



2.  
7/22/2021

**MINUTES**  
**June 24, 2021**

Present Commissioners

In-Person: Michael Vargas, Chair

Via Teleconference: Stephen Tomanelli, Vice Chair  
Nancy Wright  
Steve Sanchez  
Phil Williams  
Kevin Jeffries

Absent: Jeff Hewitt

Present Staff

In-Person: Gary Thompson, Executive Officer  
Elizabeth Valdez, Commission Clerk  
Synthia Gunzel, Legal Counsel

Via Teleconference: Crystal Craig, Assistant Executive Officer

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG.**

Chair Vargas called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

**1.2. ROLL CALL.**

**1.3. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2021 MEETING.**

Moved (Williams) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Williams, and Jeffries.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Hewitt.

ABSTAINED: None.

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

Brad Anderson, Resident Rancho Mirage. Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to be able to call into participate via Zoom Meeting for LAFCO as well as other public agencies using a toll free number. He stated that he would like LAFCO to review the Coachella Vector Control District sphere of influence.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR (NON-HEARING ITEMS):**

a. LAFCO Monthly Expenditure Review.

b. LAFCO 2021-04-3-Annexation 131 to County Service Area 103 (TR 37028-Lennar) and pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act the Commission as responsible agency, will review and consider a mitigated negative declaration that was prepared by the County of Riverside, as lead agency, and adoption of a resolution making determinations on the proposal.

Moved (Wright) seconded (Williams) to approve the consent calendar as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomaneli, Wright, Sanchez, Williams, and  
Jeffries

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Hewitt.

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. CALPERS Pension Review Update (continued from May 27, 2021).

Mr. Thompson presented this item. He stated that he researched leaving the County and entering CalPERS as a separate agency. He stated he met with representatives from the County Executive Office and Human Resources. He presented the procedure, several scenarios as well as the potential costs if the Commission decided to move forward. He stated that two current employees would have to freeze current

benefits and enter under a new PEPRA formula as a new employee therefore losing benefits in the process.

The Commission discussed with Mr. Thompson LAFCO's share of the County's total unfunded liability, potential rate increases, and they expressed that it may not be good timing to separate especially if LAFCO is on track with paying down the unfunded liability.

The consensus of the Commission was not to move forward with separating from the County and entering CalPERS as a separate agency.

b. LAFCO Pension/OPEB Unfunded Liability Reserve Policy.

Mr. Thompson presented this item. He stated that this plan was previously approved by the Commission. He stated that he met with representatives from the County and LAFCO's Auditor. He stated it was decided to write the policy with a goal of funding the reserve by 80% over the next five years.

Moved (Wright) seconded (Williams) to approve the LAFCO Pension/OPEB Unfunded Liability Reserve Policy as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Williams, and Jeffries

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Hewitt.

ABSTAINED: None.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS:** No action to be taken by 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.

8. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POTENTIAL POSITIONS.**

Mr. Thompson gave an update on pending legislation. He stated that AB 1581 Omnibus bill, did not include the re-write of the protest provisions and is waiting for the Governor's signature. He stated that AB 1021 (Mayes), Imperial Irrigation District, is held up due to Mayes trying to get funding in the budget in a trailer bill for the study. He stated that SB 415 has not moved forward.

**9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.**

Mr. Thompson gave an update on the Countywide City MSR, the Community Services District MSR and the Murrieta Focused MSR. He also stated that a MSR will be done on the vector control districts next fiscal year.

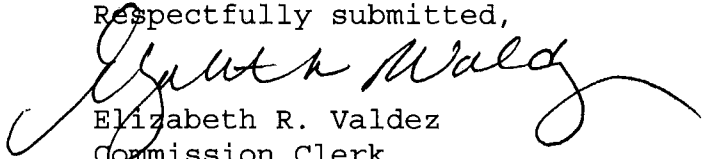
**10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FUTURE ITEMS.**

Commissioner Wright asked if the last Coachella Valley MSR reflected any of the information that Brad Anderson mentioned in public comments. Mr. Thompson stated he would have to look at the report, but that it was prepared many years ago and may not apply now.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth R. Valdez  
Commission Clerk