



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

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AGENDA REPORT
 Consent | Action

February 1, 2021

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Progress Report on 2020-2021 Workplan and Proposed Amendment**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a progress report on accomplishing the 26 specific projects in the adopted workplan for 2020-2021. This includes noting through the midpoint of the fiscal year 21 of the 26 workplan projects have been initiated with 10 either complete or nearing completion. The report is being presented for formal filing along with separately approving a proposed amendment to initiate implementation of a grant award by the State Department of Conservation. The report also provides the Commission the opportunity to identify other amendments for future action.

BACKGROUND

2020-2021 Workplan

San Diego LAFCO’s current fiscal year workplan was adopted at a noticed public hearing held on May 4, 2020. The workplan includes 26 projects and divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – with one of three priority rankings: high; moderate; or low. The Commission reserves discretion to amend the workplan during the fiscal year to address changes in priorities or resources as well as to continue projects into subsequent fiscal years.

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DISCUSSION

This item provides San Diego LAFCO with its regular update on the 26 targeted projects formally established for the fiscal year and provide related input and/or direction. This includes staff assigning one of four status categories to projects ranging from pending to complete and detailed in Attachment One. The item also proposes an amendment to expand the workplan to include a new project involving implementation of a grant award from the State Department of Conservation as described in the proceeding section. The Commission may also choose to identify other amendments to the workplan for future action.

ANALYSIS

San Diego LAFCO is generally proceeding as planned with work having been initiated on 21 of the 26 projects through the midpoint of the fiscal year. Four projects have already been completed and headlined by updating the Agricultural and Open Space Lands Policy. Six other projects are nearing their completion, and this includes several municipal service reviews scheduled for Commission consideration over the next few meetings. Staff also believes an amendment is warranted and timely to begin work on a recently awarded State planning grant in the amount of \$250,000 to identify and track agricultural trends in San Diego County. LAFCO serves as the grant lead and it is recommended the workplan be expanded to begin implementation of the project as a high priority starting with entering into a memorandum of understanding with the other grant participants to clarify roles and responsibilities for Commission approval. Additional phases of the grant will be proposed in the workplan covering the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO receive and file its regular update to the adopted workplan as well as approve an amendment to begin tracking agricultural trends consistent with the recent grant award from the State as a high priority. This recommendation would be accommodated by taking the actions outlined in the proceeding section as Alternative One.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternatives are available to San Diego LAFCO:

Alternative One (recommended):

- a) Receive and file the regular update to the workplan as presented.
- b) Approve an amendment to the workplan to include a new high priority project titled “State Planning Grant: Agricultural Trends” with the specific task of negotiating and entering into an implementing memorandum of understanding with project partners.

Alternative Two:

Continue consideration of the item to a future meeting and provide direction to staff for more information as needed.

Alternate Three:

Take no action. This alternative would result in LAFCO declining the grant award.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the San Diego LAFCO'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.

Respectfully,



Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

Attachment:

- 1) 2020-2021 Workplan with Status Notations

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San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission

Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

2020-2021 Workplan

Introduction:

Local Agency Formation Commissions' (LAFCOs) operate under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2001 ("CKH") and are delegated regulatory and planning responsibilities by the Legislature to oversee the formation and subsequent development of local government agencies and their municipal service areas. Common regulatory functions include approving jurisdictional changes (annexations, detachments, etc.) and outside service requests. Common planning functions include preparing studies to independently evaluate the availability, performance, and need for municipal services and establishing and updating spheres of influence – which are the Legislature's version of urban growth boundaries and gatekeepers to future jurisdictional changes – for all cities and special districts. All regulatory and planning activities undertaken by LAFCOs may be conditioned and must be consistent with policies and procedures.

Objective:

This document represents San Diego LAFCO's ("Commission") formal 2020-2021 Workplan. The Workplan draws on the recommendations of the Executive Officer as vetted and approved by the Commission. The Workplan is divided into two distinct categories – statutory and administrative – with one of three priority rankings: high; moderate; or low. The underlying intent of the Workplan is to serve as a management tool to allocate Commission resources in a transparent manner over the 12-month period. Further, while it is a stand-alone document, the Workplan should be reviewed in relationship to the adopted operating budget given the planned goals and activities are facilitated and or limited accordingly. Additionally, and as needed, the Commission reserves discretion to amend the Workplan during the fiscal year to address changes in resources and or priorities and to carry-forward projects into subsequent years.

Executive Summary:

The 2020-2021 Workplan continues to guide the Commission to prioritize resources in addressing statutory duties and responsibilities. This includes continuing work on existing projects established – but not yet completed – from earlier fiscal years and marked by completing municipal service reviews for the Escondido, Vista, San Marcos, and Fallbrook-Rainbow regions. Several policy updates are also scheduled and include reviewing LAFCO's existing policies regarding the identification and authorization of special district service functions and classes. Other administrative projects filling the Analyst I/II position and securing a long-term office lease.

