



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

4b

AGENDA REPORT
 Consent | Information

April 17, 2026

TO: Special Districts Advisory Committee
FROM: 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 current fiscal year workplan and related staff activities involving all 30 prioritized special projects. Twelve projects have been substantively advanced to date, with seven projects complete and an additional five nearing completion. Staff continue to advance several high-priority projects, headlined by scheduling public hearings for the municipal service reviews covering the Carlsbad region and wholesale water service providers, respectively. This item is presented to the Committee 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.

DISCUSSION

This item is for the Committee to receive an update on the status of the adopted workplan with particular focus on the 10 high-priority special projects set for the fiscal year. Specific status details for each high-priority project follow with a complete status update covering all 30 projects provided as Attachment One.

<p>Administration 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</p>	<p>Paloma Aguirre County of San Diego Joel Anderson County of San Diego Monica M. Steppe, Alt. County of San Diego</p>	<p>Chair Kristi Becker City of Solana Beach Dane White City of Escondido John McCann Alt. City of Chula Vista</p>	<p>Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego</p>	<p>Vice Chair Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation David Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo</p>	<p>Brigette Browning General Public Eileen Delaney, Alt. General Public</p>
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High Priority Projects

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

(Project Manager: Priscilla Mumpower, AEO)

This study evaluates the performance and governance of the two principal wholesale water agencies serving the San Diego region: the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The administrative review by CWA is now complete, with a public draft available on the LAFCO website beginning April 17 and scheduled for Commission discussion at a noticed public hearing in May. If the Commission determines the draft is sufficiently complete, staff will initiate a 45-day public review period, including presentations to the advisory committees, and return with a final version for Commission action as early as August 2026. If additional work is needed, staff will return with a revised draft at a future meeting. A companion draft for MWD is expected to be transmitted to MWD for its 60-day administrative review in the coming weeks and is tentatively anticipated to be presented at a separately noticed public hearing in August 2026.

Priority No. 1b | Municipal Service Review: Healthcare Districts

(Project Manager: Priscilla Mumpower, AEO)

This study reviews the four healthcare districts serving San Diego County – Fallbrook, Grossmont, Tri-City, and Palomar. Technical analysis has been completed by outside consultant Progressive Healthcare, LLC, and LAFCO staff is now preparing administrative drafts for the subject agencies' 60-day reviews – including the need to incorporate new and material information involving Palomar and Tri-City's recent partnership arrangements with UC San Diego and Sharp, respectively.

Priority No. 3 | Municipal Service Review: SANDAG

(Project Managers: Joelle Burila, Analyst I (lead) + Meghan Traynor, Analyst I)

This study reviews SANDAG's core regional functions – transportation (planning, funding, and construction); housing coordination; and climate adaptation – through a hybrid municipal service review and special study framework. The majority of technical analysis has been completed by outside consultant William Fulton Group, and staff is working with SANDAG on follow-up information requests. Staff anticipates providing SANDAG an administrative draft as early as June 2026.

Priority No. 4a | Municipal Service Review: Carlsbad Subregion

(Project Manager: Michaela Peters, Analyst II)

This study covers the City of Carlsbad and Carlsbad Municipal Water District as the first part of a broader review of the Carlsbad-Encinitas region. The 60-day administrative reviews for both agencies have been completed, and the Commission considered and adopted the draft report at a public hearing held on April 6, 2026. Staff has initiated a 45-

day public review and comment period and anticipates returning with a complete final report for Commission consideration as early as June 2026. The Committee will receive the draft report under Agenda Item No. 5b.

Priority No. 4b | Municipal Service Review: Encinitas Subregion

(Project Manager: Michaela Peters, Analyst II)

This study covers the City of Encinitas, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Leucadia Wastewater District, and San Dieguito Water District as the second part of a larger review of the Carlsbad-Encinitas region. Administrative drafts have been transmitted to most subject agencies, initiating their respective 60-day internal review periods. Staff anticipate scheduling a public hearing for the Commission to consider a complete draft report as early as June 2026.

Priority No. 6a | Municipal Service Review: City of San Marcos + Overlapping Districts

(Project Manager: Meghan Traynor, Analyst I)

This study evaluates the City of San Marcos and its overlapping service providers – Vallecitos Water District, San Marcos Fire Protection District, and Vista Irrigation District. The study remains pending, with staff providing preliminary updates to subject agencies in advance of formal work commencing.

Priority No. 6b | Municipal Service Review: City of Vista + Buena SD

(Project Manager: Meghan Traynor, Analyst I)

This study evaluates the City of Vista and Buena Sanitation District, with emphasis on wastewater service delivery and Buena SD's role as a subsidiary district under City governance. The study remains pending, with staff providing preliminary updates to subject agencies in advance of formal work commencing.

Priority No. 8 | White Paper on Homeless Services

(Project Manager: Meghan Traynor, Analyst I)

This informational report evaluates the scale, scope, and organization of homeless services throughout San Diego County and assesses governance frameworks that could improve coordination within the regional continuum of care. Outside assistance is currently underway by consultant Technical Assistance Collaborative, with LAFCO staff concurrently developing the white paper for internal review by identified stakeholders. Staff anticipate the Commission will receive a preliminary report as early as June 2026.

Priority No. 9 | White Paper on Public Recreation at City Reservoirs

(Project Manager: Joelle Burila, Analyst I)

This informational report assesses public recreation opportunities at reservoirs owned by the City of San Diego located within unincorporated areas of the county. The first

phase of the project – an independent review of facilities and related capacities – has been completed and presented to the Commission in August 2025, and staff is now developing an assessment of governance alternatives. This study is expected to extend into the next fiscal year.

Priority No. 10 | Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) 2.0
(Project Manager: Michaela Peters, Analyst II)

This multi-year planning grant builds on SALC 1.0 by quantifying the economic challenges facing small-scale farming operations in San Diego County and developing countywide policy recommendations to bridge the gap between economically vulnerable and sustainable farm operations. The project is nearing completion, and staff – in coordination with project partner County Planning and Development Services – is preparing the final grant deliverable for anticipated presentation to the County Board of Supervisors and the Commission in May and June 2026, respectively.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to the Committee for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

None.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the Committee’s agenda as part of the consent calendar. A successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on staff recommendation unless otherwise specified by the Committee.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment:

- 1) 2025-2026 Workplan Status

ADOPTED WORKPLAN FOR FY2025-2026

Status as of April 10, 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