



San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

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AGENDA REPORT
Consent | Information

May 4, 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 an update on legislative proposals germane to the Commission’s oversight and related interests as part of the second year of the current 2025-2026 session. This report is presented for information only with an opportunity to pull for discussion and provide general direction.

BACKGROUND

San Diego LAFCO staff actively monitors pending and proposed legislation affecting the Commission’s regulatory and planning responsibilities, consistent with the workplan. Staff’s monitoring draws from the Commission’s membership in the Alliance of LAFCOs (Alliance) and its contracted lobbyist, Politico Group as well as consultant, Patrick Bouteller.

The California Legislature reconvened for the second year of the 2025–2026 session in January 2026. The deadline for introducing new legislation passed in February 2026, and introduced measures have since been referred to their respective policy committees. Legislation that advances through both houses must be passed by August 31, 2026, which is the deadline for bill passage for the 2026 session.

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DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to receive an update on legislative proposals of interest. LAFCO staff, through the Alliance and consultant Patrick Bouteller, are tracking eight bills of interest. Three measures have been carried over from the prior year – AB 259, AB 356, and SB 802 – and five introduced in the current year – AB 1600, AB 2083, SB 910, SB 994, and SB 1291. Summaries of all eight tracked bills and their current status follow.

Introduced Legislation | Prior Session

- **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. San Diego LAFCO adopted a support position in March 2025. The bill passed the Assembly in 2025 and remains in the Senate Committee on Local Government, with no new hearings scheduled at this time.

- **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, with a focus on the Palomar Healthcare District's service area. In response to the Commission taking a support-if-amended position in June 2025, the bill has been amended to include LAFCO as a listed stakeholder, and in doing so connecting 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 them accepting the Commission's amendments. The bill passed the Assembly in 2025 and remains in the Senate Committee on Local Government, with no new hearings scheduled at this time.

- **SB 802 (Ashby, Angelique)**

- **Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency**

- This bill is locally focused with statewide implications and would restructure the joint powers authority currently operating as the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency into a new Sacramento Area Housing and Homelessness Agency, centralizing housing and homelessness services across Sacramento County under a single regional entity. The bill uniquely mandates the Sacramento LAFCO to form and appoint an independent task force to facilitate the consolidation of multiple entities into the new agency, which represents a bill-specific expansion of LAFCO duties into regional housing and homelessness governance. San Diego LAFCO is monitoring this bill, as its provisions may inform the Commission's current workplan project on homelessness services, particularly regarding governance and service delivery frameworks. The bill passed the Senate in 2025, was amended in the Assembly in January 2026, and is currently under review by the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development.

Introduced Legislation | Current Session

- **AB 1600 (Arambula, Joaquin)**

- **Disadvantaged Communities: Farmworker Communities**

- This bill is of statewide interest and would expand the definition of “disadvantaged communities” to include qualifying farmworker communities, and require CalEPA, in consultation with relevant state departments, to update screening tools and guidance to ensure their inclusion in eligibility determinations and benefit calculations. For LAFCOs, this change would affect municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates by requiring evaluation of service needs for these newly included farmworker communities. Introduced in January 2026, the bill is currently in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations for fiscal review as of April 8, 2026.

- **AB 2083 (Jackson, Corey)**

- **Moreno Valley-Perris Childcare Special District**

- This bill is locally focused with statewide implications and, as the *Moreno Valley-Perris Childcare Special District Act*, would establish a new special district covering the Cities of Moreno Valley and Perris and their spheres of influence for the purpose of expanding childcare capacity and operating universal childcare programs. The district would be governed by a five-member board appointed by the two cities and other designated entities. The board would develop a plan of services for LAFCO and oversee district operations, including authority to hire staff and operate or contract for childcare facilities. Notably, the bill would establish the district directly by statute, with LAFCO oversight applying thereafter. Introduced in February 2026, the bill is in the Assembly Human Services Committee for further review as of April 21, 2026.

- **SB 910 (Seyarto, Kelly)**

- **Municipal Water Districts Water Service: Indian Lands**

- The bill is of statewide interest with local implications and would extend, from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2032, the sunset on existing authority for municipal water districts to apply to LAFCO for authorization to provide water service to eligible Indian lands located outside district boundaries. If approved, the extension preserves an existing pathway utilized on multiple occasions by tribes in San Diego County. Introduced in January 2026, the bill was scheduled for its first hearing before the Senate Committee on Local Government on March 18, but was subsequently cancelled at the author’s request, with no new hearings scheduled at this time.

- **SB 994 (Cabaldon, Christopher)**

- **Local Government: Nondisclosure Agreements**

- This bill is of statewide interest with direct LAFCO applicability and would prohibit local government officials and their staff from entering into nondisclosure agreements relating to public business that restrict information sharing among fellow officials. Introduced in February 2026, the bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Local Government and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee on of April 22, 2026.

- **SB 1291 (Gonzalez, Lena)**
Mutual Water Companies

This bill is of statewide interest and would strengthen transparency and accountability for mutual water companies (MWCs) operating public water systems by requiring larger MWCs to offer teleconference meeting access, post notices and documents online at no charge, and annually distribute consumer confidence reports to customers. It also directs the State Water Resources Control Board to assess MWC governance and compliance by December 31, 2027, with a focus on disadvantaged communities, and recommend governance alternatives if current structures are found inadequate. Introduced in February 2026, this bill was amended in March 2026. As of April 22, 2026, the bill passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee for review.

Pending Legislation | UC Berkely Report Legislation

Developed under the Commission’s adopted workplan and informed by a University of California, Berkeley report, the proposal sought to strengthen LAFCO authority and accountability in addressing water and wastewater-related public health and safety concerns, while expanding transparency requirements for affected agencies and mobile home park community water systems. Although the bill did not advance this legislative session, San Diego LAFCO staff will continue refining the proposal with stakeholders for potential introduction in 2027. As reflected in the proposed Final Workplan for FY27 (Agenda Item 6c – Attachment 1-A), this bill is designated as a low-priority project, identified as Workplan No. 25.

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 LAFCO staff,



Joelle Burila
Analyst I