

San Diego LAFCO at 60

THE DIAMOND CELEBRATION



Gaslamp Quarter in
San Diego, CA

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Message from the Commission Chair, JIM DESMOND

Serving on the San Diego LAFCO commission over the past few years has been an honor. During that time, I've learned a lot about the dynamics and relationships between local governments and special districts. The lessons I've taken away from engaging in items brought before this commission have given me a deeper understanding of the inner workings of our region, which I feel has made me a better representative for the folks in my district. I'll be first to admit that not every government agency is the same; some are agile and responsive to the public's needs, while others are fraught with bureaucracy and only seem to exist to complicate our lives. Here at San Diego LAFCO, we have a fantastic team with a good sense of reason and urgency and genuinely care about doing the people's work. Whether it's solving issues related to water, sewer, fire, or health care, our dedicated LAFCO staff tackle an array of complex and sometimes politically charged items.

I look forward to continuing to serve on this body and hope to see us push forward with an attitude of being reasonable, common-sense problem solvers.



Message from Executive Officer, KEENE SIMONDS

Sixty years ago Governor Edmund Brown's vision to re-imagine the oversight of local government in meeting community needs took a concrete step with the creation of local agency formation commissions – LAFCOs – to gameplan the whereabouts of cities and special districts. Fast forward to today, more than 200 commissioners and staff have contributed to San Diego LAFCO and its ongoing task to effectively match governmental boundaries and municipal services with the citizenry with a constant eye towards the future. LAFCO's present decision-making is most often exercised in processing between 20 and 30 proposals annually as well as regularly preparing studies to independently assess the adequacy of municipal services in step with informing future actions. Recent examples of the latter include LAFCO drawing from its own studies to directly facilitate the formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District in 2020 and dissolution of the Valley Center Community Services District in 2021. More examples are likely on the way...

A common thread underlying San Diego LAFCO activities has been the proven principle that local government is dynamic and evolves – albeit slowly at times – to the changing needs of the county and its nearly 3.3 million residents. More changes to local government are assuredly needed to help ensure San Diego County continues to grow for its own economic and social well-being. Equally assured is the next 60 years will not necessarily resemble the last 60 years. Stay tuned.

About LAFCO

What is LAFCO?

Local Agency Formation Commissions –or LAFCOs—are boundary makers that oversee the creation and expansion of cities and special districts in all 58 counties in California. LAFCOs exercise regulatory and planning powers to coordinate publicly provided services, such as water or fire protection, and match them with community needs. **The goal of every LAFCO is to facilitate smart growth while avoiding urban sprawl.**

Why were LAFCOs Formed?

LAFCOs were established in 1963 by the California Legislature. Initial tasks included approving or disapproving proposals for the incorporation of new cities and creation of new special districts in 57 of the 58 counties in California. (San Francisco City/County did not have a LAFCO until 2021.)

The motivation leading to the establishment of LAFCOs began several years earlier when the newly elected **Governor Edmund (Pat) Brown** created the Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems and directed this blue-ribbon group to make recommendations to coordinate the management of statewide growth and development.

At the time, county governments in California were largely empowered to form and expand cities and special districts without any real oversight. The prior decade highlighted need for coordinated management as California's population increased between 1950 and 1960 by 50 percent – from 10.6 million to 15.9 million—and more than 100 cities and special districts were formed, oftentimes with irrational and overlapping boundaries.

The Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems and its finding led to a unique compromise between the State and local government with respect to assigning regional growth management responsibilities in California. This compromise remains largely intact today. It involves the Legislature setting policies and procedures with regard to the formation and post-formation development of local agencies while delegating implementation and decision making to a consortium of locally elected officials through LAFCOs.

The authority and power of LAFCOs have increasingly expanded since 1963 through additional legislation and in respect to the state's ongoing interest to ensure effective local governance relative to local needs. The primary result of the additional legislation over the past six decades is the delineation of two distinct LAFCO duties:

1. **Regulation:** Regulating the physical development of cities and special districts and their respective service areas
2. **Planning:** informing such decisions through various planning activities



Governor Edmond (Pat) Brown

What Does LAFCO Do?

San Diego LAFCO is a subdivision of the State of California and is responsible for administering a section of State law currently known as the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

The statute delegates the authority to regulate and plan the location of cities and most special districts and their municipal service areas to LAFCOs in all 58 counties in California.

This includes establishing, expanding, and reorganizing cities and special districts in meeting LAFCOs underlying directive from the State to facilitate smart and sustainable growth and development.

Decisions are made with consideration to legislative objectives as well as local conditions and circumstances and include all of the following duties:

- Incorporate cities and form special districts
- Annex and detach lands to cities and special districts
- Activate or deactivate special districts service powers
- Consolidate two or more cities or special districts into one
- Merge special districts into cities
- Disincorporate cities and dissolve special districts
- Establish spheres of influence for all cities and special districts thereby delineating areas eligible for annexation
- Regularly prepare studies to independently assess the availability, demand, and performance of local government services
- Authorize cities and districts to provide new or extended services outside their boundaries by contracts



County Administrative Center off the Pacific Highway

Who Does LAFCO *Oversee?*

San Diego LAFCO has direct jurisdiction over 101 local government agencies located throughout San Diego County. These local agencies are currently divided between 18 cities as well as 83 special districts that provide various services in support of existing development, such as water, wastewater, police and fire protection, cemeteries, healthcare, and resource conservation.

