



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

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**AGENDA REPORT**  
 Consent | Information

February 2, 2026

**TO:** Chair Whitburn and Commissioners

**FROM:** Michaela Peters, Analyst II  
 Patrick Bouteller, LAFCO Consultant

**SUBJECT: Legislative Report**

**SUMMARY**

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a legislative update on existing and anticipated bills as part of the new session commencing on January 5<sup>th</sup>. This report is for information only.

**BACKGROUND**

The California Legislature recently reconvened for the second year of the 2025–26 Regular Session on January 5, 2026. The deadline for introducing new legislation is February 20. Following bill introduction, measures will be referred to their respective committees, with committee hearings and initial floor action expected to occur between March and April. Legislation that advances through both houses must be passed by August 31, the constitutional adjournment of the 2026 legislative session.

**DISCUSSION**

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to receive an update on proposals of interest, divided into two categories: introduced legislation and pending legislation. The item is presented for information with an opportunity to pull it for discussion and provide general direction.

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## Introduced Legislation

With the 2026 legislative session reconvening on January 5, this report highlights two bills of interest that have been carried over from the prior session: AB 259 and AB 256.

- **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 with it now reverting into a two-year bill.
- **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. While 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.

## Pending Legislation

Staff is tracking at least one pending legislative matter of interest to the Commission: ongoing efforts to advance LAFCO-related reforms stemming from a recent UC Berkeley report. Staff has prepared a dedicated agenda item on this matter, calendared as Item 7a.

## ANALYSIS

None.

## RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Commission for information only.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION**

None.

**PROCEDURES**

This item has been placed on the Commission’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 Commission.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Michaela Peters  
Analyst II

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