

**APPROVED MINUTES  
SAN DIEGO LAFCO  
November 6, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**

**1. 8:15 A.M. – CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR**

**Item 1a**

**ROLL CALL**

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair Desmond. The Acting Commission Clerk performed the roll call with the following attendance recorded.

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

Alternates Present: David Drake, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District  
Harry Mathis, Public (voting)

Members Absent: John McCann, City of Chula Vista (alternate)  
Andy Vanderlaan, Public (regular)  
Nora Vargas, County of San Diego (alternate)  
Marni von Wilpert, City of San Diego (alternate)

The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed a quorum with seven voting members present at the time of roll. (An eight voting member – Commissioner Anderson – arrived at 8:25 a.m.) Also present at the time of roll were the following LAFCO staff members: Executive Officer Keene Simonds; Commission Counsel Holly Whatley; Local Government Analyst II Carolanne Ieromnimon; Local Government Analyst I Michaela Peters; GIS/IT Analyst Dieu Ngu; and Executive Assistant Erica Sellen serving as the Acting Commission Clerk.

**Item 1b**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner MacKenzie 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 Desmond asked the Executive Officer if there were any requests to remove or rearrange items on the agenda. Executive Officer Simonds stated no changes to the agenda were needed but cited the previously announced cancellation of Item 6b. With no requested changes, the Chair asked the Commission to proceed with the agenda as noted with all members confirming in the affirmative.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RELATED ITEMS

Chair Desmond invited anyone from the public to address the Commission on a matter not directly related to an agenda item. The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed there were no registered speakers or live e-mail comments.

### 5. CONSENT ITEMS

#### Item 5a

##### **Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2023**

Item presented to approve draft action minutes prepared for the Commission's October 2, 2023 meeting. Recommendation to approve.

#### Item 5b

##### **Commission Ratification | Recorded Payments for September 2023**

Item presented to ratify recorded payments made and received by the Executive Officer for the month of September 2023. Recommendation to ratify.

#### Item 5c

##### **Budget Update for 2023-2024 | 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Actuals with Year-End Projections**

Item presented to review a report comparing budgeted and actual transactions through the first quarter of 2023-2024 and related analysis. The report is being presented to the Commission to formally accept and provide direction to staff as needed.

#### Item 5d

##### **Proposed "Escondido North LLC-Stanley Avenue Reorganization" (Ash) | Annexation to the City of Escondido with Concurrent Detachment from County Service Area No. 135 and Related Actions (RO23-07-B)**

Item presented to consider a reorganization proposal initiated by landowner petition with the principal action to annex 5.35 unincorporated acres to the City of Escondido. A concurrent detachment from County Service Area No. 135 and its regional communication service function is also part of the reorganization. The affected territory includes two non-contiguous legal parcels with the larger of the two undeveloped and subject to a tentatively approved 20-unit subdivision ("Ash Residential Subdivision"). The purpose of the proposal is to accommodate the planned development for the larger parcel while also extending wastewater service to the other parcel already developed with a single-family residence. Recommendation to approve as submitted along with waving protest and make an exemption finding under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**CONSENT ITEMS CONTINUED...**

**Item 5e**

**Proposed “Cambier - West El Norte Parkway Reorganization” |  
Concurrent Annexation to the Vallecitos Water District and Detachment from Vista  
Irrigation District (RO23-05)**

Item presented to consider a reorganization proposal filed by landowner petition with the principal action to annex approximately 0.17 acres of incorporated territory to the Vallecitos Water District. A concurrent detachment from Vista Irrigation District is also part of the reorganization. The affected territory as submitted involves one legal parcel presently undeveloped and located in northwest Escondido. The proposal purpose is to make available Vallecitos’ wastewater and water services to accommodate the planned development of a new single-family residence as part of a recently approved lot split. Recommendation to approve as submitted along with waving protest and make an exemption finding under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Item 5f**

**Progress Report on the Adopted Workplan**

Item presented to receive a progress report on accomplishing the 30 projects included in the adopted workplan for 2023-2024. The report is being presented to the Commission to receive and file with the opportunity to identify potential amendments for future consideration.

**Item 5g**

**Report on Active Proposals and Related Activities**

Item presented to receive a status report on active proposals currently on file with LAFCO. Information only.

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

Roll call requested:

AYES: Becker, Desmond, MacKenzie, Mathis (voting), Whitburn, White, and Willis  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Anderson, Vanderlaan, Vargas, and von Wilpert  
ABSTAINING: None

The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed the motion was approved 7-0 with one voting member (Anderson) absent.