Most special districts subject to LAFCO are independent with their own directly elected board of directors. The remaining local special districts are dependent with **appointed board of directors made by other government agencies.**

Cities

- Eighteen incorporated communities in San Diego County
- The first incorporation was the City of San Diego in 1850, and the last incorporation was the City of Solana Beach in 1986
- The last disapproved incorporation attempt was the community of Rancho Santa Fe in 1987
- City boundaries and service areas are determined by LAFCO
- City services are determined by the agencies
- Primary functions are land use control and police protection

City	Incorporation Date
San Diego	1850
National City	1887
Escondido	1888
Oceanside	1888
Coronado	1890
Chula Vista	1911
El Cajon	1912
La Mesa	1912
Carlsbad	1952

City	Incorporation Date
Imperial Beach	1956
Del Mar	1959
San Marcos	1963
Vista	1963
Lemon Grove	1977
Poway	1980
Santee	1980
Encinitas	1986
Solana Beach	1986

Special Districts

- Eighty-three special districts in San Diego County subject to LAFCO
- The longest standing district is Helix Water District with operations dating back to 1897 & collectively serves as successor to the La Mesa, Lemon Grove, and Spring Valley Irrigation Districts
- Special district boundaries, service areas, and specific functions and classes are determined by LAFCO
- Primary functions are providing urban services in support of development approved by the county and/or one of the 18 cities

San Diego LAFCO also has indirect oversight of joint-power authorities (JPAs). JPAs are legally created entities that allow two or more public agencies to provide contracted municipal services such as wastewater treatment, emergency dispatch or clean energy, often with the intent to deliver service more efficiently or cost-effectively. All JPAs providing a local municipal service as defined by LAFCO must file their agreements and any amendments with LAFCO. LAFCOs are similarly encouraged to include JPAs in preparing municipal service reviews.

*School and college districts are currently not subject to LAFCO oversight.

San Diego LAFCO

Who are the Commissioners?

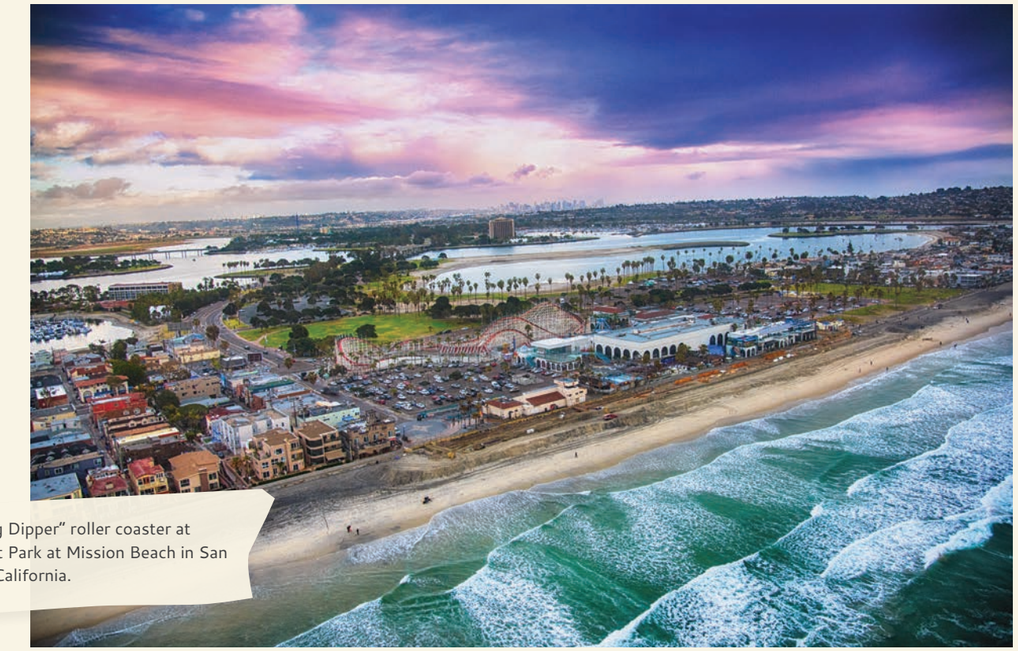
Decisions at San Diego LAFCO are made by a 13-member "Commission" primarily consisting of appointed local elected officials that include county supervisors, city council members and special district board members. These officials also appoint two general members of the public. The commission meets monthly and are tasked with implementing LAFCO law with broad discretion to reflect local conditions. The Commission is overseen by the California's Assembly Committee on Local Government.

All members of the Commission serve four-year terms and must exercise their independent judgement on behalf of the interests of residents, landowners, and the general public. They are subject to standard disclosure requirements and must file annual statements of economic interests. The Commission has sole authority in administering its legislative responsibilities, and therein are not subject to an outside appeal process.

Administration and Funding

San Diego LAFCO is administered by an appointed Executive Officer who is responsible for overseeing day-to-day activities. This includes supervising a professional staff of eight to ten employees and implementation of an annual workplan that outlines specific goals for the fiscal year as determined by the Commission.

Funding for San Diego LAFCO is prescribed under State law based on membership categories on the Commission with the largest apportionment of 28.6% assigned to the County of San Diego. The independent special districts and cities less the City of San Diego are also apportioned 28.6% with individual amounts divided thereafter based on total revenue shares in the past fiscal year. The City of San Diego and based on special legislation that ensures the City is always represented on the Commission – is responsible for the remaining 14.3% of annual operating costs.



The "Big Dipper" roller coaster at Belmont Park at Mission Beach in San Diego, California.

How has San Diego County *Changed?*

Hundreds of thousands of Americans took part in the largest migration in U.S. history during the Gold Rush (1849–1955) and the Industrial Revolution simultaneously, which pushed people from the East Coast to the West. In 1849, California quickly became an economic powerhouse inviting people from all over the world and serving as host to "the most diverse civilization ever known to mankind." San Diego was one of those hidden gems.

