasks follows.

Task 2 | Market Analysis

The Market Analysis evaluated countywide agricultural trends, economic conditions, and cost pressures affecting producers. Key findings follow.

1. **Trends:** San Diego County is currently losing an average of 18 acres of farmland per day and one farm approximately every three and one-half days.
2. **Expenses:** Analysis of 4,031 farms identified property taxes as the most common expense and labor as the largest operating cost, averaging \$283,334 per farm in 2022. Most farm expenses increased faster than inflation over the preceding 20 years, particularly fertilizer, chemicals, and labor.
3. **Profits:** Financial data provided by local producers showed significant fluctuations in operating profit over time, with average margins of approximately 13% in 2022 – below the 25% threshold commonly cited as indicative of long-term financial health.

The Market Analysis established the baseline economic conditions affecting agriculture in San Diego County and provided the empirical foundation for subsequent phases of the SALC 2.0 project. Findings highlighted the scale of agricultural land conversion, increasing cost pressures, and profitability concerns affecting the long-term viability of farming operations.

The full report (Market Analysis) is provided as Attachment Four.

Task 3 | Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis examined profitability challenges associated with four targeted crops — strawberries, lemons, tomatoes, and avocados.³ Key findings include:

- Profitability varied significantly among the four crops evaluated.
- Under modeled 2022 conditions, avocados, lemons, and tomatoes generated positive net returns, while strawberries generated negative returns.⁴
- Profitability was found to be highly sensitive to water costs, labor expenses, market prices, and crop yields, with water affordability emerging as a particularly significant factor affecting agricultural viability.

These findings informed development of the Strategic Action Plan and Final Report.⁵ The analysis also demonstrated that relatively small changes in water costs, labor expenses, market prices, and crop yields could significantly affect profitability outcomes, underscoring the importance of addressing agricultural affordability and operational resilience.

The project also produced the Agricultural Profitability Assessment Tool (AG-PAT), an Excel-based model that allows users to evaluate farm-level profitability under varying cost, yield, and market scenarios. The tool is publicly available on San Diego LAFCO's website.

The full report (Gap Analysis) is provided as Attachment Five.

Task 5 | Strategic Action Plan

The Strategic Action Plan served as a foundational component of the broader Final Report and translated the findings of the Market Analysis and Gap Analysis into implementation-oriented strategies. Developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, including the Forum for Cultivating Solutions and coordination with agricultural partners and public agencies, the Strategic Action Plan identified a series of flexible “Tools” and “Field Actions” intended to support agricultural sustainability in San Diego County, and organized around four long-term goals, or “Seeds”:

1. Improve infrastructure and systems supporting local producers;
2. Grow consumer awareness and local market demand;
3. Cultivate a supportive policy environment; and
4. Foster regional alignment and agricultural advocacy.

³ The four crops were selected based on stakeholder input received through project workshops, surveys, interviews, and other outreach activities, and were identified as commodities warranting focused analysis due to their economic significance and/or unique production challenges within San Diego County.

⁴ Crop-specific findings showed avocados were highly sensitive to water costs, yield variability, and price fluctuations; lemons faced price volatility despite relatively stable production costs; strawberries achieved high gross revenues but operated with narrow margins due to labor and market pressures; and tomatoes were constrained by labor intensity, price competition, and limited economies of scale.

⁵ Complementing these technical analyses, stakeholder engagement activities — including workshops, public review periods, interviews, and coordination with producers, partner organizations, public agencies, and underserved agricultural communities — helped validate findings, identify implementation priorities, and inform the development of the Strategic Action Plan and Final Report.

Collectively, the Strategic Action Plan established an implementation framework consisting of policy, programmatic, partnership, and educational strategies intended to support agricultural sustainability and guide future action by public agencies, agricultural organizations, and other stakeholders.

Task 6 | Final Report (“Cultivating Solutions”)

The Final Report, titled *Cultivating Solutions*, represents the culminating deliverable of the SALC 2.0 grant and integrates the project's technical analyses, stakeholder engagement findings, implementation strategies, and supporting tools into a single framework for advancing agricultural sustainability in San Diego County. In addition to consolidating prior work products, the report identifies implementation priorities, a pilot project concept focused on agricultural water affordability and efficiency, opportunities for continued regional collaboration, and performance measures intended to support ongoing implementation and monitoring efforts. Among its recommendations are three areas in which San Diego LAFCO may have a potential future role:

1. Coordinate with regional partners to establish a Regional Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to evaluate the impacts of state and local water policies on agriculture and identify opportunities to improve agricultural water affordability and efficiency;
2. Expand consideration of agricultural economics within local planning efforts, including Municipal Service Reviews, to better recognize and communicate the contributions of the region's agricultural industry; and,
3. Develop an implementation strategy and provide annual progress reports to the Commission and stakeholders regarding the status of Strategic Action Plan recommendations.

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Edward Grangetto

Chat 1 White Paper Establishing the City of Escondido as the Demonstration Model 6.7.2026

WHITE PAPER

Establishing the City of Escondido as the Demonstration Model for Agricultural Water Resilience and Farmland Preservation in San Diego County

Prepared for:

San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

Supporting Implementation of the SALC 2.0 Strategic Action Plan

Executive Summary

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC 2.0) initiative seeks practical, scalable solutions that address one of the greatest threats facing San Diego County agriculture: the widening economic gap confronting small-scale and family-owned farming operations.

No challenge is more immediate than the cost and availability of irrigation water.

The City of Escondido has already demonstrated leadership through its recycled water program serving local avocado growers and agricultural operations. As agricultural producers throughout San Diego County face increasing imported water costs, prolonged drought pressures, climate uncertainty, and development pressures, Escondido offers a unique opportunity to become a countywide demonstration project for agricultural resilience.

