

**APPROVED MINUTES
SAN DIEGO LAFCO REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2026**

1. 8:15 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

Item 1a

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:19 a.m. by Chair Whitburn. The Commission Clerk performed the roll call with the following attendance recorded.

Regulars Present: Paloma Aguirre, County of San Diego
Joel Anderson, County of San Diego
Kristi Becker, City of Solana Beach
Brigitte Browning, Public
Jo MacKenzie, Vista Irrigation District
Stephen Whitburn, City of San Diego (CHAIR)
Dane White, City of Escondido
Barry Willis, Alpine Fire Protection District (VICE CHAIR)

Alternates Present: Eileen Delaney, Public

Members Absent: David Drake, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District (alternate)
John McCann, City of Chula Vista (alternate)
Monica Montgomery Steppe, County of San Diego (alternate)
Marni von Wilpert, City of San Diego (alternate)

The Commission Clerk confirmed a quorum with eight voting members present.

Also present at the time of roll call were the following LAFCO staff members: Executive Officer Keene Simonds, Assistant Executive Officer Priscilla Mumpower, Commission Counsel Aleks Giragosian, Local Government Analyst II Michaela Peters, Local Government Analyst I Joelle Burila, Local Government Analyst I Meghan Traynor, Communications Associate Aiden Velasquez, GIS Analyst Dieu Ngu, and Commission Clerk Erica Sellen.

Item 1b

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. STATEMENT (JUST CAUSE) AND/OR CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY (EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES) BY A COMMISSIONER, IF APPLICABLE

None.

3. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Whitburn asked Executive Officer Simonds if there were any requests to remove or rearrange items on the agenda. Executive Officer Simonds stated no changes to the agenda were needed while also noting one piece of supplemental correspondence involving Agenda Item 7a.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO REQUEST DISCUSSION ON CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Whitburn invited anyone from the public to address the Commission on a matter not directly related to an agenda item.

The following in-person registered speaker addressed the Commission:

- Alisha Morrison

The Commission Clerk confirmed there was one remote speaker:

- Tedi Jackson, Protect Rural Escondido

The Commission Clerk confirmed there were no other registered speakers (audience or remote) or live e-mail comments.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

Item 5a

Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2025

Item presented to approve draft action minutes prepared for the Commission's December 1, 2025 meeting. Recommendation to approve.

Item 5b

Commission Ratification | Recorded Payments for November and December 2025

Item presented to ratify recorded payments made and received by the Executive Officer for the months of November and December 2025. Recommendation to ratify.

Item 5c

Budget Update for 2025-2026 |

Second Quarter Actuals with Year-End Projections

Item presented to review a report comparing budgeted and actual transactions through the second quarter of 2025-2026 and related analysis. The Commission finished the second quarter expending 40% of total budgeted expenses while collecting 71% of total budgeted revenues. Recommendation to accept the report.

Item 5d

Progress Report on 2025-2026 Workplan

Item presented to receive a workplan update on the 30 special projects scheduled for 2025-2026. Information only.

CONSENT ITEMS CONTINUED...

Item 5e

Annual Report | 2025

Sphere of Influence and Municipal Service Review Summary of Actions

Item presented to receive an annual report chronicling sphere of influence and municipal service review actions in San Diego County. The report marks the Commission approving 11 distinct sphere actions. No municipal service reviews were completed in 2025. The annual report serves as the official registry cataloging all related actions. Recommendation to receive and file.

Item 5f

**Proposed “Halstead – Olivewood Lane Change of Organization” |
Annexation to San Diego County Sanitation District (CO25-11)**

Item presented to consider a change of organization proposal initiated by landowner petition to annex 15.37 acres of unincorporated territory in Alpine to the San Diego County Sanitation District (SD). The affected territory lies within the County SD’s sphere of influence and is currently developed with a single-family residence and equestrian-related structures at 1545 Olivewood Lane. Recommendation to approve the proposal as submitted, including waiver of protest proceedings. It is also recommended that the Commission adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption findings and determine the project exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15320.

Item 5g

Legislative Report

Item presented to receive an update on active legislation relevant to the Commission’s regulatory and planning responsibilities. Information only.

Item 5h

Report on Applicant Proposals

Item presented to receive a status report on active and anticipated applicant proposals. Information only.

Item 5i

Special Districts Advisory Committee Election Results

Item presented to receive results from the recent election to fill seven of the Special Districts Advisory Committee’s 15 seats. Recommendation to accept the election results.

Item 5j

**Report on Recent Committee Meeting |
Special Districts Advisory Committee’s January 16, 2026 Meeting**

Item presented to receive a report on the most recent meeting of its Special Districts Advisory Committee held on January 16th. Information only.

CONSENT ITEMS CONTINUED...

Item 5k

Local Agencies Directory Under LAFCO Oversight

Item presented to receive an annual local agencies directory prepared pursuant to the Commission’s adopted workplan providing updated information on all 102 local agencies – cities and special districts – subject to the Commission’s planning and regulatory duties. Agencies were encouraged to review the directory and provide suggested revisions prior to final publication. Information only.

Item 5l

Active Professional Services Agreements

Item presented to receive a complete listing of all active professional services agreements supporting agency activities. Information only.

