



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

5c

AGENDA REPORT
 Business | Information

July 18, 2025

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Current Workplan Update on High Priority Project |
 Municipal Service Review on Wholesale Water Agencies in San Diego County**

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will receive an update on the current adopted workplan, with a focus on San Diego LAFCO’s highest-priority project involving a Municipal Service Review (MSR) of wholesale water agencies operating within San Diego County. This MSR includes a comprehensive review of the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and a proportional review of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET). This item is presented for information with an opportunity for Committee members to provide input on specific interests or priorities related to wholesale water services on behalf of special districts in San Diego County.

BACKGROUND

**2025-2026 Adopted Workplan &
 MSR on Wholesale Water Agencies**

San Diego LAFCO’s current fiscal year workplan includes 30 projects and is divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – along with priority assignments set by the Commission. A scheduled MSR on the two wholesale water agencies operating in San Diego County comes in as priority number one (1a) and covers LAFCO’s statutory responsibility to perform an independent review of the CWA and MET.

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LAFCO retains discretion in determining the appropriate scope of each MSR and does so by policy delegation to the Executive Officer. For this review, a comprehensive assessment will be conducted on the CWA, while a limited review will be prepared for MET. Regardless of scope, all MSRs are required by statute to meaningfully address the following core factors:

- Growth and Population Projections
- Present and Planned Service Capacities
- Adequacy of Services Relative to Community Needs
- Financial Standing
- Opportunities for Shared Facilities
- Accountability of Governmental Structure and Alternatives
- Any Other Factors Required by Local Policy
 - Environmental Justice (San Diego)

DISCUSSION

This item provides the Committee with an update on San Diego LAFCO’s highest-priority workplan item: an MSR of the two wholesale water agencies serving San Diego County—the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

This update follows the Commission’s August 2023 directive for staff to provide regular progress reports on MSRs and, in doing so, create opportunities for Commissioners, Committees, and the public to offer real-time input on current and pending activities. The Committee will receive a verbal report from LAFCO Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower. The report will also include an introduction to LAFCO’s newest consultant, Patrick Bouteller, who will be taking over the responsibilities previously held by Chris Cate—including work on the CWA and MET MSR.

Wholesale Water Agencies MSR

Project Manager Priscilla Mumpower

LAFCO Consultant Patrick Bouteller

The MSR is service-specific and focuses exclusively on the two wholesale water agencies operating in San Diego County. The San Diego CWA is undergoing a comprehensive review, while MET is being evaluated through a proportional, limited-scope review. LAFCO staff is leading the preparation of the MSR, with the exception of a contracted expert component involving the evaluation of the agencies core municipal function – wholesale water service. Dr. Michael Hanemann, retained for this purpose, is nearing completion of his analysis. Concurrently, staff is finalizing detailed agency profiles prepared in LAFCO’s standard MSR format, covering each district’s background, boundaries, demographics, governance, services, and finances.

A draft MSR report is expected to be shared with the subject agencies by late Summer 2025, initiating a 60-day review and comment period consistent with Commission Legislative Policy L-106. Following the review period, LAFCO staff will reconvene the ad-hoc working group—

made up of representatives from 11 agencies, including the County Water Authority—to solicit additional feedback on the full draft report.¹

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information and feedback.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the Committee’s agenda for information as part of the business calendar. The following procedures are recommended:

- 1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
- 2) Invite comments from interested audience members if any.
- 3) Discuss and provide general feedback as needed.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

¹ The Ad-Hoc Working Group is comprised of representatives from the following 11 agencies: City of Oceanside, City of San Diego, Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Ramona Municipal Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Santa Fe Irrigation District, Valley Center Municipal Water District, Yuima Municipal Water District

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