This white paper recommends that the SALC 2.0 Final Report designate the City of Escondido as a "Working Model for Agricultural Water Resilience and Preservation" and establish a formal collaborative framework among:

- San Diego LAFCO
- County of San Diego Planning & Development Services
- City of Escondido
- Escondido Growers for Agricultural Preservation (EGAP)
- Local agricultural producers
- Regional water agencies

The purpose of this collaboration would be to immediately implement a replicable framework that integrates recycled water, agricultural preservation, economic sustainability, and farmland protection into a single operational model that can be adapted throughout San Diego County.

Why Escondido Is the Ideal Demonstration Community

1. Existing Agricultural Water Infrastructure

Unlike many communities that would require substantial capital investment before implementation could begin, Escondido already possesses:

- Existing recycled water production capabilities
- Established distribution infrastructure
- Agricultural customers currently utilizing recycled water
- Operational experience serving avocado production
- Municipal commitment to water sustainability

As a result, Escondido can move from planning to implementation faster than any other jurisdiction in San Diego County.

2. Direct Connection Between Water Affordability and Farmland Preservation

The SALC 2.0 process recognizes that farmland preservation cannot occur without economically viable farming.

For many avocado growers:

- Water is the single largest operating expense.
- Escalating water costs force acreage reductions.
- Agricultural lands become vulnerable to conversion.
- Generational farming operations become economically unsustainable.

Lower-cost recycled water provides one of the few immediately available tools capable of improving farm economics without requiring significant public subsidy.

Protecting agriculture therefore requires protecting affordable agricultural water supplies.

3. Alignment with State Climate and Sustainability Objectives

Expanding agricultural recycled water use advances multiple statewide priorities:

- Water reuse
- Drought resilience
- Groundwater sustainability
- Climate adaptation
- Reduction of imported water dependence
- Agricultural preservation
- Sustainable land-use planning

The proposed Escondido model directly supports the goals of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program and demonstrates measurable climate benefits.

Recommended New SALC 2.0 Strategic Action

Cultivating Solutions Recommendation

Establish the Escondido Agricultural Resource Stewardship & Reuse Partnership (EASRP)

SALC 2.0 should recommend creation of a formal implementation partnership that transforms Escondido into a countywide demonstration model for agricultural water resilience.

The partnership would include:

San Diego LAFCO

Role:

- Regional coordination
- Policy oversight
- Replication strategy development
- Performance monitoring
- Annual reporting

County of San Diego

Role:

- Agricultural preservation planning
- Land-use coordination
- Grant support
- Integration into regional agricultural initiatives

City of Escondido

Role:

- Recycled water program administration
- Infrastructure planning
- Agricultural water delivery
- Demonstration project implementation

Escondido Growers for Agricultural Preservation (EGAP)

Role:

- Local grower representation
- Program oversight
- Performance review
- Stakeholder engagement
- Grower recruitment and participation

Agricultural Producers

Role:

- Participation
- Water-use reporting
- Agricultural viability monitoring
- Best-practice implementation

Immediate Implementation Opportunity

Integrate SALC 2.0 Recommendations into the Escondido Agricultural Recycled Water Plan

The City of Escondido can immediately become the first jurisdiction in San Diego County to incorporate SALC 2.0 recommendations into a municipal agricultural water management framework.

Recommended actions include:

Action 1

Expand agricultural recycled water enrollment opportunities.

Action 2

Identify priority agricultural preservation zones.

Action 3

Develop long-term agricultural water reliability targets.

Action 4

Establish agricultural sustainability performance metrics.

Action 5

Create annual reporting mechanisms documenting:

- Acres preserved
- Water delivered
- Farm participation
- Economic impacts
- Climate benefits

Proposition 218 Considerations

A critical implementation opportunity exists through appropriately structured recycled water rate policies.

Existing legal analyses have demonstrated that Proposition 218 does not prohibit differential recycled water rates when those rates are properly supported and consistent with cost-of-service principles.

Consequently, Escondido has an opportunity to evaluate agricultural recycled water pricing strategies that:

- Improve participation
- Increase agricultural competitiveness
- Encourage long-term agricultural retention
- Support regional sustainability objectives

Such approaches should be evaluated through appropriate legal, engineering, and financial review processes.

This represents one of the most significant opportunities available to strengthen agricultural viability without requiring ongoing public subsidy.

Measuring Success

The Escondido model should establish measurable outcomes over a five-year period.

Suggested performance indicators include:

Agricultural Outcomes

- Agricultural acreage retained
- Avocado acreage preserved
- Number of participating growers
- Reduction in agricultural land conversion pressure

Water Outcomes

- Recycled water utilization
- Reduction in imported water dependency
- Water supply reliability improvements

Economic Outcomes

- Farm operating cost reductions
- Agricultural revenue retention
- Local agricultural employment support

Climate Outcomes

- Water reuse expansion
 - Drought resilience improvements
 - Sustainable resource management metrics
-

Replication Framework for San Diego County

The ultimate value of the Escondido initiative extends beyond city boundaries.

The demonstration project would create a framework that could be adapted by:

- Fallbrook
- Valley Center
- Rainbow
- Bonsall
- Pauma Valley
- San Pasqual Valley
- Other agricultural communities throughout San Diego County

The result would be a practical roadmap for connecting recycled water resources with agricultural preservation objectives on a regional scale.

