

DRAFT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
January 16, 2026

Leucadia Wastewater District Boardroom
1960 La Costa Avenue
Carlsbad, California 92009

1. 9:30 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

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

Item 1a
Welcoming Comments

Chair Thorner thanked Paul Bushee with Leucadia Wastewater District for hosting the meeting. The Chair also welcomed new committee member, Lindsay Leahy with Valley Center Municipal Water District, and thanked Mark Robak for his service to the Committee.

On motion of Joel Scalzitti, seconded by Hector Martinez, the committee unanimously directed the Executive Officer to issue a commendation to Mr. Robak.

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)
Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD)
Jeff Egkan (North County FPD)
James Gordon (Deer Springs FPD)
Albert Lau (Santa Fe ID)
Lindsay Leahy (Valley Center MWD)
Hector Martinez (South Bay ID)
Rachel Mason (Fallbrook Regional HD) * arrived at 9:36 a.m.
Dave McQuead (Rancho Santa Fe FPD)
Marty Miller (Vista ID)
Joel Scalzitti (Helix WD)
Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD)

Members Absent:

Ann Baldridge (RCD Greater San Diego County)
Tracy Largent (Port of San Diego)

The Committee Secretary confirmed a quorum with thirteen 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; GIS Analyst Dieu Ngu; Communications Associate Aiden Velasquez; and Commission Clerk

Item 1b Roll Call Continued...

Erica Sellen, serving as Committee Secretary. LAFCO Consultants Patrick Bouteller, Mike Stein, Tom Kennedy, and Adam Wilson were also present.

Item 1c

Pledge Of Allegiance

Paul Bushee (Leucadia Wastewater District) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chair Thorner asked the Executive Officer if there were requests to remove or rearrange items on the agenda. The Executive Officer deferred to the Assistant Executive Officer who 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 not directly part of the agenda.

Mike Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD) noted his upcoming retirement in June 2026 and introduced his replacement at the agency, Mike Smith.

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

4. CONSENT ITEMS

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2025 (action)

The Committee considered draft summary minutes prepared for the last meeting held on October 17, 2025. 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) Special Districts Advisory Committee Election Results (information)

The Committee received results from the recent election to fill seven of the Committee's 15 seats. The newly elected members will serve four-year terms beginning January 1, 2026. Information only.

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

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) **LAFCO 201 Presentation: Beyond the Basics (information)**

The Committee received a presentation on existing and emerging interplay between state and local policies with respect to LAFCO's evolving oversight role of local agencies' jurisdictional boundaries and municipal service areas. Information only.

Staff presentation provided by Executive Officer Keene Simonds.

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

General discussion ensued. No action.

b) **Update on Development of Weighted Water Rate Comparators (discussion)**

The Committee received an update on the development of weighted water rate comparators and an associated draft report – or Water Rate Comparator Study – prepared by consultant Tom Kennedy (Kennedy Water Consulting, LLC). The draft report provides a high-level, comparative assessment of key water rate drivers and introduces easy-to-understand metrics to support more informed discussions of water rates in future Municipal Service Reviews. The item was presented for discussion and feedback.

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst I Burila and LAFCO Consultant Tom Kennedy.

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

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

c) **Workplan Update on Legislative Proposal | Implementing Report Recommendations from UC Berkeley to Expand LAFCOs' Effectiveness (discussion)**

The Committee received an update on a San Diego LAFCO workplan project related to potential future legislation addressing water and wastewater service delivery. The effort builds on recommendations from a University of California, Berkeley report and involves coordination with the report's authors and other stakeholders, including peer LAFCOs, to develop draft statutory amendments. Consensus has been reached on proposed bill language, with current efforts focused on identifying a legislative author and potential sponsorship. The item was presented for discussion and feedback.

Staff presentation provided by Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower.

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

General discussion ensued with overall support of the effort. Chair Thorner suggested outreach to ACWA, CASA, and Cal Mutuals. No action.

d) **Special District Spotlight: Leucadia Wastewater District Highlights (information)**

The Committee received a brief presentation from Paul Bushee on recent and ongoing projects at the Leucadia Wastewater District.

e) Selection of Chair and Vice Chair (action)

The Committee considered appointing officers – Chair and Vice Chair – for 2026 per policy. There was no written report for this item. Discussion and action.

Committee discussion followed.

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On motion by Albert Lau (Santa Fe ID) and seconded by Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD), the Committee unanimously approved the re-election of the Chair (Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain MWD) and Vice Chair (Jack Bebee, Fallbrook PUD).

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

- Joel Scalzitti (Helix WD) is having a ribbon cutting on Friday, March 27th.
- Jack Bebee (Fallbrook PUD) has signed a contract with Camp Pendelton.
- Jeff Egkan (North County FPD) was awarded a DCIP \$7 million grant in September 2025.
- Lindsay Leahy (Valley Center MWD) thanked the Committee for the warm welcome and is looking forward to serving on the Committee.
- Chair Thorner thanked Marty Miller (Vista ID) for his recent charity work.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Officer Keene Simonds asked the Committee for a volunteer to host the next Committee meeting. Vice Chair Jack Bebee (Fallbrook PUD) volunteered to host in April.

The Executive Officer also noted the Committee can anticipate discussion on a draft budget workplan, as well as current and upcoming MSRs, at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Special Districts Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Attest:

Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary