



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

**7C**

**AGENDA REPORT**  
 Business | Action

December 7, 2020

**TO:** Commissioners  
**FROM:** Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** **Public Member Appointment Options**

**SUMMARY**

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will consider options and preferences therein in making a new four-year appointment of a regular public member ahead of the current term expiring on May 3, 2021. Available options range from proceeding with the direct reappointment of the incumbent – Andy Vanderlaan – to soliciting applicants and making an appointment/reappointment at a future meeting. The item has been noticed to allow the Commission to proceed with a reappointment of Commissioner Vanderlaan should it be the membership’s collective preference.

**BACKGROUND**

**Membership Composition**

San Diego LAFCO’s membership is prescribed under State law to include 13 appointed Commissioners. The Commissioners are divided between five distinct categories – County of San Diego, cities less City of San Diego, City of San Diego, special districts, and general public – and further distinguished between regular and alternate members. Only the public member category and its regular and alternate appointees are made by LAFCO; the appointments for the other four categories are externally determined under statute. All terms are four-years and commence on the first Monday in May in the affected year. There

<b>Administration</b> Keene Simonds, Executive Officer County Operations Center 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200 San Diego, California 92123 T 858.614.7755 F 858.614.7766 www.sdlafco.org	<b>Jim Desmond</b> County of San Diego  <b>Chair Dianne Jacob</b> County of San Diego  <b>Greg Cox, Alternate</b> County of San Diego	<b>Mary Casillas Salas</b> City of Chula Vista  <b>Bill Wells</b> City of El Cajon  <b>Paul McNamara, Alternate</b> City of Escondido	<b>Mark Kersey</b> City of San Diego  <b>Chris Cate, Alternate</b> City of San Diego	<b>Jo MacKenzie</b> Vista Irrigation  <b>Barry Willis</b> Alpine Fire Protection  <b>Erin Lump, Alternate</b> Rincon del Diablo MWD	<b>Vice Chair Andy Vanderlaan</b> General Public  <b>Harry Mathis, Alternate</b> General Public
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are no term limits involving LAFCO appointments in statute or under local policy.

### Current Public Member

San Diego LAFCO's current regular public member is Andrew (Andy) Vanderlaan. Commissioner Vanderlaan was initially appointed as the regular public member in 1996 and reappointed to his current four-year term in 2017.

### DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to consider options in appointing and/or reappointing a regular public member ahead of the current term expiring on May 3, 2021. The item is being presented now to provide sufficient time to conduct an open application process should it be the preference of the Commission to proceed accordingly. Alternatively, and if preferred, the item has also been noticed to provide the Commission the option to immediately proceed with a reappointment Commissioner Vanderlaan to a new four-year term effective May 3, 2021 through May 5, 2025. Any appointment of a public member requires at least one affirmative vote from all other membership categories under statute.

### ANALYSIS

Commissioner Vanderlaan's extensive experience – including active participation in deliberations and stellar attendance record – with San Diego LAFCO provides substantive justification for the Commission to proceed with an immediate reappointment. It is also noted – and in contrast to past appointments/reappointments – there has been recent and considerable turnover on the Commission and staff. Reappointing Commissioner Vanderlaan, accordingly, would provide added value in helping to contextualize past and current decision-making. Commissioner Vanderlaan has confirmed his interest with the Executive Officer to continue to serve on LAFCO.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO consider its options with respect to the regular public member position ahead of the current term expiring on May 3, 2021. This recommendation includes two considerations of two distinct alternatives as outlined in the proceeding section as Alternative One.

(continued)

## ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternatives are available to San Diego LAFCO through a single motion:

Alternative One (recommended):

- (a) Reappoint Andy Vanderlaan as the regular public member to a new four-year term commencing on May 3, 2021 and extending to through May 5, 2025; or
- (b) Provide direction to staff to initiate an open application process for the regular public member position with added prescription regarding the level and type of recruitment as well as the interview and appointment processes.

Alternative Two:

Continue the item to the next regular meeting and provide direction to staff for additional information as needed.

## PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the agenda for action as part of San Diego LAFCO's business calendar. The following procedures, accordingly, are recommended in the consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal report from staff unless waived.
- 2) Invite comments from interested audience members (voluntarily).
- 3) Consider recommendation.

Respectfully,



Keene Simonds  
Executive Officer

Attachments: none

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