



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

**4b**

**AGENDA REPORT**  
 Consent | Information

January 16, 2026

**TO:** Special Districts Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
 Priscilla Mumpower, Assistant Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: Progress Report on 2025-2026 Workplan**

**SUMMARY**

The Special Districts Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will receive an update on the adopted 2025–2026 workplan and related activities. Of the 30 workplan projects, eighteen have been substantively initiated, with one now complete and eight others nearing completion. Since the Committee’s last update, the most significant progress has occurred on the municipal service review of the County’s two wholesale water service providers—the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET). LAFCO staff will soon issue administrative drafts to the agencies, initiating a formal 60-day review period. Separately, the annual updates to the Local Agency Directory and the Sphere of Influence–Municipal Service Review Registry are nearing completion. This item is provided for information only.

**BACKGROUND**

San Diego LAFCO adopted its current fiscal year workplan at a public hearing in May 2025. The workplan includes 30 special projects divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – with priority assignments established by the Commission.

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## DISCUSSION

This item provides the Committee with an update on the status of special projects approved as part of the 2025–2026 workplan. The attached status report summarizes progress on all 30 projects, with work underway on eight of the ten high-priority items. Since the October meeting, staff has continued advancing several major initiatives, as summarized below.

### **Priority No. 1a | Municipal Service Review: Wholesale Water Service Providers**

This study evaluates the performance and governance of the region’s two principal wholesale water agencies — the CWA and the MET. The review is intended to assess service efficiency, governance, and financial standing relative to regional demands, with a focus on capturing real-time operational adjustments in staff analysis. The project is being led by LAFCO staff with consultant support. LAFCO staff will soon issue complete administrative drafts with executive summaries as part of a formal 60-day review period. A public draft is expected to be presented to the Commission as early as April 2026.

### **Priority No. 4a |**

#### **Carlsbad-Encinitas Region Municipal Service Review: Part One – Carlsbad Subregion**

This first part examines governance, service delivery, and fiscal accountability within the Carlsbad subregion involving the City of Carlsbad and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District. Technical drafts have already been reviewed and commented on by the agencies. LAFCO staff has advanced the project by recently issuing complete administrative drafts with executive summaries as part of a more formal 60-day review. A public draft on this first part is expected to be presented to the Commission as early as March 2026.

### **Priority No. 4b |**

#### **Carlsbad-Encinitas Region Municipal Service Review: Part Two – Encinitas Subregion**

This second part examines governance, service delivery, and fiscal accountability within the Encinitas subregion involving the City of Encinitas, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Leucadia Wastewater District, and San Dieguito Water District. Technical drafts have already been reviewed and commented on by the agencies. LAFCO staff will soon issue complete administrative drafts with executive summaries as part of a more formal 60-day review. A public draft is expected to be presented to the Commission as early as May 2026.

### **Priority No. 13 | Website Refresh and Content Expansion**

A separate update will be provided on this High–Mid Priority project as part of Agenda Item No. 5a. The project was continued from the Committee’s October meeting due to time constraints and involves working with an outside consultant to modernize and expand the SD LAFCO website, including enhanced content and end-user functionality.

In addition, staff is nearing completion of two administrative workplan items focused on annual reporting. Priority No. 25 (Mid–Low Priority) involves updating and publishing the

annual directory of local agencies subject to LAFCO oversight, and Priority No. 28 (Low Priority) involves updating and publishing an annual registry documenting recorded sphere of influence and municipal service review actions. As part of the annual update process, both items are expected to be completed and presented to the Commission in February 2026.

**ANALYSIS**

None.