Why Escondido Should Be the SALC 2.0 "Poster Child"

Escondido represents the rare convergence of:

- Existing recycled water infrastructure
- Active agricultural production
- Strong avocado industry presence
- Immediate implementation capability
- Measurable outcomes
- Replication potential
- Alignment with State SALC goals
- Regional leadership opportunity

Most importantly, Escondido offers the ability to move beyond planning and demonstrate results.

While many agricultural preservation strategies require years of study and significant new funding, the Escondido model can begin implementation immediately using existing infrastructure, existing agricultural partnerships, and existing community support.

For this reason, the SALC 2.0 Final Report should formally recognize the City of Escondido as San Diego County's pilot demonstration community for agricultural recycled water innovation, agricultural economic resilience, and long-term farmland preservation.

Conclusion

SALC 2.0 seeks actionable solutions capable of narrowing the economic gap facing small-scale agriculture.

Affordable and reliable irrigation water is the single most important factor affecting the future viability of agriculture in San Diego County.

Escondido has already established the foundation necessary to demonstrate a practical solution.

By creating the Escondido Agricultural Resource Stewardship & Reuse Partnership and integrating SALC 2.0 recommendations into the City's Agricultural Recycled Water Plan, San Diego County can establish a replicable model that protects agriculture, strengthens farm economics, advances climate goals, and preserves working landscapes for future generations.

The recommendation is straightforward:

Designate Escondido as the SALC 2.0 Demonstration Community and utilize its recycled agricultural water program as the countywide model for agricultural resilience and preservation.

This draft is written at a policy-board level. Once you provide the actual SALC 2.0 report language and the three supporting Escondido reports, I can strengthen it considerably by incorporating their findings, economic data, Proposition 218 legal analysis, water cost comparisons, acreage preservation metrics, and specific implementation recommendations so it reads as an official companion white paper for the LAFCO Board rather than a conceptual framework.



San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

5C

AGENDA REPORT Business | Information

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Michaela Peters, Analyst II
Adam Wilson, LAFCO Consultant

SUBJECT: Resource Conservation Districts 2.0 Update

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive an update on the Commission's RCDs 2.0 initiative, a workplan priority involving the region's three resource conservation districts (RCDs): Mission RCD (MRCD), Upper San Luis Rey RCD (USLRRC), and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC). RCDs 2.0 builds on the Commission's earlier RCD Ad Hoc effort (RCDs 1.0), which implemented recommendations from the 2021 county-wide Municipal Service Review (MSR) on RCDs by establishing a Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address unauthorized out-of-agency services between the districts. The current phase focuses on aligning district boundaries with actual service areas through boundary reorganizations and, where appropriate, consolidation. Since February 2025, the RCDs 2.0 working group has met nine times – most recently in June 2026 – and continue exploring reorganization alternatives including consolidation. This item is presented for Committee information.

BACKGROUND

Municipal Service Review on RCDs + Key Recommendation

San Diego LAFCO completed a countywide MSR on RCDs in February 2021. Among its principal findings, the MSR concluded the RCDs should align existing and future service activities with

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Alpine Fire Protection

Jo MacKenzie
Vista Irrigation

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Rincon del Diablo

Brigitte Browning
General Public

Eileen Delaney, Alt.
General Public

their jurisdictional boundaries, with any out-of-agency services authorized through the LAFCO approval process established under Government Code section 56133. The MSR also recommended establishing an advisory committee to assist in implementing these and other key recommendations, including evaluating opportunities for functional and/or political consolidations. These recommendations led to two separate but related efforts referred to as RCD 1.0 and RCD 2.0, as further detailed below.

RCDs 1.0 | Ad-Hoc Committee + Master MOU

On August 1, 2022, the Commission established a nine-member RCD Ad Hoc Committee to implement the MSR recommendations, consisting of representatives from the three RCDs together with members representing the agricultural, water, and fire protection sectors. The Committee's initial phase of work (RCDs 1.0) focused on resolving unauthorized out-of-agency service activities occurring between the districts. These efforts culminated in the adoption of a master MOU – provided as Attachment One – by all three RCDs, establishing a coordinated framework for providing out-of-agency services and guiding future interagency projects.

Transition to RCDs 2.0 | Service Designations and Boundary Realignment

The Commission's adopted workplan continues to prioritize implementation of the MSR recommendations through the next phase of work (RCDs 2.0), transitioning the former ad hoc committee into a working group.¹ Current efforts are centered on two primary objectives:

- (a) Developing contemporary RCD service function and class designations as required under LAFCO statute, and
- (b) Facilitating coordinated boundary changes to eliminate reliance on out-of-agency service activities currently addressed through the MOU.

Since February 2025, LAFCO staff (Analyst Michaela Peters and consultant Adam Wilson) have met with the working group on nine occasions to evaluate existing district boundaries and potential reorganization alternatives.

DISCUSSION

This item is for the Committee to receive an update on one of the Commission's adopted workplan activities — RCDs 2.0. As part of this ongoing initiative, the working group continues to actively explore reorganization alternatives to achieve boundary realignment as well as consolidation options with the overall goal of advancing the Commission's earlier MSR recommendations. Should discussions continue to advance in either direction, the districts would be required to file a formal application with the Commission, including accompanying

¹ The Commission approved modifying the Ad Hoc composition for purposes of 2.0 down to six to no longer include three at-large members. The current composition includes the General Manager and one board member from each of the three RCDs.

resolutions of application with proposed boundary changes, for formal consideration in accordance with applicable law and Commission policies.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES

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

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

On behalf of staff,



Michaela Peters

Local Government Analyst II

Attachments:

- 1) Master Memorandum of Understanding between RCDs (May 2023)

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**MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO
COUNTY, MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND
UPPER SAN LUIS REY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 56133**

