



# San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

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**AGENDA REPORT**  
Consent | Information

March 2, 2026

**TO:** Chair Becker and Commissioners  
**FROM:** Joelle Burila, Analyst I  
Patrick Bouteller, LAFCO Consultant  
**SUBJECT: Legislative Report**

## SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive monthly legislative updates on existing and anticipated bills as part of the second-year legislative session. This report is for information only.

## BACKGROUND

The California Legislature reconvened for the second year of the 2025–26 Regular Session on January 5, 2026. The deadline for introducing new legislation was February 20, 2026. 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, 2026, which is 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 for discussion and provide general direction.

<b>Administration</b> Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org	<b>Paloma Aguirre</b> County of San Diego  <b>Joel Anderson</b> County of San Diego  <b>Monica M. Steppe, Alt.</b> County of San Diego	<b>Chair Kristi Becker</b> City of Solana Beach  <b>Dane White</b> City of Escondido  <b>John McCann, Alt.</b> City of Chula Vista	<b>Stephen Whitburn</b> City of San Diego  <b>Marni von Wilpert, Alt.</b> City of San Diego	<b>Vice Chair Barry Willis</b> Alpine Fire Protection  <b>Jo MacKenzie</b> Vista Irrigation  <b>David Drake, Alt.</b> Rincon del Diablo	<b>Brigette Browning</b> General Public  <b>Eileen Delaney, Alt.</b> General Public
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## Introduced Legislation

Since the 2026 legislative session reconvened on January 5, 2026, this report highlights two bills of interest carried over from the prior session — AB 259 and AB 256. There have been no new updates since the Commission received its last legislative report on February 2, 2026.

- **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 | UC Berkely Report Legislation

At the February 2, 2026 meeting, staff presented the Commission a draft legislative proposal intended to strengthen LAFCOs' ability to carry out their statutory duties and responsibilities. The development of the proposal was part of the Commission's adopted workplan and drew on a recent University of California, Berkeley report, with specific amendments developed by a coalition of LAFCOs — including San Diego staff — and nonprofit organizations.

The proposal as currently drafted focuses on three legislative changes: 1) authorize LAFCOs to initiate boundary changes and extraterritorial services in response to documented public health and safety threats involving water or wastewater; 2) require noticed hearings for municipal service reviews and written responses from subject agencies; and 3) extend information-sharing requirements to mobile home parks operating community water systems.

Commission discussion concluded with a request to continue consideration to the March 2026 meeting. Staff has since received an update from the bill's tentative author, Senator Laird (Santa Cruz), indicating he will not proceed during the current legislative session given the absence of broader support from LAFCOs – including a sponsor. San Diego LAFCO staff will continue coordinating with stakeholders to further refine the proposal and pursue introduction in the 2027 legislative session.

## **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,



Joelle Burila  
Analyst I

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