

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Chair MacKenzie and Members of the Commission

FROM: Executive Officer Compensation Committee

DATE: October 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Second Amendment to the Employment Agreement for Executive Officer Keene Simonds

Summary

The Commission annually evaluates the performance of its Executive Officer, Keene Simonds. As part of the evaluation, the Commission may propose an amendment to the Executive Officer's employment contract. The Executive Officer Compensation Committee (Jacob, MacKenzie, and Mathis) met on August 5, 2019 as part of the Executive Officer's annual performance review process and recommends the Commission amend the Executive Officer's employment contract to increase the Executive Officer's annual salary to \$182,624. The proposed amendment is attached as Exhibit C.

Discussion

Section 11 of the Employment Agreement Between the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission and Keene Simonds, dated September 11, 2017 ("Agreement"), attached as Exhibit A, requires the Commission to evaluate the Executive Officer's performance at least once annually. The Executive Officer's performance was last reviewed by the full Commission on October 1, 2018, and the Commission voted unanimously to increase Mr. Simonds' annual salary by 5% from \$160,000 to \$168,000. The change in salary was reflected in the First Amendment to Employment Agreement, attached as Exhibit B.

Under Section 6.20 of the LAFCO Personnel Rules, attached as Exhibit D, the Commission may consider adjustments of the Executive Director's current salary dependent on the EO Compensation Committee's performance evaluation and recommendation. The Executive Officer Compensation Committee met on August 5, 2019 as part of the Executive Officer's annual performance review process and recommends the proposed adjustment. The proposed adjustment is an increase of 8.7 percent and brings the Executive Director's salary to the mid-point of the salary range for the position, consistent with the discretion allowed under the Personnel Rules.

Fiscal Implications

The changes to salary and benefits provided by this amendment are within existing budget appropriations.

Alternatives

The Commission may refuse to approve the amendment, request changes to the amendment, or give other appropriate direction on this subject.

Conclusion

The EO Compensation Committee recommends the Commission approve the amendment and authorize the Chair to execute it on its behalf.

Attachments: Exhibit A – Employment Agreement
Exhibit B – First Amendment to Employment Agreement
Exhibit C – Second Amendment to Employment Agreement
Exhibit D – Section 6.20 of LAFCO's Personnel Rules

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE SAN DIEGO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
AND KEENE SIMONDS**

RECITAL

On August 7, 2017 the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission selected Keene Simonds (hereafter "Executive Officer") to serve as Executive Officer of the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission ("LAFCO"), and Executive Officer accepted such employment. Executive Officer and LAFCO are referenced in this Agreement as Parties and, individually, as a Party. Accordingly, the Parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Effective Date

This agreement shall become effective when it has been executed by Executive Officer and duly approved by the LAFCO Commission which the Parties anticipate will be on or before September 11, 2017.

2. Term of Employment

Pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, California Government Code sections 56000 et seq. ("CKH"), and this Agreement, Executive Officer serves at the pleasure of the LAFCO Commission and on an "at will" basis and has no vested right to his employment during the term of this Agreement, subject to the terms and provision of this Agreement as set forth below. The term of this Agreement shall extend from its Effective Date until terminated by a Party pursuant to sections 14 - 16 of this Agreement below.

3. Duties; Hours of Work

A. Executive Officer shall perform those functions and duties specified by CKH and other applicable laws, adopted policies and procedures of LAFCO and by formal direction of the LAFCO Commission. Executive Officer shall perform such duties in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards of the public management profession. Executive Officer shall not engage in any activity, which is, or which may become, incompatible with the office of Executive Officer, as provided for

by State law. During the term of this agreement, Executive Officer shall be exclusively employed by the LAFCO, unless prior authorization otherwise is received from the LAFCO Commission, which authorization will not be unreasonably withheld.

B. Executive Officer shall maintain a regular work schedule consistent with that approved for other Executive Service employees of the LAFCO. Executive Officer's duties may require more than eight hours per day and/or (40 hours per week, and may also include time outside normal office hours, such as attendance at LAFCO Commission meetings. Executive Officer shall not be entitled to additional compensation for such time. Commission acknowledges that Executive Officer intends to work a four-day, 10-hour work week until January 1, 2018 and consents to his doing so, provided that he is available on the last business day before Commission meetings and at other times as the work of LAFCO may require.

4. Compensation

A. The Executive Officer's annual salary shall be \$160,000 and as otherwise provided in section 6.20 of LAFCO's Personnel Rules ("Rules").

B. Executive Officer's compensation shall be reviewed at least annually in connection with the annual review required by section 11 below or at other times as may be determined by the LAFCO Commission.

C. To assist Executive Officer in relocating himself and his family from the Bay Area, Executive Officer shall receive, at his option, (i) an additional, \$1,000 in taxable compensation in each of the first six months of his employment, (ii) reimbursement of housing, travel and moving expenses up to \$6,000, or (iii) any combination of the two which does not exceed a cost to LAFCO of \$6,000 excluding employer's payroll taxes. This benefit is in addition to the moving expense allowance provided by section 6.20 of the Rules.

5. Flexible Benefits Program

LAFCO shall provide Executive Officer with the same flexible benefit program covering medical, dental and vision insurance benefits as provided to all other County of San Diego Executive Service employees and at the cost charged to those employees. At present, the monthly allowances are \$646 for an employee, \$937 for an employee with one dependent, and \$1,313.00 for an employee with two or more dependents.

6. **Other Benefits**

- A. LAFCO shall provide, without cost to the Executive Officer, term life insurance in the amount of his annual salary, \$2,000.00 for his spouse and dependent children up to age 26. LAFCO shall also provide accidental death and dismemberment insurance up to the amount of Executive Officer's annual salary. These coverages may be supplemented via the flexible benefit plan described above.
- B. Executive Officer may participate in the flexible spending plan on the same terms available to other County of San Diego Executive Service employees. At present the plan allows reimbursement on a pre-tax basis of eligible health care and dependent day care expenses.
- C. Executive Officer may participate in the health savings plan on the same terms available to other County of San Diego Executive Service employees.
- D. Executive Officer may participate in the limited-purpose, flexible-spending plan for otherwise unreimbursed dental and vision expenses on the same terms available to other County of San Diego Executive Service employees.
- E. Executive Officer will be afforded pension benefits under the terms established by the San Diego Employees Retirement Association on the same terms afforded other similarly qualified County of San Diego Executive Service employees.
- F. Executive Officer may participate in the County's 457 and 401A deferred compensation programs on the same terms available to other County of San Diego Executive Service employees.

7. **Vacation Leave**

A. Executive Officer shall be afforded vacation benefits per the Rules. At present, these afford 10 days per year for employees with one to five years' service, 15 days per year for employees with five to 10 years' service, and 20 days per year to employees with more than 10 year' service.

B. The Executive Officer may carry a balance of no more than twice his annual accrual of vacation leave.

8. **Other Leaves, Holidays, and Benefits**

The Executive Officer is entitled to 10 paid holidays as recognized by the LAFCO, plus two days of floating holiday time-off annually. LAFCO shall afford Executive Officer such other benefits as are provided to other Executive Service employees of the LAFCO on the same terms as provided to those employees except as otherwise expressly provided herein. These include as of the Effective Date:

- A. An initial bank of 10 days of reserve sick leave pending normal accrual during the first year of employment. Thereafter, accruals are credited on a biweekly basis (4 hours per 80-hour pay period). Employee will accrue 13 sick days per year in every subsequent year.
- B. Miscellaneous leaves including those for military service, bereavement, and jury duty.

9. Automobile Allowance

As the Executive Officer's normal duties require frequent use of his automobile, Executive Officer shall be entitled to \$600 per month as an automobile allowance. This allowance is in lieu of mileage reimbursement or other expenses that may be incurred by Executive Officer in connection with his use of his own automobile for LAFCO purposes. In consideration for said allowance, Executive Officer shall be responsible for all costs of maintenance and operation of his vehicle. Executive Officer shall at all times maintain automobile liability insurance on any vehicle him uses in the course of LAFCO employment. Such insurance shall have coverage limits acceptable in form and amounts to LAFCO. Executive Officer shall provide a certificate or other evidence of such insurance to LAFCO. Executive Officer acknowledges that this allowance will be subject to payroll taxes unless he maintains the records required by law to permit other treatment of this allowance. Executive Officer may not drive the County of San Diego vehicle provided to LAFCO staff more than three times per month under the policies and regulations adopted by the County of San Diego.

10. Professional Memberships & Meetings; Other Expenses

A. LAFCO shall maintain its membership in the California Association of LAFCOs to support Executive Officer's professional development. LAFCO shall pay for Executive Officer to attend the annual CALAFCO staff workshop and annual conference. LAFCO will pay for such other professional memberships and conference attendance as may be approved and budgeted by the LAFCO Commission.

B. LAFCO recognizes that the Executive Officer may incur certain expenses of a non-personal and job-related nature. LAFCO agrees to reimburse Executive Officer for reasonable expenses which are authorized by the LAFCO budget; submitted to the LAFCO Commission for approval; and which are supported by expense receipts, statements or personal affidavits, and audit thereof in like manner as other demands against the LAFCO.

11. Annual Performance Evaluation

The LAFCO Commission shall evaluate Executive Officer's performance at least once annually. The LAFCO Commission and Executive Officer shall annually develop mutually agreeable performance goals and criteria which the LAFCO Commission shall use in reviewing Executive Officer's performance in the following year. It shall be Executive Officer's responsibility to initiate this review each year. Executive Officer will be afforded an adequate opportunity to discuss each evaluation with the LAFCO Commission.

12. Indemnification

LAFCO shall defend, hold harmless and indemnify Executive Officer against any claim, demand, judgment, or action of any type or kind arising within the course and scope of Executive Officer's employment to the extent required by Government Code Sections 825 and 995.

13. Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

A. The LAFCO Commission may from time to time fix other terms and conditions of employment relating to the performance of Executive Officer, provided such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the provision of this Agreement, CKH, or other applicable law.

B. The provisions of the Rules shall apply to Executive Officer to the extent they explicitly apply to the position of Executive Officer or as provided elsewhere in this Agreement, except that if the specific provisions of this Agreement conflict with the Rules, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail. Without limiting the generality of the exception noted in the previous sentence, however, no provision of the Rules or this Agreement shall confer upon Executive Officer a property right in his employment or a right to be discharged only upon cause. Executive Officer is an at-will employee serving at the pleasure of the LAFCO Commission and may be dismissed at any time with or without cause, subject only to the provisions of this Agreement.

14. Termination Without Cause

The LAFCO Commission may terminate Executive Officer's employment with the LAFCO at any time and without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to Executive Officer. In the event of such termination without cause, Executive Officer shall be entitled to a severance benefit, of six months of the Executive Officer's current base

B. In the event the Executive Officer dies while employed by the LAFCO, his beneficiaries or those entitled to his estate shall be paid any earned salary and accrued leave at the Executive Officer's pay rate on the date of death.

17. Compliance With Law

This Agreement is subject to all applicable provisions of CKH and other State and Federal law and LAFCO policies, rules and regulations applicable to the Executive Officer.

18. General Provisions

A. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties. LAFCO and Executive Officer hereby acknowledge that they have neither made nor accepted any other promise or obligation with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

B. If any provision or any portion of this Agreement is held to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Agreement shall be deemed severable and shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

C. Any notice to LAFCO pursuant to this Agreement shall be given in writing, either by personal service or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Chair and Members of the LAFCO Commission
San Diego LAFCO
9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92123

With a courtesy copy to the LAFCO General Counsel at the following address or the address then shown in the records of the LAFCO for the LAFCO General Counsel:

Michael G. Colantuono, Esq.
San Diego LAFCO General Counsel
420 Sierra College Drive, Ste. 140
Grass Valley, CA 95945-5091.