This Master Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, with its principal place of business located at 11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside, CA 92040 (hereinafter referred to as “RCDGSDC”), the Mission Resource Conservation District, with its principal place of business located at 130 East Alvarado Street, Fallbrook CA 92028 (hereinafter referred to as “Mission RCD”) and the Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District, with its principal place of business located at 34928 Valley Center Road, Valley Center CA 92092 (hereinafter referred to as “San Luis Rey RCD”) (collectively the “Districts”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Resource Conservation Districts, under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code, section 9408, are allowed and encouraged to cooperate and enter into agreements with other Resource Conservation Districts to accomplish the purpose of said Districts, which is to conserve natural resources and to provide conservation services; and,

WHEREAS, the RCDGSDC, Mission RCD and San Luis Rey RCD would like to establish a framework for the Districts to provide outreach and technical assistance and to meet the need for that service with their collective jurisdictional boundaries as more fully described in Exhibit A hereto; and

WHEREAS, one or more of the Districts may be awarded grants or contracts on an ongoing basis requiring the need for technical assistance and outreach in the jurisdictional boundaries of one or more of the other Districts.,

NOW THEREFORE, the Districts mutually agree, effective on the date of the last signature, and within the limitations of authorities, resources, and established policies of the Districts, including, but not limited to, compliance with California Government Code, section 56133 and , if required by law, written consent of the San Diego Local Agency Formation (“LAFCO”), as follows:

ARTICLE I. SCOPE OF WORK; STATUS OF PARTIES; COOPERATION.

- A. Pursuant to the grant or contract attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated by reference, each District will provide the scope of services within its own boundary and within the jurisdictional boundaries of the other Districts as set forth in Exhibits C and D, respectively (“Scope of Work”). . The Districts further agree to comply with all requirements of any applicable subgrant or subcontract, which is attached hereto as Exhibit E and incorporated by reference.

The Districts agree to undertake, carry out and complete, in a satisfactory and competent manner, all of the work and services set forth in the Scope of Work attached hereto as Exhibits C and D and comply with the requirements set forth in the grants or subgrants or contracts or subcontracts attached hereto and Exhibit B and E, respectively.

In addition to the specific services and formal reports required hereunder, the Districts agree that each District will at all times during the performance of this MOU maintain close liaison with the director of the other Districts in order to assure well-integrated and coordinated efforts.

- B. The Districts shall perform all work under this MOU in a skillful, competent and timely manner, consistent with the standards generally recognized as being employed by professionals in the same discipline in the State of California. Each District represents and warrants that it is skilled in the professional calling necessary to perform the services. Each District represents and warrants that all of their employees and subcontractors shall have sufficient skill and experience to perform the services assigned to them. Each District further represents and warrants that it, its employees and subcontractors or subconsultants have all licenses, permits, qualifications and approvals of whatever nature that are legally required to perform the services, and that such licenses and approvals shall be maintained throughout the term of this MOU. Each District shall keep itself fully informed of and in compliance with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations in any manner affecting the performance of the work and shall give all notices required by law.

ARTICLE II. ADMINISTRATION OF AGREEMENT.

Performance of duties and responsibilities under this MOU shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director (or his/her designee) of each District as identified below:

Ann Baldridge, serving as RCDGSDC's contact person.
Name, serving as Mission RCD's contact person.
Name, serving as San Luis Rey RCD's contact person.

Each District shall promptly notify the other Districts, of any change of such personnel or designee.

ARTICLE III. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.

The period of performance of this MOU shall be for the term set forth in the grant or contract attached hereto as Exhibit B.

ARTICLE IV. COMPENSATION AND MAXIMUM COST.

In full and complete consideration of the Districts' performance under this MOU, each

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District shall be reimbursed for allowable costs incurred in providing the work required pursuant to this MOU and specifically as set forth in Exhibit F hereto, which is incorporated by reference.

MOU expenditures shall be in accordance with Exhibit F. Minor variances of less than 10% are allowable if authorized by the applicable grant or contract and approved in writing prior to the work being performed.

ARTICLE V. PAYMENT.

The District awarded the grant or contract shall be responsible for making payments pursuant thereto. Payment to the Districts shall be made within thirty (30) days upon receipt and approval by the contact persons identified in Article II above provided an approved invoice is presented for payment showing approved payment categories, expenditures for the period covered by the invoice, and remaining balance.

All invoices must be submitted to the Executive Director of the District awarded the applicable grant or contract and contain the following certification statement: "I certify that all expenditures reported (or payment requested) are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the provisions of the MOU and applicable grant or contract." All invoices must be signed by the designated contact person or his or her designee on behalf of District seeking reimbursement or payment.

All invoices, including a final invoice, shall be received prior to expiration of the MOU.

ARTICLE VI. REPORTING

Each District will submit quarterly progress reports to the Executive Director of the District awarded the applicable grant or contract, whether or not required by a grant or contract that include work for which a Districts seeks reimbursement. The quarterly progress reports shall be submitted to the other Districts and as required by the grant or contract. Quarterly progress reports may be submitted by email, unless otherwise requested by another District.

If requested in writing, a District shall promptly, within seven (7) days, provide additional information deemed necessary by another District for quarterly progress report purposes.

In addition, and if applicable, each District shall prepare, submit, and implement a specific plan for the activities funded by the grant or contract attached hereto as Exhibit B. This specific plan shall be submitted to the other Districts with the first invoice and be referenced in quarterly progress reports.

ARTICLE VII. OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY AND WORK PRODUCT.