San Diego County's present-day development can be readily traced to the incorporation of the City of San Diego in 1850 and subsequent investments thereafter by William Heath Davis and Alonzo Horton to develop what is now the downtown area. The estimated population of the newly incorporated city 10 years later was under 1,000 and represented less than one-fifth of all residents counted in San Diego County as part of the first official census.

However, the early investments made by Davis and Horton paired with the arrival of the railway by the 1880s proved successful and contributed to San Diego's transitioning from a small maritime village to the region's social and economic hub with its population reaching 17,700 by 1900 and now accounting for more than one-half of all of San Diego County – a ratio it has largely held ever since. It was also at this time San Diego County emerged as the eighth largest populated county in all of California.

The copious number of military bases spread throughout San Diego County in the early 1900's helped further expand the already growing population. Soon enough, the region pivoted into a major military defense complex for the entire west coast with San Diego County's overall population—more or less—doubling each decade between 1900 and 1960 from 35,090 to 1,033,011. The later closure or downsizing of several military facilities and related land holdings beginning in the 1980s produced a second wave of growth throughout San Diego County and in particular along the I-15 and I-805 corridors.

This second wave spanned a total of four decades and peaked in the 1990s with the average addition of 174 new residents each day over the 10-year period. The second wave came to an end with the Great Recession but not before the total population in San Diego County reaching 3.1 million by 2010; an amount now registering as the second largest in all of California.

Today, the City of San Diego remains a primary social and economic hub for the region and accounts for nearly-half of San Diego County's total population of 3.3 million. However – and unlike conditions in the early 1900s – the City of San Diego is joined by 18 cities and more than 30 distinct unincorporated areas all with their own unique economic and social hubs that collectively support a range of urban, suburban, rural, and agricultural communities.

1963



Looking southwest towards Downtown & Point Loma

VIEW FROM THE LAFCO OFFICE ATOP THE MANCHESTER FINANCIAL BUILDING

2023



1963



VIEW OF LA JOLLA VILLAGE FROM THE HILLS OF BIRD ROCK

2023



BROADWAY & FRONT STREET, DOWNTOWN

1963

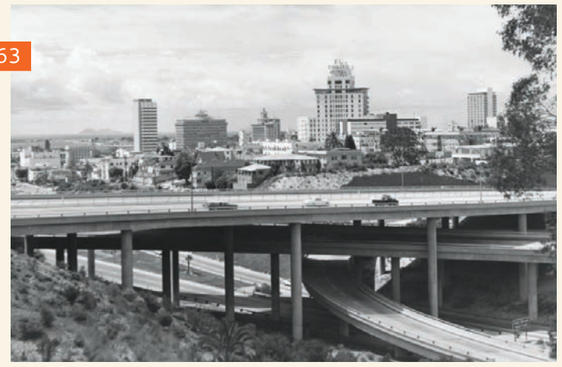


2023



VIEW OF DOWNTOWN FROM INSPIRATION POINT

1963



2023



VIEW OF DOWNTOWN FROM CENTENNIAL PARK IN CORONADO

1963



2023



HORTON PLAZA PARK

1963



2023



1963



VIEW OF MISSION VALLEY LOOKING EAST DOWN THE 8

2023



1963



THE WESTERN METAL SUPPLY CO. INCORPORATED INTO PETCO PARK

2023



Timeline of Key San Diego LAFCO Events

1963 — LAFCOs are created in all 58 counties to regulate boundary changes – including incorporations and formations – involving cities and most special districts (September 21st, 1963). The initial governing composition is set to include two county members, two city members, and one member of the general public.

1963 — The City of **Escondido** adopts a resolution requesting the State appeal the creation of LAFCOs citing the potential abuse of power.

1963 — San Diego LAFCO holds its first meeting on July 10th and **Robert Small** is appointed to serve as the first Executive Officer.

1967 — Legislature makes explicit LAFCOs oversee the formation of **County Service Areas** (CSAs).

1968 — Legislature provides for the appointment of alternate members on LAFCOs for seated county, city, and public members.

1971 — Legislature establishes planning duties for LAFCOs to now establish spheres of influence for all cities and special districts and in doing so demark eligibility for jurisdictional changes.

1971 — LAFCO disapproves a proposal to incorporate **Poway**.

1972 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Poway**, but voters subsequently reject the proposal with only 2% in support.

1974 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **San Dieguito** (Solana Beach, Encinitas, Leucadia, and Cardiff by the Sea) but voters subsequently reject the proposal.

1974 — LAFCO approves de-annexation of the **San Ysidro** area from the City of San Diego but subsequently rescinds as part of a successful request for reconsideration.



1976 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Lemon Grove** with 68% of voters in favor.

1983 — Legislature approves special legislation to increase the voting members at San Diego LAFCO from seven to eight with a dedicated seat for the City of San Diego.

1985 — Legislature establishes broad authority for LAFCOs to condition proposal approvals so long as it does not directly regulate land use or density requirements.



1986 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Encinitas** and voters subsequently confirm the proposal to become the 17th municipality in San Diego County after attempting incorporation in 1959, 1974, and 1982.



1986 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Solana Beach** and voters subsequently confirm action to become the 18th municipality in San Diego County with 65% in support.

1987 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Rancho Santa Fe**, but voters subsequently reject the proposal with only 30% in support.

1987 — LAFCO approves the incorporation of **Fallbrook**, but voters subsequently reject the proposal with only 40% in support.

1993 — Legislature authorizes LAFCOs to initiate proposals for the consolidation, dissolution, or merger of special districts.