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

**Item 6a**

**Proposed “Yerba Valley Road Reorganization” |**

**Concurrent Annexations to Lakeside Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, and the Metropolitan Water District and Related Actions (RO23-02)**

Item presented to consider a reorganization proposal filed by resolution from the Lakeside Water District with the principal action to annex approximately 80.34 unincorporated acres in the Lakeside community. Concurrent annexations to the San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are also proposed. The purpose of the proposal is to make available potable wholesale and retail water services to 17 developed parcels within the affected territory and in doing so remedy uncertain groundwater flows. No new development is proposed as part of the reorganization. Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposal along with conforming sphere of influence amendments for all three subject agencies. It is also recommended the Commission waive protest proceedings assuming no written objections from landowners or registered voters with the affected territory are received through the close of the hearing. Exemption findings are also recommended under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Chair Desmond invited any disclosures from Commissioners on material ex parte communications. Commissioner Willis reported speaking to Brett Sanders, Lakeside WD.

Local Government Analyst I Michaela Peters provided the staff presentation.

Chair Desmond proceeded to open the public hearing and invited comments from the public.

The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed there were no registered speakers or live e-mail comments.

Chair Desmond proceeded to close the public hearing.

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Commissioner Willis motioned with second from Commissioner Becker to approve the staff recommendation (Alternative One) as listed in the agenda report.

Roll call requested:

AYES: Becker, Desmond, MacKenzie, Mathis (voting), Whitburn, White, and Willis  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Anderson, Vanderlaan, Vargas, and von Wilpert  
ABSTAINING: None

The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed the motion was approved 7-0 with one voting member (Anderson) absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS CONTINUED...**

**Item 6b**

**CANCELLED**

**“AJX Homes LLC- Carmichael Drive Reorganization” |**

**Proposed Annexation to the City of La Mesa with Concurrent Detachment from San Miguel Fire Protection District and Related Sphere of Influence Actions (RO22-04)**

This reorganization has been initiated by a landowner petition with the principal action to annex approximately 0.27 acres of unincorporated territory to the City of La Mesa. A concurrent detachment from San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District is also part of the reorganization. The affected territory as submitted comprises one entire legal parcel presently developed with a single-family residence within the unincorporated community of Valle De Oro. Sphere of influence amendments for both subject agencies are required. A LAFCO hearing notice for the proposal was issued on October 16, 2023. The Executive Officer subsequently cancelled the LAFCO hearing to sync with a planned – but not yet scheduled – hearing by the City of La Mesa to establish an updated land use designation for the affected territory. There is no written report.

Chair Desmond restated this item has been cancelled by staff and will be considered at a future meeting with new noticing. The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed there were no registered speakers or live e-mail comments.

**7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 7a**

**Proposed Update to the Study Schedule**

Item presented to consider approving a proposed update to its five-year Study Schedule. The proposed update has been initiated by staff to reset the anticipated timing of studies to reflect current progress and provide a more accurate projection of start dates going forward over the next five years. It also transitions from a fixed to a rolling schedule where only the first year listing is set while the remaining four years’ listings are tentative. The Commission would proceed to reset the Study Schedule and its five-year coverage each year in concert with adopting an annual budget and workplan.

Local Government Analyst II Carolanne Ieromnimon provided the staff presentation.

Commission discussion followed.

The Acting Commission Clerk confirmed there were no registered speakers or live e-mail comments.

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

## **BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED...**

### **Item 7a continued**

Roll call requested:

AYES: Anderson, Becker, Desmond, MacKenzie, Mathis (voting), Whitburn, White, and Willis  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Vanderlaan, Vargas, and von Wilpert  
ABSTAINING: None

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

### **Item 7b**

#### **Report on Outside Travel to the CALAFCO Annual Conference**

Item presented to receive a verbal report from attendees at the recent CALAFCO Annual Conference held in Monterey on October 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included Commissioners MacKenzie and Willis. No written report.

Executive Officer Keene Simonds thanked the Commission for budgeting the travel for staff to be able to attend the CALAFCO Annual Conference.

Commissioners Willis and MacKenzie reported their attendance and discussed networking opportunities as well as notable Conference sessions.

Commission discussion followed. No action.

## **8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Executive Officer Keene Simonds noted copies of a letter from RCD of Greater San Diego County thanking LAFCO Consultant Adam Wilson's efforts on the RCD Ad Hoc Committee were on the dais. The Executive Officer thanked Mr. Wilson for his service to LAFCO on the topic as well as Deputy Commission Counsel Aleks Giragosian.

## **9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS | REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS**

Commissioner Willis reminded the Executive Officer of an earlier request to explore opportunities to reduce and/or waive application fees for special districts given their current contribution to the LAFCO budget. Executive Officer Keene Simonds stated he would provide an informational item on the subject at a future meeting.

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**11. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING**

With no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

I hereby attest the minutes above accurately reflect the deliberations of the Commission at its November 6, 2023 meeting.

ATTEST,

Erica Sellen  
Acting Commission Clerk

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