The Districts agree that the District awarded the grant or contract shall own and be entitled to any physical or intellectual property furnished pursuant to this MOU. All

documents, records, apparatus, equipment and other physical or intellectual property furnished by the respective Districts or produced by a District or others at said District's direction in connection with the attached grant or contract, will be and remain the sole property of the designated District.

ARTICLE VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY.

The Districts acknowledge that during the performance of this MOU, each District (and its employees and agents) may have access to and become acquainted with various confidential matters, proprietary information, innovations, processes, information records and specifications owned by and/or used by the other Districts in connection with the operation of its business including, without limitation, business processes, as well as strategic planning, marketing and financial operations and methods, trade secrets, customer, lists, accounts and procedures. The Districts and their employees and agents will not disclose any confidential information, directly or indirectly, or use any of the confidential information in any manner, either during the term of this MOU or at any time thereafter, except as required in the course of carrying out this MOU or as required by law. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the termination of the MOU and the obligation of confidentiality shall remain in force for three (3) years from the date of termination of this MOU.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

The Districts shall maintain financial management systems during the term of the MOU capable of providing the following associated with any grant, contract or subcontract that is subject to this MOU:

- accurate, current and complete disclosure of the financial activity under this MOU;
- records that identify the source and application of the particular District's funds;
- effective control over and accountability for all funds, property and other assets;
- comparison of actual outlays with budgeted MOU amounts;
- consistency with the applicable regulatory cost principles; and
- accounting records supported by source documentation.

ARTICLE X. RECORDS RETENTION AND AUDIT.

Each District shall have access to and the right to examine and audit directly, during normal business hours, only the pertinent books, documents, papers and records associated with any grant, contract, or subcontract that is subject to this MOU of the other Districts up to a period of ten (10) years beyond the termination of the MOU.

ARTICLE XI. HOLD HARMLESS.

To the fullest extent under the law, each District shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other Districts, their officers, employees and agents from and against any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages arising out of a specific District's performance under this MOU but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees or claims for injury or damages are caused by or {Client Files/01147/2/K/S0723508.DOCX}

result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the District, its officers, agents or employees.

ARTICLE XII. INSURANCE.

Each District shall, at its sole cost and expense, procure and maintain throughout the term of this MOU, the following insurance coverage:

- A. Comprehensive General Liability insurance providing coverage against claims for Bodily Injury or Death, and Property Damage. Such insurance shall provide protection to the limit of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage.
- B. Workers' Compensation insurance statutory coverage including Employers Liability with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.
- C. Comprehensive Automobile Liability with limits not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence, combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including coverage for owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

This insurance coverage shall name the other Districts and each of their directors, officers, agents and employees as additionally insured and shall be sufficient to meet the requirements set forth in the grant or contract attached hereto as Exhibits B and E.

ARTICLE XIII. WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

Each District affirms that it is aware of the provisions of §3700 of the Labor Code, which requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self- insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and each District affirms that it will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work under this MOU.

ARTICLE XIV. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION.

Certification of Compliance: By signing this Agreement, the Districts, their contractors, or subcontractors hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of State of California, compliance with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 (Government Code 8350 *et seq.*) and have or will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:

- A. Publish a statement notifying employees, contractors, and subcontractors that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees, contractors, or subcontractors for violations, as required by

Government Code Section 8355(a)(1).

- B. Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program, as required by Government Code Section 8355(a)(2) to inform employees, contractors, or subcontractors about all of the following:
 - 1. The danger of drug abuse in the workplace.
 - 2. Districts' policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
 - 3. Any available counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and
 - 4. Penalties that may be imposed upon employees, contractors, and subcontractors for drug abuse violations.
- C. Provide, as required by Government Code Sections 8355(a)(3), that every employee, contractor, and/or subcontractor who works under this MOU:
 - 1. Will receive a copy of the Districts' drug-free policy statement.
 - 2. Will agree to abide by terms of Districts' condition of employment, contract or subcontract.

ARTICLE XV. TERMINATION.

Each District shall use its best efforts to provide the services required herein at the time and in the manner herein provided. This MOU may be terminated by one or more of the Districts at any time, with cause, upon the giving of thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other Districts. Said notice shall be given as provided in Article XX. In the event of termination, no new contract, grant, or subcontract shall be entered that would be subject to this MOU. Each District shall be entitled to payment for acceptable, allowable and completed work performed under this MOU, and for all non-cancellable obligations made in connection with such work, through the date of termination. Any prepaid, but unearned funds shall be promptly returned to, the appropriate District.

Notwithstanding any termination pursuant to this Article XV or any expiration of the period of performance pursuant to Article III, this MOU shall survive, and the Districts shall continue to perform any contract, grant, or subcontract entered pursuant to this MOU until such time that the contract, grant or subcontract may be validly terminated without causing a breach or undue cost to any District.

ARTICLE XVI. SEVERABILITY.

In the event that any of the provisions of this MOU are found invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part, all other provisions will nevertheless continue to be valid and enforceable with the invalid or unenforceable parts severed from the remainder of the MOU.

ARTICLE XVII. WAIVER.

The failure by any District to enforce a breach, default, delay, or omission of any other provisions of this MOU by another District will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of same or other provisions, nor as a waiver by any other District of the current or future breach, default, delay or omission of any other provisions of this

MOU by that District.

ARTICLE XVIII. GOOD FAITH MEDIATION.

In the event a dispute arises out of this MOU, the Districts will attempt to resolve said dispute informally in good faith by way of non-binding mediation. A mediator shall be mutually agreed upon by the Districts. The cost of mediation shall be paid on a prorated basis.

ARTICLE XIX. GOVERNING LAW; LABOR CODE.