Any notice to Executive Officer shall be given in a like manner, and, if mailed, shall be addressed to Executive Officer at the address then shown in LAFCO's personnel records. For the purpose of determining compliance with any time limit stated in this Agreement, a notice shall be deemed to have duly given: (a) on the date of delivery, if served personally, or (b) on the second calendar day after mailing, if mailed.

D. Venue for any disputes arising from or relating to this Agreement shall lie in San Diego County, California. If an action at law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable and actual attorneys' fees and costs with respect to the action.

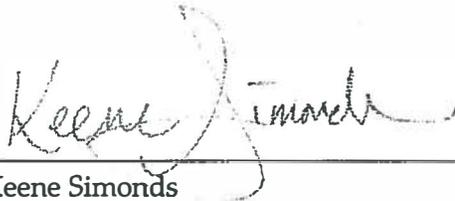
E. A waiver of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a general waiver and either Party shall be free to enforce any term or condition of this Agreement with or without notice to the other, notwithstanding any prior waiver of that term or condition.

19. **Amendments**

This represents the entire agreement between the Parties as to its subject. Amendments to this Agreement may be made at such times as approved by the LAFCO Commission and Executive Officer and shall be in writing.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: August 9, 2017



Keene Simonds

LAFCO

Dated: Aug. 15, 2017



Sam Abed, Chair

Approved as to form:



Michael G. Colantuono
LAFCO Attorney

Dated: 8/11/17

Attest:



[name] Tamaron R. Lockett

LAFCO Clerk

Dated: 8/15/2017

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FIRST AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

RECITAL

On October 3, 2018 the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission unanimously approved amending the Employment Agreement originally entered into between the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (hereafter "LAFCO") and Keene Simonds ("Executive Officer") on September 11, 2017. Such approved amendments followed the Executive Officer's annual performance review and are made as permitted by Paragraph 19 of the Employment Agreement. The Parties agree as follows:

AMENDMENTS

1. Paragraph 4 ("Compensation"), subparagraph "A" is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

A. Effective as of the first day of the first pay period following the Executive Officer's one-year anniversary date September 11, 2017, the Executive Officer's annual salary shall be \$168,000 and as otherwise provided in section 6.20 of LAFCO's Personnel Rules ("Rules").

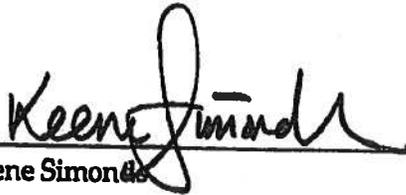
2. Paragraph 7 ("Vacation Leave"), subparagraph "A" is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

A. Executive Officer shall be afforded vacation benefits provided for Executive Management per San Diego County's Compensation Ordinance Section 4.2.1 – Vacation. At present, this affords 15 days per year for employees with one to four years' service, 20 days per year for employees with five to 14 years' service, and 25 days per year to employees with 15 years of service and over. Accruals are credited on a biweekly basis and available for use as it is accrued. The effective date of this vacation accrual formula is retroactive to the start date of the Executive Officer's employment with LAFCO on September 11, 2017 and is intended to adjust the Executive Officer's vacation benefits from the inception of his employment to be consistent with the executive management vacation benefits afforded County of San Diego executive management employees.

3. All other recitals, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses of the Agreement remain unchanged by this First Amendment to Employment Agreement.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: 12-6-18

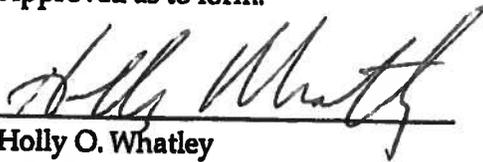

Keene Simon

LAFCO

Dated: 12-6-18

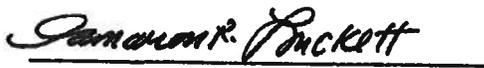

Jo MacKenzie, Chair

Approved as to form:


Holly O. Whatley
LAFCO Attorney

Dated: 12-12-18

Attest:


