



2.a.
1/23/2025

***Amended**
MINUTES
December 5, 2024

Present Michael Vargas, Chair
Commissioners: Yxstian Gutierrez, Vice-Chair
Stephen Corona
Linda Molina, Alternate
Kevin Jeffries
Stephen Tomanelli
Bruce Underwood

Absent
Commissioners: Steve Sanchez

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 9:00 a.m.

1.2. ROLL CALL.

1.3. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS.

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

1.4. PRESENTATION TO DEPARTING COMMISSIONER KEVIN JEFFRIES.

Chair Vargas read a Proclamation of Appreciation to Commissioner Jeffries. The Commission thanked him for his service on the Commission.

Commissioner Jeffries stated that it has been a pleasure serving the people, the Commission, and that LAFCO has been a great organization to be a part of.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a. September 26, 2024

Moved (Gutierrez) seconded (Corona) to approve the Minutes of the September 26, 2024, meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Molina, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

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

George Spiliotis, former LAFCO Executive Officer. Mr. Spiliotis thanked Commissioner Jeffries for his service during the time they worked together. He stated that he was a very dedicated commissioner and during his terms as Chair he was a very effective leader and efficient Chair. He wished him well on his retirement.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (NON-HEARING ITEMS):

a. LAFCO Monthly Expenditure Review.

b. LAFCO 2024-06-5-Annexation to Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (Beaumont Energy Storage) (Water) and a finding of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adoption of a resolution making findings on the proposal.

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

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Molina, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Continued:

There were no continued public hearing items.

New:

- a. LAFCO 2024-07-5-Sphere of Influence Amendments to the City of Calimesa (removal) and to the City of Beaumont (addition) (Champions Dr. Realignment) and a finding of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adoption of a resolution making findings on the proposal.
- b. LAFCO 2024-08-5-Reorganization to Include Detachment from the City of Calimesa and Annexation to the City of Beaumont (Champions Dr. Realignment) and a finding of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adoption of a resolution making findings on the proposal.

Ms. Craig presented both items a. and b. together. She presented an overview of the reorganization area. She stated that this was a technical boundary clean up to place the northerly half-street right-of-way of Champions Drive that is in the City of Calimesa into the City of Beaumont. She stated both cities agreed to the reorganization.

Chair Vargas opened the public hearing, there being no one wishing to speak he closed the public hearing.

Moved (Molina) seconded (Tomanelli) to approve LAFCO 2024-07-5-Sphere of Influence Amendments to the City of Calimesa (removal) and to the City of Beaumont (addition) (Champions Dr. Realignment) and LAFCO 2024-08-5- Reorganization to Include Detachment from the City of Calimesa and Annexation to the City of Beaumont (Champions Dr. Realignment) as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Molina, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Stipend Survey, Discussion, and Direction.

Mr. Thompson stated that staff was requested to bring this item back to the Commission. He stated that a stipend survey was done amongst 12 LAFCOs. He provided the travel and County policies that LAFCO follows.

Commissioner Underwood spoke about non-water special district members and how he feels they are not represented equally. He stated that each commissioner should be equal and to be able to access and have information available to them. He stated that independent analysis by a commissioner is important. He stated that

commissioners should be paid each day for a conference they attend. He stated that attending agency meetings that may have an item on their agenda related to LAFCO should be compensated. Commissioner Underwood requested that LAFCO hold meetings in the Eastern portion of the County, *including Blythe.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked if mileage was reimbursed. Mr. Thompson replied yes, for commission meetings and if a personal car was used for attending a conference.

Commissioner Corona stated that the commission is a public service. He stated that he has attended many meetings that he was not paid for. He stated that he has been on advisory committees and boards that he was never paid for. He stated that he did it for public service. He stated that staff does a great job providing information to the Commission.

Chair Vargas stated that budgeting for additional agency meetings would be difficult. He also stated that he agreed to increasing the stipend received for conferences from one day to each day in attendance.

Moved (Underwood) seconded (Tomanelli) to increase the stipend received for CALAFCO conferences from one day to each day in attendance and to bring back the revised policy to the January meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Molina, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: Corona and Jeffries.

ABSENT: None.

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):

- i. LAFCO 2024-11-5-Reorganization to Include Detachment from Edgemont Community Services District and Annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District (Sewer) (21711 Box Springs Rd.)
- ii. LAFCO 2024-12-5-Sphere of Influence Amendment to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (Addition) and Concurrent Annexation to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (Beaumont Pointe Partners, LLC)
- iii. LAFCO 2024-13-5-Reorganization to Include Annexation to the City of Beaumont and Concurrent Annexation to Beaumont-Cherry

Valley Water District and Detachment from Riverside County
Waste Resources Management District (Beaumont Pointe
Partners, LLC)

Ms. Craig gave an overview of the new proposals received.

b. Report on Conducting Authority Proceedings.

Mr. Thompson gave an update on the conducting authority proceedings.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POTENTIAL POSITIONS.

Mr. Thompson gave an update on pending legislation. He stated that SB 1209 (indemnification) was signed by the Governor. He stated AB 3198 was also signed forming a JPA to resolve the Imperial Irrigation District/Coachella Valley electricity services issue. He stated AB 2172 died in the Senate.

Mr. Thompson stated that CALAFCO Board of Directors had a special meeting in September and reinstated the CALAFCO Legislative Committee. He stated that the new CALAFCO Board of Directors is in place and their next meeting will be January 10, 2025. He stated that he is in support of the new board working through the many of the issues before them.

There was no action taken by the Commission.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.

Mr. Thompson stated that he would be out of the office starting next week for hip surgery. He stated he would be telecommuting after recovery through the end of the year.

He stated that he was working on the cemetery districts MSR. He stated he is still waiting for information and comments back from some of the districts.

He stated that at the January meeting the committee assignments would be before the Commission.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Annual Audit was near completion.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FUTURE ITEMS.

Commissioner Corona asked if there was an update to the Grand Jury report. Mr. Thompson stated that he has not heard anything since wrote his reply to the report.

Chair Vargas stated that Riverside and Imperial LAFCO were awarded the Mike Gotch Excellence in Public Service Innovation Award for

their work on the Imperial Irrigation District project.

Commissioner Underwood thanked staff for being responsive for providing documents he requested. He stated that he made a presentation to the Riverside Special District Association about LAFCO. He stated some districts asked if there was a way to know when their MSRs would be coming before the Commission and he stated he would like to know as well. He requested a list of MSRs and dates. He asked the status of the lists of special districts, general managers, clerks, and presiding officers.

Mr. Thompson replied that the Five-Year Strategic Plan has the schedule of MSRs in it by fiscal year. He stated that next fiscal year the water and sanitary districts will need to be completed, and that LAFCO may hire a consultant to assist.

He stated that staff will provide a link to the list of boards and commissions that is maintained on the Riverside County website.

Chair Vargas stated when meeting with the Special District Association to ask them how LAFCO can get them to participate in elections in an effective manner.

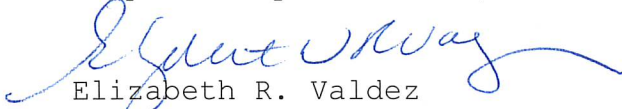
Mr. Thompson stated that he noticed on the Registrars certified list of those running in the election that there were close to forty positions that were running unopposed. He stated that they don't just participate in the election but also don't have people running for their boards.

Mr. Thompson stated he would be putting something together with the Special District Association to hold a virtual meeting with the district to provide information on LAFCO.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth R. Valdez
Commission Clerk