1994 — Through the **(Mike) Gotch Bill**, cities and special districts must request and receive written approval from LAFCOs before providing new or extended services beyond their boundaries.

1997 — Legislature forms the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century to review existing LAFCO statutes and make related recommendations to improve the effectiveness in addressing current growth challenges and opportunities. San Diego LAFCO and San Diego **Mayor Susan Golding** serves as Commission Chair.

1997 — LAFCO tasked with regulating Out-of-Agency Services.

2001 — Legislature draws on the recommendations from the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century to enact comprehensive rewrite of LAFCO statutes. This includes changing the funding formula for LAFCOs to be shared between the county, cities, and special districts (if seated) as well as directing LAFCOs to prepare municipal service reviews in step with updating all local agencies' spheres of influence every five years as needed.

2003 — LAFCO prepares county-wide MSR on Fire services following the Cedar Event (largest wildland fire in California before 2017) MSR leads to creation of County Fire Authority

2008 — Legislature makes explicit LAFCOs regulate the ability of special districts to activate latent powers or divest active powers.

2008 — LAFCO approves formation of San Diego County Sanitation District and the consolidation of 11 sewer agencies into one



2011 — LAFCO receives its first state planning grant to identify agricultural trends to support small farming operations

2011 — September 21st, 2023 marks San Diego LAFCOs **60-Year Anniversary**!



2020 — **COVID-19**, global pandemic shuts down operations on March 15th.

2021 — LAFCO prepares new MSR on fire services and recommended formation of a county-wide Fire Protection District; county subsequently approves formation of the San Diego County FPD

2023

Staff Alumni Rosters

Executive Officers

Name	Years Served
Robert Small	1963–1970
S.M. "Skip" Shmidt	1971–1976
Michael "Mike" Gotch	1977–1979
William "Bill" Davis	1980–1984
Jane Merrill	1984–1992
Michael "Mike" Ott	1992–2017
Keene Simonds	2017–Present



Mike Gotch (left) & Fred Schnaubelt (right)

ALUMNI PROFILE

DIANNE JACOB ▶

Longest Serving LAFCO Commissioner

My warmest congratulations on LAFCO's 60th Anniversary! This is a remarkable milestone that highlights this organization's dedication and service to the San Diego region. As a third generation San Diegan, I am proud of what we have accomplished. From an elementary school teacher to an elected official, public service has been my calling. In 1992, I was elected to serve on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and at the same time, I was appointed to the LAFCO Commission. My tenure on the Commission ended with the formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District in which LAFCO played a critical leading role. Consolidating Volunteer Fire Agencies and Fire Districts within 1.5 million acres of the unincorporated area was no easy feat.

I'm now enjoying retirement which has allowed me to focus on my golf game, build a house, and spend more time with my family and friends. I am also serving on the Boards of the Grossmont Hospital Foundation and Protect Our Communities Foundation. It was an honor and privilege to serve the people of San Diego County by serving on the San Diego LAFCO. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this historic journey.



Diane tending to her ranch

Between 1963–1974, County Planning provided staffing services for LAFCO as needed.

Staff Analysts

Name	Last Position	Years Served
Jay R. Stewart	Government Analyst I	1974–1977
Laurie J. McKinely	Government Analyst I	1974–1980
David Acuff	Government Analyst I	1979–1980
Jim Cook	Government Analyst I	1980–1984
Rich Miller	Government Analyst I	1980–1984
Joyce Crosthwaite	Government Analyst I	1984–1990
Dana Smith	Government Analyst I	1985–1993
Charles Orr	Government Analyst I	1986–1987
Joe Convery	Government Analyst I	1988–2003
Shirley Whaley	Government Analyst I	1988–2010
Laura Biery	Government Analyst III	2003–2005
Ingrid (Weems) Hansen	Government Analyst I	2003–2017
Robert Barry	Government Analyst III	2003–2021
Claire Riley	Government Analyst III	2006–2011
Joe Serrano	Government Analyst I	2015–2017
Linda (Zambito) Heckenkamp	Government Analyst II	2018–2021
Richard A. "Alex" Vidal	Government Analyst I	2019–2019
Priscilla Mumpower	Government Analyst II	2020–Present
Carolanne Ieromnimon	Government Analyst I	2021–Present
Michaela Peters	Government Analyst I	2023–Present

GIS Analysts

Name	Last Position	Years Served
Al Hyatt	Map Draftsman	1972–1985
Pete Janemark	GIS Consultant	2003–2006
Dieu Ngu	GIS Consultant & Analyst	2013–Present

Assistant & Interim Executive Officers

Name	Years Served
Peter Detwiler	1972–1975
Shirley (Whaley) Anderson	2010–2013



ALUMNI PROFILE

BILL HORN ▲

San Diego Board of Supervisors (District 5) & LAFCO Commissioner

I was appointed to LAFCO in 1995, when I was sworn-in to serve the Fifth District on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Over the next 24 years, we made many decisions on annexations and in service of special districts and I am proud to have been a part of this history. To the commissioners and staff, I extend my very best as LAFCO celebrates its 60th anniversary!

