



**San Diego County**  
**Local Agency Formation Commission**  
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair  
 Senate Committee on Health, California State Senate  
 1021 O Street, Room 3310  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Support for AB 356, if amended (Patel)** – Health care districts: County of San Diego.

Dear Chair Menjivar and Members of the Committee:

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) respectfully submits this letter **in support of AB 356, if amended**, a measure authored by Assemblymember Darshana Patel (District 76). The bill aims to address healthcare access in northern San Diego County by establishing a state-directed working group to report on current healthcare service needs with particular focus within the service area of the Palomar Health District.

San Diego LAFCO supports the bill’s intent to bring together state, regional, and local stakeholders to explore long-term strategies for effective and equitable healthcare service delivery in north county. However, to avoid duplication and to strengthen local coordination, LAFCO respectfully requests the bill be amended to explicitly include a LAFCO representative as a member of the working group. Most notably, this amendment would readily sync with LAFCO’s existing responsibility to prepare Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) on all local agencies, which offer independent, data-driven evaluations of the level, range, and adequacy of municipal services provided by subject agencies as well as related accountability issues.

San Diego LAFCO’s current workplan includes completing an active MSR of the four healthcare districts in San Diego County, including Palomar Health. A complete MSR draft is expected to be released for public review by October 2025. Proceeding with the requested amendment will – among other benefits – provide a legislative bridge for LAFCO to connect the MSR and its recommendations to the working group, and in doing so provide stakeholders with relevant and timely information in proceeding in greater detail as it sees fit.

With appreciation,

Keene Simonds  
 Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Darshana Patel, Assemblymember, District 76  
 Tasha Boerner, Assemblymember, District 77  
 Members, Senate Committee on Health  
 José Henriquez, Interim Executive Director, CALAFCO

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	<b>Jim Desmond</b> County of San Diego	<b>Dane White</b> City of Escondido	<b>Marni von Wilpert, Alt.</b> City of San Diego	<b>Jo MacKenzie</b> Vista Irrigation	<b>Brigitte Browning, Alt.</b> General Public
	<b>Vacant, Alt.</b> County of San Diego	<b>John McCann, Alt.</b> City of Chula Vista		<b>David Drake, Alt.</b> Rincon del Diablo	