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with Federal law and the laws of the State of California, including, but not limited to, the following California Labor Code prevailing wage requirements as applicable.

A. The Districts are aware of the requirements of California Labor Code Sections 1720 et seq. and 1770 et seq., which require the payment of prevailing wage rates and the performance of other requirements on certain "public works" and "maintenance" projects ("Prevailing Wage Laws"). If the services are being performed as part of an applicable "public works" or "maintenance" project, as defined by the Prevailing Wage Laws, and if the total compensation is \$1,000 or more, each District agrees to fully comply with such Prevailing Wage Laws. Each District shall defend, indemnify, and hold the other Districts, and their officials, officers, employees, and agents free and harmless from any claims, liabilities, costs, penalties or interest arising out of any failure or alleged failure to comply with the Prevailing Wage Laws. It shall be mandatory upon the Districts and all subcontractors to comply with all California Labor Code provisions, which include but are not limited to prevailing wages (Labor Code Sections 1771, 1774 and 1775), employment of apprentices (Labor Code Section 1777.5), certified payroll records (Labor Code Sections 1771.4 and 1776), hours of labor (Labor Code Sections 1813 and 1815) and debarment of contractors and subcontractors (Labor Code Section 1777.1). The requirement to submit certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner under Labor Code section 1771.4 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Section 1771.4.

B. If any portion of the work is being performed as part of an applicable "public works" or "maintenance project, then pursuant to Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, the Districts and all subcontractors performing such services must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. The Districts shall maintain registration for the duration of the work performed pursuant to the MOU and require the same of any subcontractors, as applicable. The work under this MOU may also be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. It shall be each Districts sole responsibility to comply with all applicable registration and labor compliance requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Districts registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works

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

5d

AGENDA REPORT
Business | Information

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer
Aiden Velasquez, Communications Associate

SUBJECT: Workplan Update |
San Diego LAFCO Website Refresh + Content Expansion

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will receive an update on a project in San Diego LAFCO's adopted FY2026–2027 workplan – carried forward from the prior fiscal year and underway with consultant Chase Design – focusing on redesigning the LAFCO website with an emphasis on aesthetics, accessibility, usability, expanded content, and ongoing accessibility (ADA/Section 508) compliance. The project also includes refreshing the LAFCO logo to align with the redesigned site and establish a cohesive visual identity. A temporary landing page featuring the new design is scheduled to launch at the end of July 2026, with the full website on schedule for completion by the end of the calendar year. Because the site is still under development, staff is bringing this item to the Committee specifically to invite early input – both on best practices and on the district-facing information and functions the new site should prioritize. The Committee will receive a verbal report and visual preview, with the opportunity to provide feedback.

Administration

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City of San Diego

Vice Chair Barry Willis
Alpine Fire Protection

Jo MacKenzie
Vista Irrigation

David Drake, Alt.
Rincon del Diablo

Brigitte Browning
General Public

Eileen Delaney, Alt.
General Public

BACKGROUND

Adopted Workplan & Website Refresh + Content Expansion

San Diego LAFCO's current fiscal year workplan includes 30 projects and is divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – along with priority assignments set by the Commission. The scheduled project includes a comprehensive redesign of the website to enhance the end-user experience, together with a refresh of the San Diego LAFCO logo to ensure both reflect a cohesive and modern visual design.

DISCUSSION

This item is for the Committee to receive an update on one of San Diego LAFCO's workplan projects involving the redesign of the agency's website and, importantly, to gather the Committee's input while the site is still under development. Communications Associate Aiden Velasquez, who is serving as project manager, will provide a verbal report, including a visual preview of the proposed website and updated agency logo.

Where the Project Stands

LAFCO staff and consultant Chase Design (Carlsbad) continue to advance the redesign, with initial efforts focused on the technical and logistical work of moving from the current website host (Granicus) to an independent, LAFCO-managed platform. Key elements include:

- **New domain:** migrating from the agency's existing .org domain to a .ca.gov domain, consistent with state guidance.
- **Accessibility compliance:** contracting with DocAccess to ensure ongoing accessibility of website documents.
- **Reorganized content:** restructuring the site for a more intuitive, streamlined experience with improved navigation and fewer, more comprehensive webpages.
- **Refreshed visual identity:** expanding the scope beyond functionality to include a refresh of the San Diego LAFCO logo for a cohesive look across the redesigned site.
- **Phased rollout + temporary landing page:** launching a temporary landing page at the end of July 2026 that features the new logo and design, providing continuity between platforms while the full site is finalized; the redesigned website remains on schedule for completion by the end of the calendar year.

Feedback from the Committee

LAFCO staff would welcome Committee input on the following given its vantage point across the region's special districts:

- What information is most in demand – and hardest to find — on the current site
- How to organize content and navigation so it is easier to reach
- Accessibility and usability practices that work well from districts' own experiences
- Other agency websites worth modeling

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information and feedback.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the Committee's agenda for information 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 staff,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aiden Velasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Aiden Velasquez
Communications Associate

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

5e

AGENDA REPORT
Business | Action

July 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Erica Sellen, Committee Secretary

SUBJECT: Approval of Meeting Calendar and Special District Spotlight

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (Committee) will consider approving its regular meeting schedule for the remainder of 2026 and the 2027 calendar year. Staff recommends the Committee approve quarterly meetings on the third Friday of October 2026 and January, April, July, and October 2027 – consistent with its policy. The Committee will also consider confirming the next round of Special District Spotlight hosts and meeting locations.