Clerks, Assistants, & Secretaries

Name	Title	Years Served
Helen Kleckner	Secretary	1966–1980
Porter D. Cremans	Commission Clerk (Clerk of the Board of Supervisors)	1966–1980
Avery Clark	Intern	1974–1974
Ingrid Hansen	Executive Assistant	1981–2003
Ruth Arellano	Executive Assistant	1989–2021
Janice "Jan" Bryson	Executive Assistant	1990–2006
Harriet McKechnie	Administrative Assistant	1993–1998
Tita Jacque Ramos	Administrative Assistant	1995–2009
Nancy Averill	Commission Clerk	1998–2009
Tamaron Luckett	Commission Clerk	2004–Present
Alyssa Dronenberg	Administrative Assistant	2013–2015
Erica (Blom) Sellen	Executive Assistant	2015–Present
Shauna Stokes	Intern	*Dates Unknown*

Consultants

John Traylor
George Ream
John Goss
Patricia Butler
Michael F. Niederman
Stephen Abbott
Dr. Brian Brady
Richard "Rich" Miller
Ann B. Hix
Ed Sprague
Adam Wilson
Casey McGehee
Betty Degoney
Chris Cate
Harry Erlich

Legal Counsel

Thomas Bosworth
Karen Landers
William "Bill" Smith
William Taylor
Llyod M. Harmon Jr.
Ellen Michaels
Lewis Zollinger
Donald L. Clark
Ralph Shadwell
Rachel Witt
Arne Hansen
Paul Bruce
Clark LaRue Pierce
Gregory C.M. Garratt
Holly O. Whatley
Michael Colantuono
Mara Elliott
John J. Samsone
John Pardee
Aleks R. Giragosian



Downtown San Diego



ALUMNI PROFILE

INGRID HANSEN

Dedicated 36 Years to LAFCO

My journey with LAFCO began in December 1981 with two interviews: first by Jane Merrill and later with Bill Davis, who subsequently offered me the position of Intermediate Clerk Typist beginning on December 27th. With no computers in the office at that time, I was tasked with transcribing handwritten reports, which is how I familiarized myself with local government and LAFCO's mission. One huge challenge was deciphering Michael Ott's handwriting and typing the Incorporation of Encinitas report. After success as Senior Secretary, Jane (who now was the Executive Officer) promoted me to process routine proposals. She also supported the completion of my studies to attain a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, and I graduated from San Diego State University in 1993.

In 2001, I received the Outstanding Professional Award primarily based on the proposed "Dissolution of the Lower Sweetwater Fire Protection District" since the District no longer provided fire services, but contracted with an adjacent city to do so. While approved by the Commission, the project failed at the subsequent election. Perhaps my most memorable moment occurred when Congressman Bob Filner (yes, the later disgraced San Diego mayor) pointed his finger and yelled directly at me during the Commission meeting to consider the "Dissolution of the Tia Juana County Water District." That proposal was successful and a duplicative agency and its illegally collected fee were eliminated.

Since retiring, I have traveled extensively visiting friends and family as well as taking several river cruises mainly in Europe but also in the United States. Since my book club became a victim of Covid, I now read for my own pleasure, and reconnected with long-time friends to play cards twice a month.

ALUMNI PROFILE

JOE SERRANO

Current Santa Cruz LAFCO EO

Joe Serrano began his LAFCO career well before joining the SD LAFCO team. He was previously an Analyst for OC LAFCO for six years and an Analyst for San Bernardino LAFCO for another two years. Joe expanded his LAFCO knowledge during his tenure with the other LAFCOs and continued that same mentality in San Diego.

When asked about his experience and thoughts about his time at San Diego LAFCO, Joe focused on two significant takeaways: (1) the importance of service reviews and their findings/recommendations, and (2) the effectiveness of LAFCO as a facilitator during stakeholder meetings. These two lessons were immediately implemented in Santa Cruz LAFCO when Joe became their newest Executive Officer. As a result, Joe was able to consolidate two fire districts involving 90,000 residents without a single petition of opposition, dissolve multiple distressed districts with the full support of the affected board members and staff, and revamp the entire service review format and process, allowing him to analyze 66 out of 80 agencies completely in-house (he is the only LAFCO employee at Santa Cruz LAFCO) and adding more value to LAFCO's findings and recommendations with the full cooperation by the affected agencies – all within three years.

The current and future success with Santa Cruz LAFCO has direct ties to the lessons learned in San Diego and he will be forever grateful. Regardless of his recent achievements, nothing compares to the birth of his first child – Victoria Grace.



Commission Alumni Roster

Public-at-Large Members

Name	Regular/Alternate	Years Served
Charles C. Hartman	Regular	1963-1971
Ralph M. Pray	Alternate	1972-1973
Dr. Rex Gorton	Regular	1976-1977
Dr. Charles Hostler	Regular	1979-1988
Dr. Herbert Waste	Alternate	1985-1987
Dr. Linell Fromm	Regular	1990-1996
David A. Perkins	Alternate	1991-1996
Harry Mathis	Regular Alternate	1995-2000 2001-2023
Andrew "Andy" Vanderlaan	Regular	1996-Present
Guy W. Winton III	Regular	1997-2001

San Diego County Board of Supervisor Members

Name	Regular/Alternate	Years Served	District
D.W. Bird	Regular	1963-1965	District 2
Robert C. Cozens	Regular	1963-1969	District 5
Robert C. Dent	Regular	1965-1969	District 3
Henry A. Boney	Regular	1965-1972	District 3
Harry F. Sheidle	Regular	1969-1971	District 3
Miles W. Kratka	Regular	1970-1970	District 5
William A. Craven	Regular	1970-1973	District 5
Jack Walsh	Regular Alternate	1972-1977	District 1
Dick Brown	Regular	1973-1977	District 2
Jim Bear	Regular	1973-1976	District 4
Jim Bates	Alternate	1975-1976	District 4
Lee R. Taylor	Regular Alternate	1975-1977 1977-1978	District 5
Lucille V. Moore	Regular	1977-1981	District 2
Tom Hamilton	Alternate Regular Alternate	1977-1977 1977-1981 1982-1983	District 1



ALUMNI PROFILE

MICHAEL "MIKE" OTT

Served as San Diego LAFCO EO for 25 Years

Mike began his career in education, working at a community college and an elementary school before changing his career path to urban and regional planning. Right before he began his long career with LAFCO, he worked for the Humboldt County Planning Department and interned at the Santa Clara County Planning Department. He worked at LAFCO from 1983-2017.

