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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:	Members Absent:
Chair Kimberly Thorner (Olivenhain MWD)	None
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)	

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.

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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.

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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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