

2.a.
6/26/2025

MINUTES
May 22, 2025

Present Michael Vargas, Chair
Commissioners: Stephen Corona
Steve Sanchez
Stephen Tomanelli
Bruce Underwood
V. Manuel Perez

Absent
Commissioners: Yxstian Gutierrez, Vice-Chair

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 9:05 a.m.

1.2. ROLL CALL.

Chair Vargas stated that Item 6.b. would be pulled due to lack of clarity on the agenda.

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 requests were made.

1.4. ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS.

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a. April 24, 2025

Moved (Tomanelli) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2025, meeting as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez and Perez.

ABSTAINED: None.

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

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (NON-HEARING ITEMS):

a. LAFCO Monthly Expenditure Review.

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

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez and Perez.

ABSTAINED: None.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Continued: There were no continued public hearing items.

Commissioner Perez arrived at the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

New:

- a. LAFCO 2019-07-2-Sphere of Influence Amendments to Rubidoux Community Services District (Addition) (Rio Vista); and
- b. LAFCO 2019-08-2-Annexation to Rubidoux Community Services District (Rio Vista) and pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act the Commission, as responsible agency, will review and consider the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared by the City of Jurupa Valley as lead agency, and adoption of a resolution making determinations on the proposal.

Mr. Thompson presented this item. He stated that this was a part of the Rio Vista Specific Plan and was a 766 acre annexation to the Rubidoux Community Services District (RCSD). He stated that this project came in 2019 and since then the Specific Plan was rewritten and a new EIR was completed. He stated that in 2022 the Commission approved holding off on the project. He then reviewed the services that RCSD would be providing.

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

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) to approve LAFCO 2019-07-2-Sphere

of Influence Amendments to Rubidoux Community Services District (Addition) (Rio Vista) and LAFCO 2019-08-2-Annexation to Rubidoux Community Services District (Rio Vista) as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

- c. LAFCO 2024-17-5-Sphere of Influence Amendment for Eastern Municipal Water District (addition) (116th Fringe/Titan Contractors); and
- d. LAFCO 2024-18-5-Reorganization to Include Concurrent Annexations to Eastern Municipal Water District (Water) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (116th Fringe/Titan Contractors) and a finding of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and CEQA and approval of a resolution making determinations on the proposal.

Ms. Craig stated that the reorganization consists of one parcel. She stated that the parcel was being serviced by a remote meter, and it needed to be annexed to the district to bring it up to code. She stated that it also required a sphere amendment to EMWD. She stated the districts could serve the parcel.

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

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) approve LAFCO 2024-17-5-Sphere of Influence Amendment for Eastern Municipal Water District (addition) (116th Fringe/Titan Contractors) and LAFCO 2024-18-5-Reorganization to Include Concurrent Annexations to Eastern Municipal Water District (Water) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (116th Fringe/Titan Contractors) as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

- e. LAFCO Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Mr. Thompson stated that there have been no changes made since the adoption of the Proposed Budget last month. He recommended the Commission adopt the Final Budget.

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

Moved (Tomanelli) seconded (Underwood) approve the LAFCO Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Appointment of the Regular and Alternate Public Member to the Commission.

Commissioner Tomanelli joined the candidates in the audience.

Mr. Thompson stated that both Public Member terms were up and that a notice was published seeking applications. He stated that the applicants were in attendance.

Chair Vargas stated that there were five applicants for the Regular Public Member and two for the Alternate Public Member (one applicant applied for both positions). He stated each applicant would have two minutes at the podium and then after any discussion and questions from the Commission a motion to appoint would be made.

He called the applicants in the following order:

Steven Anthony Duran

Agustin Arreola

Nancy Wright

James Love

Stephen Tomanelli

Andrew Silva

Commissioner Perez thanked the applicants for coming in today and stated they all were qualified for the position.

The Commission submitted a written vote and Counsel Cushman tallied them up. She stated the top two for the Regular Public Member were Agustin Arreola and Stephen Tomanelli.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) to open for discussion to appoint Stephen Tomanelli as the Regular Public Member.

Commissioner Corona stated that he was looking for experience and the applicants all had different levels and qualities. Commissioner Sanchez agreed that whoever is appointed would serve well on the Commission.

Substitute Motion (Perez) seconded (Underwood) to open for discussion to appoint Agustin Arreola as the Regular Public Member.

Commissioner Perez stated that they were both great candidates. Commissioner Underwood stated that it is always a tough choice.

Counsel Cushman stated that the motion before the Commission was to vote on the substitute motion for Agustin Arreola for Regular Public Member.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Corona) to appoint James Love as the Alternate Public Member.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

b. Commissioner Requested Items for Discussion and Action.

This item was pulled. No discussion or action was taken.

Commissioner Tomanelli returned to his seat on the dais.

c. Non-Payment of Local Agency Share - Authorization to Collect.

Mr. Thompson stated that staff was notified that three agencies had yet to pay their portion of the Local Agency Share. He stated that the Auditor Controller's Office (ACO) needed this authorization in order to collect the payment from property taxes or other sources of funding. He stated that the ACO had been in contact with the agencies and it appears they would be paying but this was a formality in case they don't receive payment by the end of the fiscal year.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Underwood) to authorize the Auditor Controller to collect from property taxes or other sources of funding the outstanding payments to the Local Agency Share as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

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.

Ms. Craig stated that LAFCO 2024-05-3 and LAFCO 2024-09-5 were both recorded on May 19th and filed with the State Board of Equalization. She gave an update on the remaining items.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND POTENTIAL POSITIONS.

Mr. Thompson stated SB 489 that staff has been monitoring had been modified and that LAFCO is meeting the requirement. He stated that CALAFCO is opposing SB 777, requiring LAFCOs to decide who the successor agency would be for a failed private cemetery. He stated that he is requesting the Commission take an opposed position and send the signed letter by the Chair to the Legislature.

Commissioner Perez asked how many private cemeteries there are in the County. He asked if LAFCO had heard of any in trouble and coming to LAFCO for help.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau within the Department of Consumer Affairs oversees the districts and if one is headed for bankruptcy, they notify the County. He stated current law states it's the responsibility of the County to take them over.

Moved (Underwood) seconded (Perez) to take an opposed position on SB 77 as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Corona, Sanchez, Perez, Tomanelli, Underwood, and Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Gutierrez.

ABSTAINED: None.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.

Mr. Thompson stated that staff has been busy working on some difficult annexation projects. He stated that the meeting schedule, Annual Action Plan, and the Executive Officer's evaluation would be before the commission next month.

Ms. Craig stated that the Hemet United FAQ is now on the Commission's website.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FUTURE ITEMS.

Commissioner Sanchez stated that a few meetings ago, the Commission discussed consolidating not only cemetery districts, but special districts in general asked the status of that moving forward.

Mr. Thompson stated that it would be best to hire a consultant to do the studies.

Chair Vargas asked that it be put on the agenda for next month.

Commissioner Underwood agreed that looking at efficiency and effectiveness of the districts is one of LAFCO's goals.

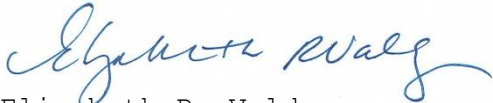
Chair Vargas thanked the candidates that applied for the public member positions for coming today. He thanked Stephen Tomanelli for his 20 years of service.

Commissioner Underwood asked for a report on the CALAFCO Staff Workshop that staff attended. He asked for a financial report and if any actions were taken at the conference.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth R. Valdez
Commission Clerk