**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 for information as part of the consent calendar.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower  
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment:

- 1) 2025-2026 Workplan Status

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**ADOPTED WORKPLAN FOR FY2025-2026**

Status as of January 9, 2026

Priority	Tier	Type	Project	Description
Ongoing	...	Statutory	Applicant Proposals and Requests	Prioritize resources to address applicant proposals and related requests
Ongoing	...	Administrative	Targeted LAFCO Presentations	Coordinate timely public outreach; emphasis on informing stakeholders ahead of MSR work
Ongoing	...	Statutory	Workplan and Budget Management	Actively manage the workplan and budget resources with regular updates to the Commission

Priority	Tier	Type	Project	Description	Status
1a	Highest	Statutory	MSR   Wholesale Water Service Providers	Service-specific study on principal wholesale water suppliers - CWA (comprehensive) + MET (abbreviated)	
1b	Highest	Statutory	MSR   Healthcare Districts	Service-specific study of the four healthcare districts in San Diego County; addendum expected	
3	Highest	Statutory	MSR   SANDAG	Agency-specific study of SANDAG (transportation, housing planning, + climate adaption planning)	
4a	Highest	Statutory	MSR   Carlsbad-Encinitas Region I: Carlsbad	Region-specific study on City of Carlsbad + Carlsbad MWD	
4b	Highest	Statutory	MSR   Carlsbad-Encinitas Region II: Encinitas	Region-specific study on City of Encinitas + special districts (Olivenhain, Leucadia, San Dieguito)	
6a	High	Statutory	MSR   Vista-San Marcos Region I: San Marcos	Regional MSR on City of San Marcos + special districts (Vallecitos, San Marcos FPD, Vista ID)	
6b	High	Statutory	MSR   Vista-San Marcos Region II: Vista	Regional MSR on City of Vista + Buena SD	
8	High	Administrative	White Paper   Homeless Services	Evaluate the scope-scale of homeless services in SD County + potential governance options	
9	High	Administrative	White Paper   Public Recreation @ City Reservoirs	Assess public recreation at City of SD's unincorporated reservoirs + potential governance alternatives	
10	High	Administrative	SALC Planning Grant 2.0	Complete multi-year grant to inform + enhance small farming operations in SD County	
11a	High-Mid	Statutory	MSR   Solana Beach - Del Mar Region I: Cities	Region-specific study on mid coast I-5 municipalities (Solana Beach and Del Mar)	
11b	High-Mid	Statutory	MSR   Solana Beach - Del Mar Region II: Districts	Regional MSR on mid coast I-5 districts (Santa Fe ID + CSA 17)	
13	High-Mid	Administrative	Website Refresh + Content Expansion	Work with outside consultant to design and launch website refresh w/enhanced end-user features	
14	High-Mid	Statutory	MSR   San Diego Unified Port District	Agency-specific study of the Port (harbor, recreation, public safety, + community development)	
15	High-Mid	Statutory	Special Study   Oceanside SCHED	Prepare special study on SCHED detailing revenues/expenses + potential governance alternatives	
16	Mid	Administrative	Outside Audit   RFP + Selection	Prepare and circulate RFP and select new outside auditor per GASB best practices	
17	Mid	Administrative	Outside Audit   FY2025	Complete outside audit of financial statements for FY25 with supplemental information	
18	Mid	Administrative	Pilot Grant Program	Establish pilot program to explore grant opportunities to help fund special projects at LAFCO	
19	Mid	Administrative	Special Districts Advisory Committee	Provide administrative support to the SDAC and hold no less than three meetings in FY2026	
20	Mid	Administrative	Cities Advisory Committee	Provide administrative support to the CAC and hold no less than two meetings in FY2026	

Priority	Level	Type	Project	Description	Status
21	Mid-Low	Statutory	RCD Ad Hoc Committee: Part II	Complete part II of RCD boundary true ups to inform sphere updates for local RCDs	
22	Mid-Low	Statutory	MSR   South Coast Region I – Cities	Region-specific study on south coast Cities (Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach and National City)	
23	Mid-Low	Statutory	MSR   Healthcare Districts: Addendum	Address community healthcare needs and related resources + potential governance alternatives	
24	Mid-Low	Administrative	Alternative Membership Organization	Work with other LAFCOs to receive/provide ongoing education and legislative advocacy services	
25	Mid-Low	Administrative	Annual Local Agency Directory	Update and publish annual local agency directory subject to LAFCO oversight	
26	Low	Administrative	Legislative Proposal   UC Berkeley Report	Sponsor/facilitate legislation implementing UC report recommendations on LAFCO efficiencies	
27	Low	Administrative	Commissioner Onboarding	Create a digital toolkit for new Commissioners to help acclimatize to LAFCO	
28	Low	Administrative	Annual SOI-MSR Registry	Update and publish annual registry showing all recorded SOI and MSR actions	
29	Low	Statutory	Applicant Procedures	Update and streamline LAFCO application materials + establish related protocols	
30	Low	Administrative	Featured Work + Tutorial Videos	Produce videos featuring special projects as well as primers on LAFCO duties for online distribution	

