



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

5e

AGENDA REPORT
 Business | Information

October 17, 2025

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer
 Michaela Peters, Analyst II

SUBJECT: Introduction | San Diego Unified Port District + Related Activities

SUMMARY

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will receive an introduction to the San Diego Unified Port District (“Port”). This introduction follows recent actions by the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to formally include the Port as a special district under its oversight. As part of this action, the Port is now contributing an annual apportionment to LAFCO and is featured in the FY 2025–2026 workplan through the initiation of an inaugural Municipal Service Review (MSR). The Committee will hear from Tracy Largent, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the Port, who will provide an overview of the Port’s mission, governance, and key activities relevant to special districts within San Diego County. The item is presented for information with an opportunity to provide feedback.

BACKGROUND

LAFCO Oversight of the San Diego Unified Port District & Related MOU

In October 2023, San Diego LAFCO directed staff to assess whether its statutory oversight authority extended to include the San Diego Unified Port District. This request was prompted by a Civil Grand Jury report that identified the Port as a special district lacking formal local oversight. Staff’s assessment, expanded upon a prior internal review, was presented to the

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Commission during two publicly noticed hearings held on December 4, 2023, and March 4, 2024. At this latter meeting, the Commission took action to accept a final administrative assessment to approve a conforming policy statement confirming the San Diego Port as an independent special district subject to LAFCO’s oversight.

This action prompted several months of discussions with the Port that ultimately culminated in the Commission approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Port on December 2, 2024, which was subsequently approved by the Board of Port Commissioners on December 10, 2024. The adopted MOU establishes a collaborative framework to guide LAFCO’s statutory responsibilities regarding the Port, including – among other tasks – a clean-up reorganization and the preparation of an inaugural MSR.

2025–2026 Adopted Workplan & Priority Project No. 14 | Inaugural Municipal Service Review of the Port of San Diego

San Diego LAFCO’s 2025-2026 fiscal year workplan was adopted May 2025 and includes 30 projects and is divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – along with priority assignments set by the Commission. A scheduled inaugural MSR has been introduced to cover the Port of San Diego and is placed as priority number fourteen (14). LAFCO tentatively expects the municipal functions covered in the document to include (a) harbor and port, (b) recreation, (c) public safety, and (d) community (waterfront) development.

DISCUSSION

This item provides the Committee with an introduction to the Port of San Diego and an overview of LAFCO’s planned activities for the current fiscal year. The introduction follows recent Commission action formally confirming the Port as an independent special district under LAFCO’s jurisdiction, and the execution of an MOU that establishes a framework for ongoing collaboration. Among other elements, this includes the initiation of an inaugural MSR and a proposed reorganization to reconcile jurisdictional boundary discrepancies and in doing so align the Port of San Diego’s boundary with its five member cities: San Diego, Coronado, National City, Chula Vista, and Imperial Beach.

As part of the proposed boundary “clean-up”:

- LAFCO staff anticipates identifying and reconciling discrepancies between the Port’s current jurisdictional boundaries and those of its member agencies, concluding with a reorganization proposal to be heard by the LAFCO Commission.

As part of the MSR process, LAFCO staff further anticipates:

- Engaging a mutually agreed-upon subject matter consultant to provide expert analysis of the Port’s municipal service functions, which are tentatively expected to include: (a) harbor and port operations, (b) recreation services, (c) public safety functions, and (d) community (waterfront) development activities;

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- Identifying and documenting all grandfathered out-of-agency service agreements;
- Determining all activated and latent service powers of the Port; and
- Establishing a stakeholder working group—including representatives from the San Diego Waterfront Association—to provide input on the preparation of the MSR.

The Committee will first receive a brief contextual overview from LAFCO staff, followed by an introduction and presentation by Ms. Tracy Largent, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the Port of San Diego. This item is for information with an opportunity for Committee members and the public to ask questions and offer general feedback.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information and general 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 staff,



Michaela Peters
Analyst II

Attachments: None

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