



2.a.
4/18/2024

MINUTES
March 28, 2024

Present

Commissioners: Michael Vargas, Chair
Stephen Tomanelli
Stephen Corona
Steve Sanchez

Absent

Commissioners: Yxstian Gutierrez, Vice-Chair
Kevin Jeffries
Cástulo Estrada

Present Staff:

Gary Thompson, Executive Officer
Crystal Craig, Assistant Executive Officer
Elizabeth Valdez, Commission Clerk
Melissa Cushman, Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG.

Chair Vargas called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 a.m.

1.2. ROLL CALL.

1.3. POTENTIAL REQUEST BY ONE OR MORE COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY AND UTILIZE AB 2449'S JUST CAUSE OR EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES, POTENTIAL VOTE ON LATTER.

No request was made.

1.4. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS.

Counsel Cushman made a statement to the public regarding disclosure of contributions made to Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a. February 22, 2024

Moved (Tomanelli) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2024, meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Jeffries, Gutierrez, and Estrada.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Angela Little, Board Member, Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District. Ms. Little spoke about a potential annexation of the Winchester area to the City of Menifee. She presented a map and a timeline of events to the commission.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (NON-HEARING ITEMS):

a. LAFCO Monthly Expenditure Review.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) to approve the Consent Calendar as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Jeffries, Gutierrez, and Estrada.

ABSTAINED: None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Continued: There were no continued public hearing items.

New:

- a. LAFCO 2024-04-3-Request for Reconsideration of Resolution No. 01-24 Approving LAFCO 2023-06-3-Reorganization to Include Concurrent Annexations to Eastern Municipal Water District (Water) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (114th Fringe/Los Alamos Hills Area).

Mr. Thompson presented this item. He reviewed the requirements for reconsideration. He stated that all the allegations and concerns the applicant made for reconsideration were addressed in the staff report and reviewed a few for the commission. He stated the applicant did not meet the requirement for approving the reconsideration and no new information was submitted as part of the application.

Chair Vargas opened the public hearing.

Speakers in favor:

Bob Landwehr, applicant. Mr. Landwehr gave the commission a handout he read from. He spoke about fire protection, environmental impacts, and road conditions in the annexation area. He requested the commission approve the reconsideration.

Speakers in opposition:

Nick Kanetis, Deputy General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District. Mr. Kanetis stated that the process for processing this project has been extremely thorough and the district provided extensive community outreach.

Belinda Covington, daughter of residents in the Los Alamos community. Ms. Covington read a letter from her parents in support of the annexation. She stated that the wells are drying up and they need water to sustain everyday living.

Mihoko Yamanishi, resident. Ms. Yamanishi stated that she was shocked there was opposition to this project. She stated she was properly noticed and attended meetings hosted by the City of Murrieta and EMWD regarding the proposal. She stated her wells have dried up and are only getting three gallons a day.

Jerry Deex, resident. Mr. Deex spoke in opposition to the reconsideration. He stated he has drilled wells and there is still no water. He stated communication from EMWD regarding the project has been constant throughout the process. He stated it is more cost effective to hook up to a meter rather than drill another well.

Linda Diaz, resident. Ms. Diaz stated that it is challenging to bring in water. She stated there isn't enough water to do household chores. She said this would be a great benefit to the community. She asked the commission to deny the reconsideration.

Chair Vargas closed the public hearing.

Mr. Thompsen stated proper notification was made and read a list of agencies that were notified of this project.

Moved (Corona) seconded (Tomanelli) to deny LAFCO 2024-04-3-Request for Reconsideration of Resolution No. 01-24 Approving LAFCO 2023-06-3-Reorganization to Include Concurrent Annexations to Eastern Municipal Water District (Water) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (114th Fringe/Los Alamos Hills Area) as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Jeffries, Gutierrez, and Estrada.

ABSTAINED: None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Adoption of Resolution 03-24 Amending the Commission's Rules and Procedures.

Ms. Valdez presented this item. She stated that resolution was cleaning up some grammatical and clerical errors as well as updating the terms of the commission, stipend amounts and the process for the selection of officers and committee assignments.

Moved (Tomanelli) seconded (Sanchez) to adopt Resolution 03-24 Amending the Commission's Rules and Procedures as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Jeffries, Gutierrez, and Estrada.

ABSTAINED: None.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS: No action to be taken by the Commission.

a. Proposals Received and/or LAFCO Initiated (Government Code Sections 56751 and 56857):

There were no new proposals.

b. Report on Conducting Authority Proceedings.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the conducting authority proceedings report. He stated that the protest hearing date for LAFCO 2023-06-3 will now be set.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POTENTIAL POSITIONS.

Mr. Thompson gave an update on pending legislation. He stated that there were two bills, AB 3277 and SB 1209, that staff is requesting the commission to take a support position on.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) to send letters of support for AB 3277 and SB 1209 as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Jeffries, Gutierrez, and Estrada.

ABSTAINED: None.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.

Mr. Thompson stated the next LAFCO meeting is on April 18th. He stated he is working on the Proposed Budget. He stated that Indio's proposals are on hold as the city is in discussions with Coachella. He also spoke about two new bills regarding the IID Study issue that are in the State Assembly.

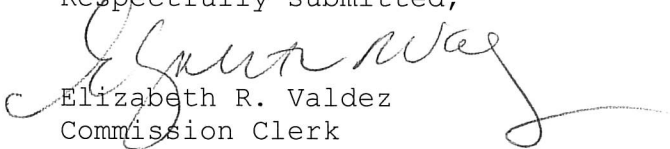
10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FUTURE ITEMS.

The Commission wished everyone a Happy Easter.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth R. Valdez
Commission Clerk