Towards the beginning of his extensive career at LAFCO, he was faced with huge projects involving incorporations including Encinitas, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Fallbrook, Borrego, Lakeside, Ramona, Spring Valley, and La Jolla. Even though only Encinitas and Solana Beach were successful in incorporating, Mike found it "highly rewarding to work with citizens who genuinely believed in and fought for greater local control and self-governance."

By 1992 he became the Executive Officer and enjoyed the independence that came with it.



Since leaving LAFCO in 2017, his daily uniform includes sweatpants in winter and cycling bibs in the summer. Despite still serving on the Board of Trustees of the North County Cemetery District and being elected to the office of President of the California Association of Public Cemeteries, he still finds plenty of time for travel, volunteer, and community works as well as various recreational and family activities. Mike is also a member of the Docent Guild at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda; he gives talks about U.S. history and government.

As part of the North County Cycling Club, he claims he's put more miles on his racing bikes than his personal vehicle. Cycling and bicycle restoration remain one of his prioritized hobbies. Throughout retirement, he's been able to travel for long periods of time. A notable experience being a trip to Antarctica in 2017 with his wife. They sailed aboard the National Geographic Icebreaker through "some of the roughest waters in the world".

San Diego County Board of Supervisor Members

Name	Regular/Alternate	Years Served	District
Paul Eckert	Alternate Regular	1979-1986 1982-1985	District 5
Paul W. Fordem	Regular	1981-1984	District 2
Roger Hedgecock	Regular Alternate	1982-1983 1983-1983	District 3
Patrick Boarman	Alternate	1984-1985	District 3
George F. Bailey	Alternate	1985-1988	District 2
Brian Bilbray	Regular Alternate	1985-1990 1992-1994	District 1
John MacDonald	Regular	1987-1994	District 5
Leon L. Williams	Alternate	1988-1997	District 2
Dianne Jacob	Regular	1993-2020	District 1
Bill Horn	Regular	1995-2018	District 5
Pam Slater-Price	Alternate	1995-1995	District 3
Greg Cox	Alternate	1996-2020	District 1
Jim Desmond	Regular	2019-Present	District 5
Joel Anderson	Alternate Regular	2021-2022 2022-Present	District 2
Nora Vargas	Regular Alternate	2021-2021 2022-Present	District 1



Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach, 1963

City of San Diego Members

Name	Regular/ Alternate	Years Served	District Represented
Jack Walsh	Regular Alternate	1972–1977	District 6
Jim Bates	Alternate	1975–1976	District 8
Martin Breslauer	Regular	1977–1977	
Michael "Mike" Gotch	Alternate	1979–1990	District 2
Dr. Lucy Killea	Regular	1979–1981	District 8
Uvaldo Martinez	Alternate	1984–1986	District 8
Abbe Wolfsheimer	Alternate	1987–1991	District 1
Bruce Henderson	Alternate	1988–1991	District 6
Leon L. Williams	Alternate	1988–1997	District 4
Juan Vargas		1993–2000	District 8
George Stevens		1994–1998	District 4
Valerie Stallings	Alternate	1992, 2001	District 6
Donna Frye	Regular Alternate	1995–2010 2002–2002	District 6
Ralph Inzunza	Regular	2001–2002	District 7
Byron Wear		2001–2002	District 2
Toni Atkins	Regular	2007–2008	District 3
Kevin Faulconer	Alternate	2006–2008	District 2
Brian Maienschein	Alternate	2008–2009	District 5
Sherri Lightner	Alternate	2009–2015	District 1
Lorie Zapf	Regular	2011–2018	District 2 & 6
Lorraine Wood	Alternate	2013–2016	
Chris Cate	Regular	2015–2022	District 6
Mark Kersey	Regular	2019–2021	District 5
Marni von Wilpert	Alternate	2021–Present	District 5
Stephen Whitburn	Regular	2023–Present	District 3
Stephen Whitburn	Regular	2023–Present	District 3



Peter behind the wheel of a 60' former British racing yacht in Nov. 2019, right after his 70th birthday.

ALUMNI PROFILE

PETER DETWILER

Dedicated 39 Years to Public Service

Peter began his career with LAFCO in September of 1972. Peter started his role as "Administrative Trainee" and after one year, moved into the Assistant Executive Officer position until he left to work in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in 1975.

One of Peter's most memorable and complex projects he was involved in was the proposed "San Ysidro Reorganization" in 1974. This project—if successful—would have detached San Ysidro from the City of San Diego and incorporated a new "City of San Ysidro". This proposal ended in a Negative Declaration in which the Attorney General sued LAFCO. During the public hearing phase, S. M. Schmidt (the EO at the time) went on an extended sailing trip, leaving 24-year-old Peter in charge of the high-profile, tense hearings.

Peter also mentioned the number of incorporations in 1974, including the Cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, Poway, Santee, and Lemon Grove. He was proud of the proposal he administered that led to the formation of CSA No. 69, which would provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to underserved areas of the County.

Peter worked in Governor Jerry Brown's office for his first two terms from 1975–1981 as a Policy Analyst and then moved into the role of Legislative Coordinator to eventually go on to run the Local Government Unit.