Bullpen	Statutory	MSR   City of San Diego	Agency-specific study and core municipal service functions (water, wastewater, public safety, etc.)
Bullpen	Statutory	White Paper   Community Choice	Evaluate the scope and scale of CCAs in SD County and connectivity to LAFCO duties and interests
Bullpen	Statutory	Outreach to Sunset/Melrose "Island"	Perform targeted outreach to the island between Oceanside + Vista to assess service needs + possible annexation interests
Bullpen	Administrative	Service + Fiscal Indicators	Develop online browser feature to depict service + fiscal indicators among local agencies in SD County
Bullpen	Administrative	Liaison with Local Tribes	Establish communication protocols with local tribes with respect to shared interests in regional services + CEQA consultations
Bullpen	Statutory	Morro Hills CSD Follow Up	Coordinate and/or otherwise facilitate discussions with County Sheriff to enhance traffic enforcement within the CSD
Bullpen	Statutory	Policy Review   Health + Safety Fee Reductions	Review options to revise existing fee reductions for proposals/requests involving public health or safety threats
Bullpen	Administrative	LAFCO Meeting Room	Explore opportunities to secure a dedicated LAFCO meeting room with scaled dais and A/V enhancements
Bullpen	Statutory	White Paper   Garbage + Landfill Services	Evaluate the scope and scale of garbage collection and disposal services in SD County
Bullpen	Statutory	Legislative Proposal   G.C. 56430	Sponsor and/or facilitate amendments establishing community engagement enhancements in MSR statute
Bullpen	Statutory	White Paper   School Districts	Evaluate scope and scale of school districts and their baseline capacities for reference in municipal service reviews
Bullpen	Statutory	Policy Review   Island Annexations	Consider options to define "substantially surrounded" and provide related mapping services
Bullpen	Administrative	LAFCO Workshop	Organize a special workshop for the Commission to discuss strategic objectives over the next five-year period
Bullpen	Administrative	Public Access Television	Establish public broadcasting LAFCO meetings on local government channels
Bullpen	Administrative	Procedural Flow Charts	Create user friendly flow charts for various LAFCO statutory processes for online publication
Bullpen	Statutory	Policy   Fee Schedule Update	Review and update fee schedule to sync with current costs and related considerations
Bullpen	Statutory	Policy   CEQA Guidelines	Review and update existing CEQA Implementation guidelines relative to current statute and best practices
Bullpen	Statutory	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities	Update DUC mapping designations (DUC) in San Diego County based on current census information
Bullpen	Administrative	County Planning Groups	Monitor regular meetings of the County's 28 Planning and or Sponsor Groups and directly engage as appropriate
Bullpen	Administrative	Local Agency Finder Tool	Develop online feature for users to enter address to identify all overlapping local jurisdictions (cities and districts)
Bullpen	Statutory	Policy   Commission Rule No. 4	Modernize Rule No. 4 and its provisions to regulate special districts' service functions and classes
Bullpen	Statutory	Special Study   Escondido + Rincon	Study options to consolidate (functional and political) the City of Escondido and Rincon del Diablo MWD
Bullpen	Statutory	White Paper   JPAs	Evaluate the status of JPA filings in SD County relative to LAFCO's task in SB 1261
Bullpen	Administrative	Policy   Cities Advisory Committee	Coordinate with CAD in updating bylaws and related procedures to sync with current interests/priorities
Bullpen	Statutory	Legislative Proposal   G.C. 56133	Sponsor/facilitate amendments to clarify LAFCOs' authority to determine out-of-agency exemptions in (e)

Complete Near Complete Underway Pending