



2.a.
1/25/2024

MINUTES
December 7, 2023

Present

Commissioners: Michael Vargas, Chair
Stephen Tomanelli, Vice-Chair
Stephen Corona
Kevin Jeffries
Yxstian Gutierrez
Steven Pastor, Alternate
Steve Sanchez

Absent

Commissioners: Cástulo Estrada

Present Staff:

Gary Thompson, Executive Officer
Crystal Craig, Assistant Executive Officer
Elizabeth Valdez, Commission Clerk
Ross Trindle, 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 Trindle made a statement to the public regarding disclosure of contributions made to Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a. September 28, 2023

Moved (Corona) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the Minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Sanchez, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Pastor.

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

Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer of Imperial LAFCO. Mr. Heuberger stated his appreciation to staff for their work on the IID Special Study.

Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Heuberger will be retiring from LAFCO. He stated Mr. Heuberger stayed with LAFCO an additional year to help complete the study.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (NON-HEARING ITEMS):

a. LAFCO Monthly Expenditure Review.

b. Terminating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Accepting Exclusive Jurisdiction for a Proposed SOI Amendment (Addition) and Annexation to Coachella Valley Water District LAFCO 2020-11-4 & 2020-12-4: Between Imperial and Riverside LAFCOs (Salton City Landfill - Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc.).

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

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Pastor, Sanchez, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Continued: There were no continued public hearing items.

New: There were no new public hearing items.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Presentation and Acceptance of the Final Study Entitled "Alternative Governance and Electricity Service Study - Imperial Irrigation District".

Mr. Thompson gave a brief overview of the study process. He stated that for the past two years staff, in conjunction with Imperial LAFCO and Dopudja & Wells Consulting, Inc. have been working on a special study to determine how electrical services will be provided in the Coachella Valley.

Mr. Thompson introduced Jason Pivovarovoff from Dopudja & Wells Consulting, Inc.

Mr. Pivovarovoff presented a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the approach they took to come to the alternative electrical service options they provided. He discussed stakeholder outreach and their feedback and how objectives were derived from their feedback.

Commissioner Gutierrez asked about the makeup of the potential Joint Powers Authority. Mr. Pivovarovoff stated that it would be dependent on needs such as finance authority or a service responsibility.

Commissioner Sanchez stated that the Commission is not taking an action on either option today. He stated it would be up to the cities and county how they would like to proceed and that cost and who owns the infrastructure would be a large factor in the decision.

Chair Vargas stated that **Brad Anderson** submitted an email commenting on the proposal.

Mr. Thompson stated that it would be nearly impossible to gather the financial data necessary during this study. He stated that the Coachella Valley Energy Commission had great representation from the Coachella Valley during this study. He stated that this may end up before LAFCO someday if a change of organization is required.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Tomanelli) to accept the Final Study Entitled "Alternative Governance and Electricity Service Study - Imperial Irrigation District", receive and file the Study, and direct staff to publish the Study on the LAFCO website.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Pastor, Sanchez, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

- b. Consideration of the Special District Commissioner Selection Policy & Procedures.

Mr. Thompson stated that he put together a policy consolidating the procedures to run the election for a new special district member seat on LAFCO. He stated one of the main changes would be to allow for a 60-day nomination and voting periods instead of 30 days to allow for boards to meet if needed to make a nomination and vote.

Commissioner Sanchez asked for clarification of who can sit as a special district member on the commission and stated that language may need to be added in the future to the policy.

Commissioner Corona stated he did not feel the need to change the nomination and voting periods to 60 days. He stated that it prolonged the procedure unnecessarily. He stated that those agencies that are interested in voting will do so in a timely manner.

Commissioner Jeffries stated that if the Special District Association is in support, then he supports it. Mr. Thompson stated that they did endorse the policy.

Moved (Jeffries) seconded (Tomanelli) to approve the Special District Commissioner Selection Policy & Procedures as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Jeffries, Tomanelli, Gutierrez, Pastor, Sanchez, and Vargas.

NOES: Corona.

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 2023-07-4-Sphere of Influence Amendment (addition) to the City of Coachella ("Pocket 7").

Ms. Craig gave a brief overview of the new proposal received. She stated that a letter was submitted to the Commission by the City of Indio regarding this item.

Commissioner Sanchez asked if the City of Indio was in the process or if they had submitted their application yet. Ms. Craig stated they were in the process of updating their General Plan along with other environmental documents and may submit an application by the end of January.

The Commission discussed the City of Indio's request and directed staff to wait to hear both proposals at the same time.

b. Report on Conducting Authority Proceedings.

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

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POTENTIAL POSITIONS.

Mr. Thompson updated the Commission on current legislation. He stated the legislative session is over for the year. He stated the Omnibus Bill passed and AB 399 passed but is in litigation.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT.

Mr. Thompson stated that the office would be closed for a week after Christmas. He also stated he would be leaving for a week to go to Florida on January 9th. Mr. Thompson wished everyone a happy holiday.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FUTURE ITEMS.

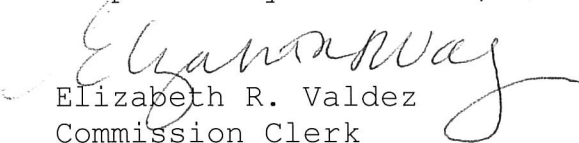
Chair Vargas read an award LAFCO received by the Special District Risk Management Association for having no paid claims.

Commissioner Guterrez thanked the Commission for their support for his nomination to the CALAFCO Board.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth R. Valdez
Commission Clerk