From 1982 to September 2011, he staffed the Senate Local Government Committee and its variants and saw tons of LAFCO bills throughout his time. In addition, he taught a graduate course on California Land Use Policy at California State University Sacramento for over 20 years as well as contract-teaching at University California Davis Extension.

Since his retirement in 2011, he has been able to travel to Croatia, the San Juan Islands, and the British Virgin Islands all by sailboat. "...I've sailed over 6,000 nautical miles on several coastal deliveries and ocean voyages. Life is good!" –Peter

Despite his short time with LAFCO, he credits his experience for launching his professional career and shaping his views about the importance of public service.

Other 18 City Members

Name	Regular/ Alternate	Years Served	City Represented
Lewis P. Tustin	Regular	1963–1970	Escondido
Erwin Skylar	Regular	1963–1968	Oceanside
Ray W. Fellows	Regular	1963–1966	La Mesa
J. H. Fotheringham	Alternate	1964–1965	Vista
Russel J. Kliegel	Alternate	1966–1968	Del Mar
Robert L. Cornett	Alternate	1968–1968	El Cajon
Troy L. Doan	Alternate Regular	1969–1970 1970–1970	Vista
Alan B. Skuba	Alternate	1970–1978	Escondido
Howard T. Richardson	Regular	1972–1974	Oceanside
Tom Hamilton	Alternate	1972–1973	Chula Vista
Orbee V. Mihalek	Alternate Regular	1973–1974 1974–1978	Vista
Kile Morgan	Regular	1975–1979	National City
Gloria McClellan	Regular	1978–1982	Vista
Dell Lake	Alternate Regular	1978–1981 1981–1983	Lemon Grove
Linda Oravec	Regular	1983–1986	Poway
J. B. Bennett	Regular	1982–1984	Imperial Beach
Robert Prescott	Alternate	1984–1984	Carlsbad
Leonard M. Moore	Regular Alternate	1984–1986 1992–1994	Chula Vista
Fred Nagel	Alternate Regular	1985–1986 1986–1990	La Mesa
R. H. Doorman	Regular Alternate	1986–1988 1986–1986	Coronado
Mark J. Loscher	Alternate	1987, 1991	San Marcos
Mark Loscher	Alternate Regular	1987–1987 1988–1994	San Marcos
Gayle McCandliss	Alternate	1988–1991	Chula Vista
Joan Shoemaker	Regular	1991–1995	El Cajon
Julianne Nygaard	Alternate Regular	1994–2001 2001–2002	Carlsbad
Shirley Horton	Regular Alternate	1995–1997 1997–1999	Chula Vista
Lori Howard	Regular	1995–1999	Santee

Other 18 City Members

Name	Regular/ Alternate	Years Served	City Represented
Patty Davis	Regular	1999–2005	Chula Vista
Mary Teresa Sessom	Alternate	1999–2000	Lemon Grove
Jill Greer	Alternate Regular	2000–2001 2001–2004	Lemon Grove
Betty Rexford	Regular Alternate	2001–2009	Poway
Christy Guerin	Alternate	2005–2006	Encinitas
Ron Morrison	Regular	2006–2007	National City
Mark Lewis	Alternate Regular	2007–2011 2012, 2013	El Cajon
Carl Hillard	Regular	2007–2011	Del Mar
Jim Janney	Alternate Regular	2009–2011 2012– 2014	Imperial Beach
Sam Abed	Alternate Regular	2012– 2013 2013–2017	Escondido
Lorraine M. Wood	Alternate Regular	2013–2014 2015–2016	Carlsbad
Raquel Vasquez	Alternate	2015–2017	Lemon Grove
Catherine Blakespear	Regular	2017–2019	Encinitas
Lorrie Bragg	Alternate	2018–2018	Imperial Beach
Bill Wells	Regular	2018–2020	El Cajon
Serge Dedina	Alternate	2019–2019	Imperial Beach
Mary Casillas Salas	Regular	2019–2022	Chula Vista
Paul McNamara	Alternate Regular	2019–2021 2021–2022	Escondido
Kristi Becker	Alternate Regular	2021–2022 2023–Present	Solana Beach
Dane White	Regular	2023–Present	Escondido
John McCann	Alternate	2023–Present	Chula Vista



ALUMNI PROFILE

TITA RAMOS

Dedicated 14 Years to San Diego LAFCO

Prior to LAFCO, I was the Administrative Secretary to the Chief of Residential Services, County of San Diego, while attending classes at the University of Phoenix and Southwestern College to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services. My experiences and thoughts of my time at SDLAFCO were very positive. I learned valuable skills and knowledge that helped me excel in my career. I worked with highly professional individuals who, to this day, I keep in touch with. I am the District Secretary and the Secretary to the Board of Directors of Otay Water District. My duties are to assist the General Manager and Board of Directors to execute the District's Mission, which is to provide water and wastewater services to its customers, and to manage District resources in a transparent manner and fiscally responsible manner.

