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AGENDA REPORT
Consent | Information

August 3, 2026

TO: Chair Becker and Commissioners

FROM: Erica Sellen, Commission Clerk

SUBJECT: **Report on Special Districts Advisory Committee's Meeting | July 17, 2026**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a report on the most recent meeting of its Special Districts Advisory Committee (SDAC) held on July 17th. The report is in the form of draft minutes and is being presented for information only.

BACKGROUND

Special Districts Advisory Committee

San Diego LAFCO established SDAC in 1971 to help inform and advise the Commission on related topics. SDAC's role has actively evolved from its initial focus on just jurisdictional changes affecting special districts to now expand into LAFCO's planning duties, highlighted by the Commission's municipal service review program. The Committee includes 15 elected members drawn from the 58 eligible independent special districts in San Diego County. The current Chair and Vice Chair are Kim Thorner (Olivenhain Municipal Water District) and Jack Bebee (Fallbrook Public Utility District), respectively.

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
Joel Anderson, County of San Diego
Monica M. Steppe, Alt., County of San Diego
Chair Kristi Becker, City of Solana Beach
Dane White, City of Escondido
John McCann, Alt., City of Chula Vista
Stephen Whitburn, City of San Diego
Marni von Wilpert, Alt., 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

DISCUSSION

San Diego LAFCO will receive a report on the most recent meeting of its Special Districts Advisory Committee held on July 17th at the San Diego County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402A, San Diego. The report is in the form of the attached draft minutes and provides the Commission with timely updates on deliberations of its two standing agency committees—Special Districts and Cities.

ANALYSIS

Among the items detailed in the attached minutes, SDAC discussed its role in advising the Commission on municipal service reviews. The Committee unanimously supported the Chair establishing ad hoc committees tied to specific reviews already underway, with each ad hoc serving as a resource to LAFCO staff by offering real-time input on the scope and analytical assumptions of the study. Members also expressed interest in having Chair Thorner address the Commission directly as this approach takes shape.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to San Diego LAFCO for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on San Diego LAFCO'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 Commission.

Respectfully,



Erica Sellen
Commission Clerk

Attachment:

1) DRAFT: SDAC Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2026

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

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

1. 9:30 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

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

Item 1a
Welcoming Comments

Chair Thorner noted the passing of former Committee member Gary Arant, Valley Center Municipal Water District and asked for a moment of silence.

Item 1b
Roll Call

Chair Thorner requested a roll call from the Committee Secretary.

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

The Committee Secretary confirmed a quorum with 10 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. LAFCO Consultants Patrick Bouteller and Adam Wilson were also present.

Item 1c
Pledge Of Allegiance

Mike Smith (Bonita-Sunnyside FPD) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chair Thorner asked if there were any requests to remove or rearrange items on the agenda. Executive Officer Simonds stated no changes to the agenda were needed.

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 April 17, 2026 (action)**
The Committee considered draft action minutes prepared for the last meeting held on April 17, 2026. Recommendation to approve as presented.

b) **Report on 2026-2027 Workplan (information)**
The Committee received an update on the recently adopted FY2026-2027 workplan. Information only.

c) **Legislative Report (information)**
The Committee received 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.

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On motion by Hector Martinez (South Bay Water) and seconded by Paul Bushee (Leucadia WWD), the Committee unanimously approved the Consent Calendar.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) **Draft Update to the Rolling Five-Year Study Schedule (discussion)**
The Committee received a draft update to the Commission's rolling five-year study schedule. The proposed update follows the Commission's adoption of the FY 26–27 workplan and advances the existing schedule by one year, resetting the planning horizon to 2027–2031 while also incorporating refinements based on recently completed studies, Commission direction, and evolving service models. Item presented for discussion.

Staff presentation provided by Assistant Executive Officer Mumpower.

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BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED …

Item 5a Continued…

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

General discussion ensued, with consensus to establish an ad hoc Municipal Service Review (MSR) Committee to serve as a real-time resource to LAFCO staff in advancing studies through the administrative review prior to Commission consideration. Chair Thorner indicated she would confirm the participating members and noted the intent is for each ad hoc to consist of three members, including either herself or Vice Chair Bebee.

Further discussion followed, with the Committee reaching consensus to submit a letter to the Commission regarding establishment of the three-member MSR Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee further agreed that its representatives would address the Commission at a future meeting in support of the letter and collective interest in advancing the MSR program.

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

The Committee received 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. 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– were presented for discussion and feedback.

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 the Committee reaching consensus to establish an ad hoc committee to provide input and assist staff in implementing the report's recommendation to establish a Water Affordability Working Group initially focused on small farming operations in the Escondido region as a case study. The following members volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee: Paul Bushee (Leucadia Wastewater District), Jack Bebee (Fallbrook Public Utility District), and Ann Baldridge (Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County).

c) Resource Conservation Districts 2.0 Update (information)

The Committee received 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 MSR on RCDs by establishing a Master Memorandum of Understanding 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. Presented for information only.

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BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED …

Item 5c Continued…

Staff presentation provided by Local Government Analyst II Peters and LAFCO Consultant Adam Wilson.

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

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

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

The Committee received 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. Item presented for information and feedback.

Staff presentation provided by Communications Associate Velasquez.

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

General discussion ensued with overall support of the new website. No action.

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

The Committee considered approving its regular meeting schedule for the remainder of 2026 and the 2027 calendar year. Recommendation to approve quarterly meetings on the third Friday of October 2026 and January, April, July, and October 2027 – consistent with its policy. The Committee also considered confirming the next round of Special District Spotlight hosts and meeting locations.

Staff presentation provided by Committee Secretary Sellen.

Chair Thorner proceeded to ask for hosting volunteers from the Committee.

General discussion ensued with the following meeting dates and locations agreed upon:

- October 16, 2026 – *tentative* hosting by Helix WD (Joel Scalzitti)
- January 15, 2027 – *tentative* hosting by Port of San Diego (Tracy Larget)
- April 16, 2027 – hosting by South Bay Water (Hector Martinez)
- July 16, 2027 – hosting by Deer Springs FPD (James Gordon)
- October 15, 2027 – hosting by Santa Fe ID (Albert Lau)

Paul Bushee (Leucadia Wastewater District) offered to host a future meeting should any of the tentatively identified host agencies become unavailable.

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6. COMMENDATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER MARK ROBAK

Chair Thorner recognized and thanked Mark Robak (Otay Water District) for his service as a member of the Special Districts Advisory Committee.

Chair Thorner presented a framed commendation to Mr. Robak in recognition of his service. Executive Officer Simonds also thanked Mr. Robak for his service and contributions to the Committee. Mr. Robak accepted the commendation and offered brief remarks.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Special Districts Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Attest:

Erica Sellen
Committee Secretary

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