Priority	Level	Type	Project	Description and Key Issues	Status
Continual	...	Statutory	Applicant Proposals	LAFCO will prioritize resources to address proposals involving boundary changes and outside service requests and includes the following prominent proposals already on file or expected to be filed in 2020-2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fallbrook PUD/Rainbow MWD/County Water Authority - Reorganization of CSA No. 135 into FPD - Fallbrook PUD Latent Powers Activation - Reorganization of Valley Center CSD into CSA - Harvest Hills (Escondido et al) 	
Continual	...	Administrative	Targeted LAFCO Presentations	LAFCO will prioritize public outreach; emphasis on informing stakeholders ahead of MSR work	
1	High	Statutory	MSR Fallbrook-Rainbow Region	Reviews of Fallbrook PUD, Rainbow MWD, San Luis Rey MWD, & North County FPD	In progress
2	High	Statutory	MSR Escondido Region Part II	Review of the City of Escondido; follows completion of Part I (Rincon del Diablo MWD and Deer Springs FPD) in 2019-2020	In progress
3	High	Statutory	MSR Resource Conservation Services	Countywide study on RCD services; reviews of Mission RCD, Upper San Luis Rey RCD, & Greater San Diego RCD	Near completion
4	High	Administrative	Policy Review Ag and Open Space	Update existing policies and procedures involving ag and open space; incorporate stakeholder outreach (Farm Bureau, etc.)	Completed
5	High	Administrative	Policy Review Rule No. 4	Update Rule No. 4 and its provisions guiding LAFCO's duty to identify and establish special districts' service functions and classes	In progress
6	High	Statutory	MSR Poway Region	Review is specific to the City of Poway	Near completion
7	High	Statutory	MSR San Marcos Region	Reviews of the City of San Marcos, San Marcos FPD, & Vallecitos WD	In progress
8	High	Statutory	MSR Vista Region	Reviews of the City of Vista, Vista ID, Vista FPD, & Buena SD	In progress
9	High	Administrative	Analyst I/II Position	Perform recruitment and hire of a new Analyst I/II	Completed
10	High	Administrative	Office Space	Current lease for office space with County of San Diego expires in August 2020 with no extension options	In progress
11	Moderate	Statutory	MSR Ramona Region	Review is specific to the Ramona MWD	Near completion
12	Moderate	Statutory	MSR Pauma Valley Region	Reviews of Pauma MWD, Pauma CSD, Yuima MWD, Mootamai MWD, and Rincon Ranch CSD	Pending
13	Moderate	Administrative	Cities Advisory Committee	Staff and maintain feedback with Cities Advisory Committee and hold no less than two formal meetings in FY	Near completion
14	Moderate	Administrative	Special Districts Advisory Committee	Staff and maintain feedback with Special Districts Advisory Committee and hold no less than three formal meetings in FY	Near completion
15	Moderate	Administrative	Live-Streaming and On-Demand Video	Expand LAFCO's real-time accessibility to the public to include live streaming meetings with on demand accessibility	Completed
16	Moderate	Administrative	2019-2020 Audit	Coordinate outside consultant's review of financial statements for 2019-2020 and identify opportunities to improve accounting system	In progress
17	Moderate	Administrative	Policy Review Study Schedule	Update study schedule calendaring municipal service reviews to reflect current progress and related observations	Pending
18	Moderate	Administrative	SANDAG	Re-establish regular participation in SANDAG's Technical Working Group (TWG) and prepare an informational report on related topics	In progress
19	Moderate	Administrative	State Groundwater Management Act	Prepare report on State Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in San Diego County relative to LAFCO duties/interests	Near completion
20	Moderate	Administrative	CALAFCO	Participate in CALAFCO through the Board, Leg Committee, and Annual Workshop and Conference in FY	In progress
21	Low	Administrative	Application Procedures	Streamline existing application packet to be more user-friendly; address new statutory requirements	Pending
22	Low	Statutory	MSR Oceanside and Carlsbad Region	Reviews of the Cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad as well as Carlsbad MWD and Morro Hills	In progress
23	Low	Statutory	MSR Encinitas Region	Reviews of the City of Encinitas and Leucadia WWD, Olivenhain MWD, & San Dieguito WD	Pending
24	Low	Administrative	SOI/MSR Annual Report	Prepare annual report to serve as living record of all sphere actions in San Diego County	Pending
25	Low	Administrative	Local Agency Directory	Create user-friendly publication identifying and summarizing local governmental agencies subject to LAFCO oversight	In progress
26	Low	Administrative	Social Media	Establish social media presence as a new communication forum	Completed