



# San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

# 4d

**AGENDA REPORT**  
Consent | Information

September 18, 2025

**TO:** Cities Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Meghan Traynor, Analyst I  
Pat Bouteller, LAFCO Consultant  
**SUBJECT: Legislative Report**

## SUMMARY

The Cities Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will receive a report on active legislation relevant to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission’s (LAFCO) regulatory and planning responsibilities. The item is being presented for information with the opportunity for the Committee to pull for discussion and provide additional feedback.

## BACKGROUND

### Legislative Resources and Deadlines

San Diego LAFCO staff actively monitors pending and proposed legislation affecting the San Diego LAFCO Commission's regulatory and planning responsibilities consistent with the workplan. Staff resources are supplemented through coordination with other agency members of the Alliance of California LAFCOs (ACL) on legislative inquiries, proposals, and positions. September 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day for each house to pass bills.

## DISCUSSION

The Committee will receive a legislative report on bills of interest to San Diego LAFCO’s regulatory and planning responsibilities. Over 2,300 legislative proposals were introduced during the first year of the current two-year session with nine bills emerging as priorities for LAFCO due to their potential direct and indirect impacts on the LAFCO Commission and / or

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local agencies under its oversight. Three of these bills – AB 339, SB 777, and SB 489 – are still pending action before September 12<sup>th</sup> with the remaining bills having not received enough support in their first house or pending further action in the second house. These bills are summarized below with their status.

- **AB 259 (Rubio, Blanca)**

- **Open Meetings and Continued Access to Teleconferences**

- This bill is of statewide interest and would extend the authorization for legislative bodies of local agencies – including LAFCOs – to use modified teleconferencing procedures during declared emergencies through January 1, 2030. It preserves existing requirements related to public notice and agenda posting while allowing remote participation under defined emergency conditions. San Diego LAFCO adopted a support position on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bill passed the Assembly and a hearing of the bill by Senate Committees on Local Government and Judiciary have been postponed.

- **AB 339 (Ortega, Liz)**

- **Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice Requirements**

- This bill is of statewide interest and would require public agencies regulated by the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act to provide recognized employee organizations or unions with at least 60 days' written notice before issuing requests for proposals or quotes, or before renewing or extending existing contracts that cover services within the scope of job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization. San Diego LAFCO employees are not presently represented by a recognized employee organization though most of the agencies under its oversight have labor organizations. The bill passed the legislature and is pending the Governor's signature.

- **AB 351 (McKinnor, Tina)**

- **Campaign Contributions Involving Agency Officers**

- This bill is of statewide interest and proposes to raise the contribution limit for agency officers involved in permit or license proceedings under the Political Reform Act from \$500 to \$1,500. It also provides for future adjustments tied to inflation, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. Although not the target of the bill, it is possible certain LAFCO actions – such as out-of-agency service approvals – could apply. The bill failed to pass out of committee in the Assembly on April 30, 2025; however, a motion for reconsideration was granted and the bill remains active for the second year.

- **AB 356 (Patel, Darshana)**

- **Healthcare Districts in Northern San Diego County**

- This bill is of local interest and was initially introduced to establish a state-directed working group to assess healthcare access in northern San Diego County and focusing on the Palomar Healthcare District's service area. In response to the Commission taking a support-if-amended position, the bill has been updated to include LAFCO as one of the listed stakeholders and in doing so providing connectivity to the Commission's oversight of Palomar and current municipal service review activities. LAFCO Consultant Adam Wilson provided supportive testimony for the author in conjunction with her accepting the Commission's amendments. Although the bill

passed through the Assembly, amendments requested by other stakeholders are currently under review, with the author agreeing to transition to a two-year bill.

- **AB 448 (Patel, Darshana)**  
**Extend Loan Repayment for Palomar Healthcare District**  
This bill is of local interest and authorizes the State Treasurer's Office to extend and, if necessary, restructure a previously issued bridge loan to Palomar Healthcare District. The Commission took a support position on this bill in June given the extension provides administrative flexibility for Palomar to meet repayment obligations while continuing to provide essential healthcare services – including operating the only emergency room within the Escondido-Valley Center region. No substantive amendments have been made to date with the author agreeing to transition to a two-year bill to parallel AB 356.
- **AB 810 (Irwin, Jacqui)**  
**Government Website and Email Address Domains**  
Existing law requires that a local agency that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website uses a .gov top-level domain or a .ca.gov second-level domain no later than January 1, 2029. This bill is of statewide interest and would extend the due date for compliance with this law for special districts, joint powers authorities (including San Diego LAFCO) to January 1, 2031, while maintaining the January 1, 2029, deadline for cities and counties. A hearing of the bill by the Assembly Appropriations Committee was postponed on May 23, 2025.
- **SB 489 (Arreguín, Jesse)**  
**Permit Streamlining Act**  
This bill is of statewide interest and would improve the Permit Streamlining Act (PSA) by requiring all public agencies post online the information necessary for a housing development application to be deemed complete. The intent is to reduce costly delays in the permitting process and facilitate the approval and construction of housing. LAFCO will be required to comply with these PSA requirements to post application information online for applications in connection with housing development projects. SB 489 would not apply any other provisions of the PSA to LAFCO approvals. The bill passed the legislature and is pending the Governor's signature.
- **SB 740 (Rubio, Susan)**  
**Municipal Wastewater Filings with LAFCOs**  
This bill is of statewide interest and proposes extending the deadline for municipal wastewater agencies to notify LAFCOs of new or amended agreements related to stormwater management services from 30 days to 40 days. The intent is to provide agencies with additional administrative flexibility in meeting statutory reporting requirements. The bill did not pass out of the Senate by the June 6<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- **SB 777 (Richardson, Laura)**  
**Expanding LAFCOs Role to Include Endowment-Funded Cemeteries**

This bill is of statewide interest and was initially introduced to require LAFCOs to identify local agencies to assume ownership and long-term maintenance responsibilities for abandoned (private) endowment-funded cemeteries, including title and fund transfers coordinated with the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau's procedures. In response to stakeholder feedback, the bill has been amended to remove direct mandates on LAFCOs and instead establish a state-convened working group with LAFCO participation – set to convene by March 1, 2026 – to evaluate the issue and develop policy recommendations. The bill passed the legislature and is pending the Governor's signature.

## ANALYSIS

All nine bills outlined in the preceding section warrant monitoring by San Diego LAFCO. Three measures – AB 356, AB 448, and SB 777 – stand out in significance, with two having merited formal Commission positions. On June 2, 2025, the Commission adopted “support if amended” for AB 356 and “support” for AB 448, and took no position on SB 777. Following amendments that added San Diego LAFCO to the AB 356 working group, staff revised the position to “support” and submitted an updated letter. The author has also moved AB 356 to a two-year bill to align with San Diego LAFCO's upcoming healthcare district service review, which will help shape the working group's scope. AB 448 has also been made a two-year bill, though no substantive amendments have been made. Regarding SB 777, amendments removed direct LAFCO mandates and instead established a working group including CALAFCO; as a result, LA LAFCO shifted its position from “oppose” to “neutral” while requesting ACL representation in the group.

## RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information only.

## ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

## PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the Committee's agenda as part of the consent calendar. A successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on the staff recommendation unless otherwise specified by the Committee.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



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Analyst I