Tamaron Luckett
LAFCO Clerk

Dated: 12/06/18

SECOND AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

RECITAL

On October 7, 2019 the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission approved amending the Employment Agreement Between the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (hereafter "LAFCO") and Keene Simonds ("Executive Officer") dated September 11, 2017 ("Employment Agreement"), attached as Exhibit A, which was originally amended pursuant to the First Amendment to Employment Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit B. The October 7, 2019 approved amendment followed the Executive Officer's annual performance review and is made as permitted by Paragraph 19 of the Employment Agreement. The Parties agree as follows:

AMENDMENT

1. Paragraph 4 ("Compensation"), subparagraph "A" is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

A. Effective as of the first day of the first pay period following the Executive Officer's second-year anniversary date of September 11, 2017, the Executive Officer's annual salary shall be \$182,624 and as otherwise provided in section 6.20 of LAFCO's Personnel Rules ("Rules").

2. All other recitals, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses of the Employment Agreement and the Vacation Leave amendment in the First Amendment to Employment Agreement remain unchanged by this Second Amendment to Employment Agreement.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: _____

Keene Simonds

LAFCO

Dated: _____

Jo MacKenzie, Chair

Approved as to form:

Holly O. Whatley
LAFCO Attorney

Dated: _____

Attest:

Ruth Arellano
LAFCO Clerk

Dated: _____

**RULES
SAN DIEGO
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE VI
PERSONNEL RULES**

- 6.1 Application
- 6.2 Definitions
- 6.3 Rest Periods
- 6.4 Holidays
- 6.5 Classification
- 6.6 Compensation
- 6.7 Performance Reports
- 6.8 Eligibility for Step Adjustments
- 6.9 Overtime
- 6.10 Leave
- 6.11 Vacation
- 6.12 Dismissal or Suspension
- 6.13 Temporary Appointment to a Higher Class
- 6.14 Employees Previously Employed by a County
- 6.15 Benefits
- 6.16 Compensation Plan
- 6.17 Recruitment
- 6.18 Suspension of Personnel Rules
- 6.19 Effective Dates
- 6.20 Executive Officer Compensation Plan**

6.20 EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION PLAN –

This Executive Officer Compensation Plan establishes the compensation for the Executive Officer, an Executive Management position. The plan provides for initial placement and subsequent adjustment of salary within the salary schedule fixed by the Commission. Any adjustment in rate of compensation pursuant to this plan shall be administered by the Commission.

1. Structure

(a) The minimum, midpoint, and maximum rate of the designated range are set forth in the salary schedule. The salary band range for the Executive Officer classification will be aligned with and automatically adjusted from time to time with the same salary range as comparable classifications in the County (i.e., planning director, public works director, registrar of voters, etc.).

(b) The midpoint rate of the designated range represents the job value of a fully competent employee and is the benchmark used to compare the class to other classes, internally and externally. The midpoint rate may be changed periodically by the Commission to reflect changes in internal and/or external factors. Any such change to the midpoint shall not automatically effect a change in the then current rate of the Executive Officer.\

(c) The relationship between the minimum and maximum rates of the designated range shall approximate a differential of 50%.

(d) The range does not have steps. The Executive Officer may be paid an amount equal to or between the minimum and maximum rate of the designated range, according to the provisions of this plan.

(e) The structure of the range shall be reviewed periodically, and may be changed by the Commission. The structure will be automatically adjusted based on salary band changes authorized by the County to its employees in comparable positions.

2. Appointment

The Executive Officer is appointed by the Commission and serves at the pleasure of the Commission. A person initially appointed as Executive Officer shall receive a salary determined by the Commission.

3. Adjustment Within Range up to Midpoint

For an employee whose salary is below midpoint of the designated range, adjustments up to the midpoint shall be governed by this subsection (3). No provision in this subsection (3) shall be construed to provide a guarantee of adjustment at any time during the employee's term of employment.

(a) Effective the first day of any pay period after each anniversary date of the employee's appointment as Executive Officer, the employee may receive a salary

adjustment of 5% of current salary, not to exceed midpoint. Any adjustment shall be approved by the Commission and based upon the determination by the Executive Officer Compensation Committee that the employee's overall performance is rated at the level of "meritorious" or higher.