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Chair Whitburn invited public comment from the following registered speaker:

- Alisha Morrison

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Commissioner Anderson motioned with a second from Commissioner White to approve the consent calendar with staff recommendations (Alternative One) as presented.

Roll call requested:

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Becker, Browning, MacKenzie, Whitburn, White, & Willis
NOES: None
ABSENT: Drake, McCann, Montgomery Steppe & von Wilpert
ABSTAINING: None

The Commission Clerk confirmed the motion was approved 8-0.

**6. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS |
COMMISSIONER DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7a

**Proposed Legislative Amendments to LAFCO Law |
Implementing UC Report Recommendations to Expand LAFCOs’ Effectiveness**

Item presented to consider action to support a draft legislative proposal to enhance LAFCOs’ effectiveness in meeting statutory duties and responsibilities. The development of the proposal is part of the Commission’s adopted workplan and draws on recommendations from a recent University of California report, with specific amendments

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED...

Item 7a Continued...

having been drafted by a stakeholder coalition of LAFCOs – including San Diego staff – and nonprofit organizations. The draft proposes three legislative changes: 1) authorize LAFCOs to initiate boundary changes and extraterritorial services in response to public 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. Recommendation to adopt a support position.

Local Government Analyst II Peters provided the staff presentation.

Chair Whitburn invited public comments from the following registered speakers with stated positions to the staff recommendation noted in parenthesis:

- Doyle Morrison (oppose)
- Patricia Sainz (oppose)
- Luis Sainz (oppose)
- Alisha Morrison (oppose)

The Commission Clerk confirmed there were no other registered speakers (audience or remote) or live e-mail comments and noted email comments submitted before the meeting started would be distributed to Commissioners and posted online.

Chair Whitburn proceeded to invite questions and comments from the Commissioners. Discussion followed, with some Commissioners supporting continuing the item and others expressing to adopt a support position.

Commissioner MacKenzie motioned to approve Alternative Two as listed in the agenda report to continue consideration of the item to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Willis.

Chair Whitburn asked the Commission if there was any discussion on the motion. Commissioner White made a substitute motion to approve Alternative One as listed in the agenda report to adopt a support position. The substitute motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner White motioned with a second from Commissioner Anderson to approve Alternative One as listed in the agenda report to adopt a support position.

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED...

Item 7a Continued...

Roll call requested:

AYES: Anderson, Becker, Whitburn, & White
NOES: Aguirre, Browning, MacKenzie, & Willis
ABSENT: Drake, McCann, Montgomery Steppe & von Wilpert
ABSTAINING: None

The Commission Clerk confirmed the motion failed due to a tie vote 4-4.

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Commissioner MacKenzie motioned with a second from Commissioner Willis to approve Alternative Two as listed in the agenda report to continue consideration of the item to the next meeting.

Roll call requested:

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Becker, Browning, MacKenzie, Whitburn, White, & Willis
NOES: None
ABSENT: Drake, McCann, Montgomery Steppe & von Wilpert
ABSTAINING: None

The Commission Clerk confirmed the motion was approved 8-0.

Item 7b

Chair and Vice Chair Appointments

Item presented to consider making officer appointments and select a chair and vice chair consistent with adopted policy. The appointees will serve the balance of 2026 consistent with policy unless otherwise specified.

Chair Whitburn invited comments from the public. The Commission Clerk confirmed there were no registered speakers (audience or remote) or live e-mail comments.

Chair Whitburn thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve for the past two years and stated he will not be seeking reelection.

Chair Whitburn proceeded to open nominations for Chair and nominated Commissioner Becker. Commissioner Aguirre also nominated Commissioner Becker. Vice Chair Willis nominated himself for Chair. The Chair proceeded to close the nominations and invited Commissioner Becker and Vice Chair Willis to address the Commission.

Chair Whitburn proceeded to invite questions and comments from Commissioners. General discussion ensued.

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED...

Item 7b Continued...

Chair Whitburn reiterated the two Commissioners nominated for Chair were Commissioner Becker and Vice Chair Willis. He stated the vote for Chair would be conducted by a show of hands and whoever had the most hands raised would be Chair.

The votes were as follows. Commissioner Becker 7-1 and Vice Chair Willis 1-7.

Chair Whitburn congratulated Commissioner Becker on her appointment.

Chair Whitburn proceeded to open nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Anderson nominated Vice Chair Willis. The Chair proceeded to close the nominations.

The vote was as follows. Vice Chair Willis 8-0.

Chair Whitburn congratulated Vice Chair Willis on his appointment and thanked him for his continued service.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Executive Officer Keene Simonds noted the following items:

- Thanked Commissioner Whitburn for his two years of service as the Chair.
- Congratulated newly appointed Chair Becker & Vice Chair Willis on their appointments.
- Noted Analyst I Joelle Burila has returned from family leave.
- Introduced Commissioners Whitburn and Becker's staff liaisons to LAFCO: Bridget Naso and Dion Akers.

9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

- Commissioner Anderson thanked Chair Whitburn for his service as Chair.
- Commissioner MacKenzie requested more information on past Chair rotation.

10. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

With no further business, Chair Whitburn adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

I hereby attest the minutes above accurately reflect the deliberations of the Commission at its February 2, 2026 meeting.

ATTEST,

Erica Sellen
Commission Clerk

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