BACKGROUND

Policy and Practice

The Committee’s adopted policy provides that the Committee shall meet on the third Friday of the first month of each quarter unless a meeting is canceled or rescheduled due to holidays or an anticipated lack of business. The policy further provides that regular meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. at the County of San Diego Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego. At the discretion of the Chair and/or Executive Officer, meetings may instead be held at another location.

Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org	Paloma Aguirre County of San Diego	Chair Kristi Becker City of Solana Beach	Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego	Vice Chair Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection	Brigitte Browning General Public
	Joel Anderson County of San Diego	Dane White City of Escondido	Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego	Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation	Eileen Delaney, Alt. General Public
	Monica M. Steppe, Alt. County of San Diego	John McCann Alt. City of Chula Vista		David Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo	

DISCUSSION

This item provides the Committee with an opportunity to establish its meeting schedule for the remainder of 2026 and the 2027 calendar year. It also provides an opportunity to continue the Committee's Special District Spotlight program, through which member districts may volunteer to host a meeting. Hosting a Committee meeting allows districts to highlight recent accomplishments, innovative programs, and future initiatives. Host districts may also, if desired, offer a tour of their facilities to provide Committee members and staff greater insight into their operations.

Past Special District Spotlight Hosts

HOST	AGENCY	MEETING DATE
Kimberly Thorner	Olivenhain Municipal Water District	September 20, 2024
Mike Sims	Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District	April 18, 2025
Dave McQuead	Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District	July 18, 2025
Hector Martinez	South Bay Water	October 17, 2025
Paul Bushee	Leucadia Wastewater District	January 16, 2026
Jack Bebee	Fallbrook Public Utility District	April 17, 2026

ANALYSIS

The proposed meeting schedule is consistent with the Committee's adopted policy and recent practice of holding regular quarterly meetings on the third Friday of the first month of each quarter. No special meetings are proposed at this time.¹

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Committee approve regular quarterly meetings held on the third Friday of the following months: October 2026 and January, April, July and October 2027 as well as confirm Special District hosts and meeting locations for the approved meeting dates. This recommendation is consistent with Alternative One in the proceeding section.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternatives are available to the Committee through a single motion:

Alternative One (recommended):

(a) Approve quarterly meetings on the following dates in 2026 and 2027:

- Friday, October 16, 2026
- Friday, January 15, 2027
- Friday, April 16, 2027
- Friday, July 16, 2027
- Friday, October 15, 2027

¹ Should the need for a special meeting develop staff will work with the Chair to schedule a time and location.

Special Districts Advisory Committee

July 17, 2026 Special Meeting

Agenda Item No. 5e | Approval of Meeting Calendar and Special District Spotlight

- (b) Confirm Special District Spotlight hosts for the approved meeting dates. If a host district is not identified for a scheduled meeting, the meeting shall be held at the County of San Diego Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the Committee's agenda for information 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.

Respectfully,



Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

Attachment:

- 1) Special Districts Advisory Committee Rules

Special Districts Advisory Committee

July 17, 2026 Special Meeting

Agenda Item No. 5e | Approval of Meeting Calendar and Special District Spotlight

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**SAN DIEGO
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RULES**

**SECTION I
FORMATION AND PURPOSE**

A. Authorization for Formation

The Special Districts Advisory Committee was formed on August 2, 1971 to review the “Rules and Regulations Affecting the Functions of Special Districts and for Representation of Independent Special Districts” on San Diego LAFCO. Instead of disbanding the Committee after district representatives were seated, the Commission retained the Committee to serve as both a forum for discussion and a method of channeling information to LAFCO on pending projects/issues.

B. Statement of Purpose

The LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee serves at the discretion of the Commission for all purposes set forth in these Rules. Recognizing the diversity of special districts and the need for technical advice on pending LAFCO projects/issues, the Commission hereby continues the San Diego LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee. The purposes of the Committee are to:

1. Assist LAFCO in the performance of its duties by (1) reviewing, before consideration by the Commission, those proposed boundary changes, municipal service reviews, spheres of influence actions, or other special studies that affect special districts and require technical insight and expertise, and (2) making recommendations to the Commission.
2. Identify areas of potential conflict between cities, county service areas, and special districts and facilitate voluntary resolution of those conflicts rather than by formal action of LAFCO.
3. Identify districts that are no longer functioning efficiently and/or cost-effectively and make appropriate recommendations.
4. Assist districts that desire reorganization as a means of providing better service.
5. Assist LAFCO in coordinating its decisions with other agencies.
6. Collaborate with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) San Diego Chapter to solicit input on matters of mutual interest.
7. Review, study, and recommend changes to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

SECTION II MEMBERSHIP

A. Composition

The San Diego LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee shall consist of fifteen (15) members. They shall represent as many different types of special districts as possible. The committee's goal is to ensure diverse representation by including a wide variety of special districts and covering as many geographic areas in San Diego County as possible. This approach aims to reflect the unique needs, regional perspectives and types of special districts within the County. Members may be either a special district elected board member or a staff person. Members of the Committee may not also be Commissioners of LAFCO. The number of candidates and members of the Advisory Committee representing the same agency shall be limited to one. In addition, candidates for the Advisory Committee shall not also be candidates for LAFCO.

Membership is restricted to those independent special districts located entirely within the County of San Diego, or for which the County of San Diego is its principal county. The County of San Diego shall be permitted a nonvoting representative, who shall be appointed by the County Chief Administrative Officer.

B. Selection Procedure

Members of the Special Districts Advisory Committee shall be selected by the Independent Special District Selection Committee of San Diego County, as constituted in Government Code Section 56332 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH). A biennial election shall be conducted, in accordance with the adopted "San Diego County Independent Special District Selection Committee Rules," to fill all existing vacancies in the committee membership. If a vacancy occurs subsequent to a regular election, and more than sixty (60) days prior to the next regular election, a list of candidates for consideration to an interim appointment shall be presented for committee discussion at the next available committee meeting after the vacancy occurs. The Committee Chairperson may make an interim appointment, with recommendations from the full advisory committee, until the next regular election.