- (b) No provision contained in this subsection (3) shall be construed to limit or deny the Commission's discretion to postpone an adjustment or reduce the compensation of an employee as a result of the employee's performance, as recommended by the Executive Officer Compensation Committee. However, any subsequent salary adjustment prior to the employee's next annual anniversary date must be based upon a mid-cycle Performance Evaluation. If such adjustment is an increase, the new salary rate shall not exceed that which the employee would have been eligible to receive on or after the immediately preceding anniversary date, pursuant to this subsection (3).
- (c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b) of subsection (3) above, the Commission may approve an adjustment of the Executive Officer's salary rate upon recommendation of the Executive Officer Compensation Committee.

4. Adjustment Within Range Above Midpoint

The Commission may adjust the Executive Officer's salary rate above midpoint if the employee's overall performance is rated at the level of "outstanding" by the Executive Officer Compensation Committee. This rating alone does not entitle the employee to a pay adjustment.

5. Exemplary Performance Compensation Adjustment

- (a) Eligibility and Maximum. An Executive Officer may receive an exemplary performance compensation adjustment (e.g., cash award and/or bonus) in increments of one percent (1%) not to exceed a total of (10%) of the employee's approximate annual salary at the time of approval of the adjustment.
- (b) Approval. Adjustments shall be based upon the recommendation of the Executive Officer Compensation Committee following a performance evaluation, subject to the availability of funds within the budget.
- (c) Term of Adjustment. An Executive Officer shall be limited to one exemplary compensation adjustment in a calendar year and shall be paid either in a lump sum or in incremental payments during the year.
- (d) Compensation Unfixed. Payment of compensation adjustments shall not affect the Executive Officer's rate of compensation. Commencing the first day of the first full pay period of each calendar year, compensation of the Executive Officer shall be unfixed and indefinite for the year until such time as the Commission determines whether to authorize an exemplary performance compensation adjustment. That

determination is to be based upon an evaluation of the employee's performance by the Executive Officer Compensation Committee.

6. Executive Officer Compensation Committee

Wherever this plan refers to the Executive Officer Compensation Committee, the following shall apply:

- (a) The Executive Officer Compensation Committee shall consist of at least three but no more than four members of the Commission appointed by the Chairperson, representing the various membership categories of the Commission.
- (b) The Executive Officer Compensation Committee shall periodically review and rate the performance of the Executive Officer, and make recommendations to the full Commission for any adjustments to the Executive Officer's compensation.

7. Relocation Allowance

Upon determination by the Commission that relocation allowance is appropriate to facilitate recruitment for and appointment of an Executive Officer, a relocation allowance in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 may be authorized for the actual and reasonable relocation expenses incurred incidental to relocation of the appointee and his/her immediate family to San Diego County. Expenses may include, but are not limited to, personal transportation, moving expenses for household goods and temporary housing arrangements. Claims for expenses submitted pursuant to this provision shall be subject to review and determination by the Chairperson prior to reimbursement. Reimbursement for relocation expenses shall be subject to review of the full Commission.

8. Severance Pay

If an Executive Officer is terminated by the Commission, s/he may be eligible to receive up to six (6) months of their then annual salary upon approval of the Commission; provided, however, that no severance pay may be paid if termination is for reasons of malfeasance or misfeasance in office or conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude.

*Adopted April 14, 1975
Amended April 4, 1977
Amended October 2, 1978
Amended March 3, 1980
Amended July 12, 1982
Revised May 5, 1986
Amended September 11, 1989
Amended November 6, 1989
Amended August 2, 1993
Amended April 4, 1994
Re-affirmed and adopted December 4, 2000
Administratively revised and updated May 24, 2005*

*Amended August 7, 2006
Re-affirmed annually via adoption of LAFCO Budget
Comprehensively Updated and re-adopted March 3, 2008
Amended November 5, 2012 (Sections 6.1& 6.11)
Amended August 5, 2013 (Section 6.8)
Amended April 7, 2014
Amended June 5, 2017*

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