Special District Members

Name	Regular/ Alternate	Years Served	District
Keith Atherton	Alternate	1975–1975	Bonita–Sunnyside Fire Protection District
Ralph Chapman	Regular	1975–1982	Otay Municipal Water District
Stanley A. Mahr	Regular	1975–1988	San Marcos Water District
William J. Karn	Regular	1977–1977	Fallbrook Public Utility District
Alex L. Adams	Alternate	1977–1984	Greater Mountain Empire Resource Conservation District
Marjorie J. Hersom	Alternate Regular	1980–1982 1983–1988	Alpine Fire Protection District
John Sasso	Regular Alternate	1991–1997 1988–1992	Borrego Water District
Dr. Lillian Keller Childs	Regular	1991–1999	Helix Water District
Earnest Kotnik	Alternate	1992–1992	San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District
Ronald W. Wooton	Alternate Regular	1994–1997 1998–2004	Vista Fire Protection District
W.D. "Bud" Pocklington	Alternate Regular	1999–2000 2001–2014	South Bay Irrigation District
Andrew Menshek	Alternate Regular	2001–2004 2005–2009	Padre Dam Municipal Water District
John S. Ingalls	Alternate	2005–2014	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Jo Mackenzie	Alternate Regular	2009–2014 2015–Present	Vista Fire Protection District
Ed Sprague	Alternate	2015–2019	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Judy Hanson	Alternate	2016– 2019	Leucadia Wastewater District
Erin Lump	Alternate	2019–2020	Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Baron "Barry" T. Willis	Regular	2019–Present	Alpine Fire Protection District
David Drake	Alternate	2021–Present	Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

Know and Go

Interested in attending a San Diego LAFCO monthly meeting? Join us or watch our video recordings online at sdlafco.org. Our website also includes past and current agendas, policies and procedures, application material, and more. All regular meetings include an opportunity for public comment and the ability to directly speak to decision-makers.

San Diego LAFCO Regular Meetings:

Monthly, First Mondays at 8:00 a.m.

1600 Pacific Highway
County Administration center, room 302
San Diego, California 92101

Visit our website for the most up-to-date meeting information including agenda postings, updated meeting times, and cancellations.

Contact Us

San Diego LAFCO Administrative Office
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, CA 92103

Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 619.321.3380

Web: sdlafco.org

E-Mail: lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov

Twitter: @sdlafco

Appointments are Encouraged



LAFCO Staff, 1974



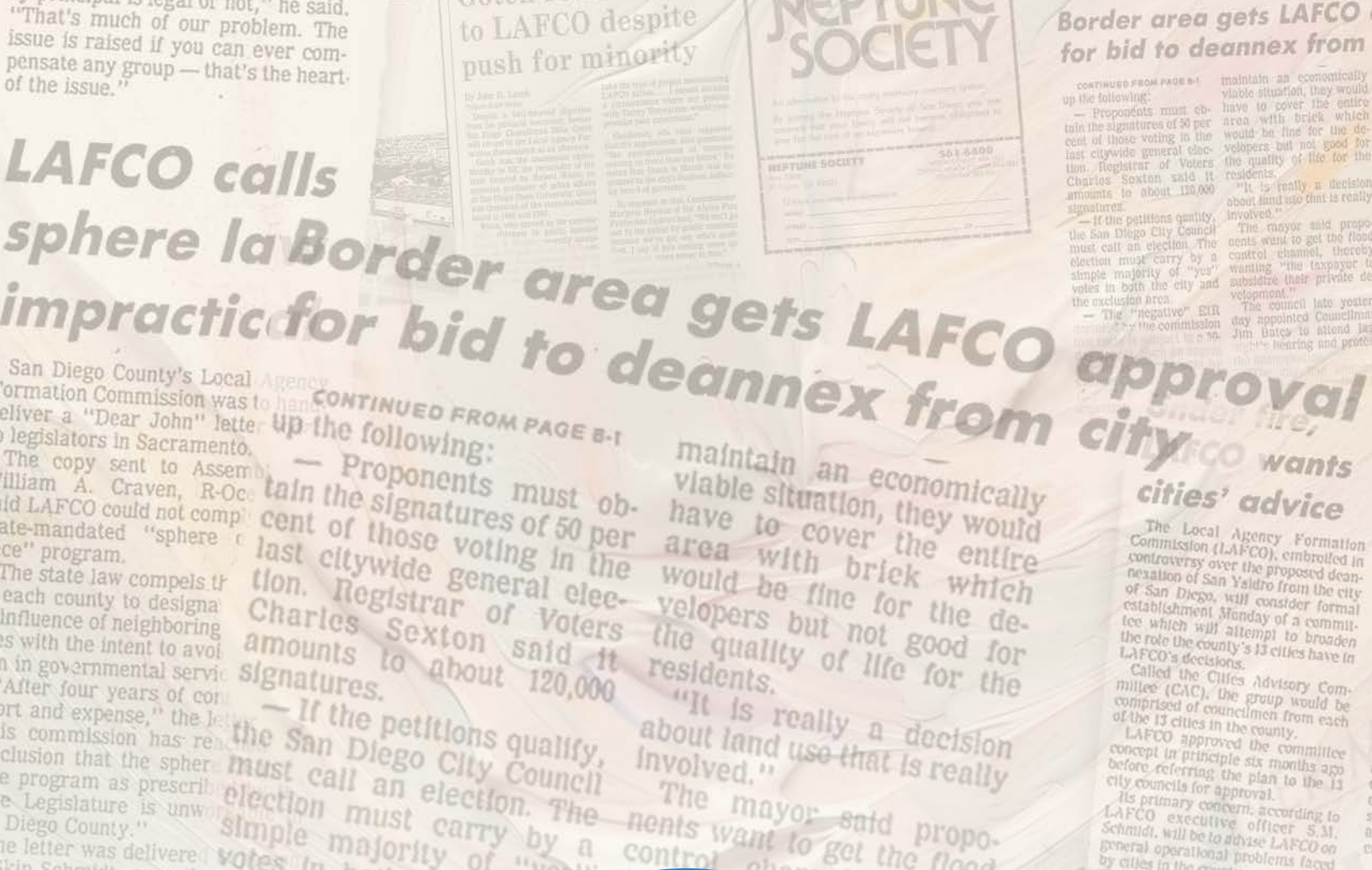
SD LAFCO staff



San Diego County Fire Truck



Moonlight Beach in the Summer



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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