Following the approved amendments to these Rules in 2025, and pursuant to the established election schedule, the Committee election shall occur by November 2025 with newly elected members seated in January 2026 for the initial cohort of eight (8) members, who shall be selected based on the longest-expired terms. The subsequent election, to be held in 2028 in accordance with the biennial cycle, shall include the remaining seven (7) members, selected based on the most recently expired terms.

C. Term of Membership

Members shall serve four-year terms that will expire on October 31 or until certification of the election results. Members may serve more than one term. As outlined in CKH Government Code Section 56334, Committee members may continue to serve beyond their expired term until a successor is appointed.

D. Termination of Membership

Any member may be removed at any time and without cause by a simple affirmative majority vote of the Independent Special District Selection Committee.

A member may be removed if he or she is absent from four (4) consecutive regular meetings.

A member shall be ineligible to continue as a member if he or she ceases to be a board member or staff person of his or her special district, or is appointed to either a regular or alternate position on LAFCO.

SECTION III OFFICERS

A. Number and Selection

The officers of the Committee shall be Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Committee may create and appoint such additional officers as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Committee.

The officers shall be chosen annually at the first regular January meeting, or the next regular meeting held thereafter. Each officer shall hold office until resignation, removal, other disqualification to serve, or until a successor has been chosen.

B. Duties of the Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and appoint members and provide instructions to all subcommittees. The Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, or other designated committee member may attend and represent the Committee at any meeting of LAFCO.

C. Duties of the Vice Chairperson

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall perform all of the duties of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall also preside as the Chairperson of all subcommittees and shall report to the Chairperson on the progress of a subcommittee's activities.

D. Duties of the Secretary

LAFCO shall designate one or more staff members to act as the Secretary for the Committee. Staff member(s) shall (1) prepare and mail agendas and other notices to the Committee, (2) take, transcribe, and distribute minutes of committee meetings, and (3) perform such other tasks as are necessary to conduct the business of the Committee.

SECTION IV MEETINGS

A. Compliance with Ralph M. Brown Act

All meetings of the Special Districts Advisory Committee shall be posted, noticed, and conducted in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

B. Schedule of Meetings

Regular meetings of the Special Districts Advisory Committee shall be scheduled on the third (3rd) Friday of the first month of each quarter. If the regular meeting date of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on the first (1st) Monday of the following month is a holiday, the regular meeting of the Special Districts Advisory Committee shall be on the fourth (4th) Friday.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Officer or Chairperson, or by eight (8) committee members. Notice of such special meetings shall be mailed or delivered to each member, and must be received at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for said meeting.

C. Time and Place of Meeting/Agendas

Meetings of the Committee shall be scheduled to occur at the San Diego County Administration Center located at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101. Any meeting may, however, be held at a site at the discretion of the Chairperson and/or Executive Officer. The meeting dates and locations for the following calendar year shall be determined at the prior last regular October meeting. The meeting location of all meetings shall be indicated on the agenda distributed and posted for that meeting. Meetings shall be scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m., and when a quorum is present. The specific meeting room and time will be determined monthly, prior to preparation, distribution, and posting of that month's agenda, and will depend on availability of meeting rooms. All committee members will be sent either an agenda or cancellation notice at least one week prior to each scheduled meeting.

D. Conduct of Meetings

LAFCO staff shall serve as the designated facilitators of Committee meetings.

A member unable to attend a meeting shall notify the LAFCO office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

The Chairperson may alter the sequence in which agenda items will be considered.

Except as permitted by Section 54954.2 of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Committee shall not discuss, or take action on, any item not included on the agenda for that meeting.

A member may briefly respond to statements or questions from members of the public during the Public Comment period.

A member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities.

A member, or the Committee itself, may request LAFCO staff to provide information at a future meeting or to place an item on a future agenda.

SECTION V VOTING

A. Vote Entitlement

Each committee member shall be entitled to one vote, even though that member may be a board member or staff person of more than one special district.

B. Quorum

The presence of eight (8) or more members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Committee.

C. Number of Votes Required to Carry Action

Adoption of any recommendation or other action shall require a simple majority affirmative vote.

D. Disqualification

When a committee member is a board member or staff person of a special district that is a subject district of a proposal (as defined by Government Code Section 56077), that member may participate in the discussion of, but may not vote on the Committee's action regarding that proposal.

SECTION VI SUBCOMMITTEES

The Advisory Committee may create such subcommittees as the business of the Committee may require, each of which shall exist for such period and have such authority and perform such duties as the Committee from time to time determines.

SECTION VII PLACE OF BUSINESS

The principal business office of the Special Districts Advisory Committee is in the San Diego LAFCO office, 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103-6624.

SECTION VIII AMENDMENT

The Special Districts Advisory Committee Rules may be amended by simple majority vote by the Committee at any regular or special meeting followed by final approval by the Commission at the next available meeting. The Executive Officer may make technical changes as necessary, after consulting with all Committee members, to ensure compliance of these Rules with current law and Committee policy.

These Rules shall be reviewed every five years or as needed to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness. Amendments may be made in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.

Adopted: September 23, 1971

Amended: December 1972
December 18, 1973
December 21, 1976
July 26, 1994
June 19, 1992
December 20, 1996
December 19, 1997
March 20, 1998
December 17, 2004
July 31, 2014
March 9, 2018
June 2, 2025