



2.  
5/27/2021

**MINUTES**  
**April 22, 2021**

Present Commissioners

Via Teleconference: Michael Vargas, Chair  
Stephen Tomanelli, Vice Chair  
Steve Sanchez  
Phil Williams  
Nancy Wright

In person: Jeff Hewitt  
Kevin Jeffries

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 9:30 a.m.

**1.2. ROLL CALL.**

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

There was no announcement made since there are no proposals on the agenda.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021 MEETING.**

Moved (Hewitt) seconded (Wright) to approve the Minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

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 (Jeffries) seconded (Tomanelli) to approve the consent calendar as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:****Continued:**

There were no continued public hearing items.

**New:****a. LAFCO Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22.**

Mr. Thompson presented the Proposed Budget. He stated that the format has been changed to reflect all benefit line items rather than being grouped into one. He reviewed a few other changes to appropriations as requested by the auditor controller's office. He stated there was no increase to the local agency share and most of the charges for county services have remained the same. He stated there will be a carryover larger than what was budgeted. He reviewed the changes to the revenue and expenditure accounts. He stated that the reserve accounts are funded per the Commission's policies. Mr. Thompson also stated that next month he will bring a resolution to the Commission to approve the reduction in the budget from the previous year.

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

Moved (Jeffries) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the LAFCO Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:****a. Murrieta Focused Municipal Service Review - Consultant and Agency**

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## Participation Agreements.

Mr. Thompson presented this item. He stated that the consultant and subconsultants have been retained pending the approval of the professional service agreements. He stated the four agencies will fund a portion of the cost with LAFCO paying the remainder. He stated that the consultant will begin to work on responding to the comments received. He stated that both the contracts with the consultants and the funding agreement expire on December 31, 2021.

Moved (Jeffries) seconded (Sanchez) to approve the Murrieta Focused Municipal Service Review - Consultant and Agency Participation Agreements as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Jeffries, Hewitt, and Williams.  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAINED: None.

## b. Fiscal Year 2021/22 Annual Action Plan.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the Annual Action Plan the updated Five-Year Strategic Plan. He stated that there were minor changes and updates to the schedule to complete the municipal service review and mapping projects by staff.

Moved (Williams) seconded (Hewitt) to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Annual Action Plan as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Jeffries, Hewitt, and Williams.  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAINED: None.

## c. Appointment of the Public Member and Alternate Public Member to the Commission.

Mr. Thompson stated that the terms of both the Regular and Alternate Public Members expire next month. He stated that both Commissioner's Tomanelli and Love would like to retain their seats on the Commission. He stated the Commission could reappoint one or both of them or staff would proceed with the recruitment process.

Moved (Williams) seconded (Wright) to reappoint Commissioner Tomanelli as the Regular Public Member and Commissioner Love as the Alternate Public Member to a four-year term expiring in May of 2025.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

- AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Jeffries, Hewitt, and Williams.
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- ABSTAINED: None.

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

Ms. Valdez presented this item. She stated that the Citrus Pest Control District No. 2 had not yet paid their portion of the local agency share. She stated that the Auditor Controller's office requested formal action from the Commission to proceed with the collection pursuant to government code section 56381(c).

The Commission discussed the district and the lack of contact information and website for them. Ms. Valdez stated that a representative of the District did contact the Auditor for additional information which was sent to them.

The Commission asked for clarification on how the payment is collected and where the District is located since there is no information online about the District such as a website.

Moved (Wright) seconded (Williams) to authorize the Auditor Controller's office to proceed with collection of the local agency share pursuant to government code section 56381(c) as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

- AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Jeffries, Hewitt, and Williams.
- NOES: None.
- ABSENT: None.
- 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):

- i. LAFCO 2021-04-3-Annexation to County Service Area 103 (TR 37028).
- ii. LAFCO 2021-05-5-Annexation to Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (PM 28348)

Ms. Craig briefly reviewed each of the 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 he was recommending the Commission take a support position for AB 1581, the Annual Omnibus Bill. He stated that AB 1021 (Mayes), Imperial Irrigation District, was now at the Appropriations Committee. He reviewed the amendments and a fiscal provision that was added to prepare a joint study by Riverside and Imperial LAFCOs.

Commissioner Hewitt asked for clarification regarding the agreement between Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District. Mr. Thompson stated that if the agreement expires then electricity would not be provided in the Coachella Valley area therefore the study will be done before that happens.

Moved (Sanchez) seconded (Wright) to take a support position on the Annual Omnibus Bill as recommended by staff.

Chair Vargas called for the vote.

AYES: Vargas, Tomanelli, Wright, Sanchez, Jeffries, Hewitt,  
and Williams.  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: None.  
ABSTAINED: None.

**9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS.**

Mr. Thompson introduced Melissa Cushman as the new legal counsel for the Commission. The Commission welcomed Ms. Cushman.

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

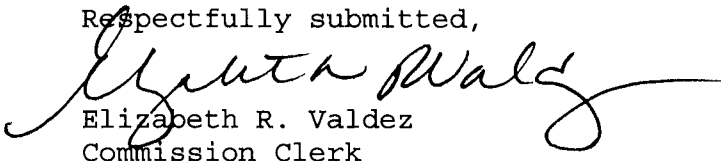
Commissioner Wright asked if there was any update to use of the boardroom regarding Covid-19.

Mr. Thompson replied that there is a mask requirement, the public can attend, and be social distance while at the dais and in the audience. He stated that he would be bringing this back for discussion along with the meeting schedule next month.

**11. ADJOURNMENT.**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth R. Valdez  
Commission Clerk