



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

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AGENDA REPORT
 Business | Action

February 5, 2024

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer
 Erica Sellen, Commission Clerk

SUBJECT: Appointment Options for the Regular Public Member Position

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will consider options and preferences therein in filling the vacated term of the regular public member position. The position became vacated in mid-January with the resignation of Andy Vanderlaan. The unexpired term extends through April 2025. Staff requests direction from the Commission in scheduling an appointment at a future meeting with or without an open recruitment process as well as with or without action to create an advisory committee.

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.

<p>Administration: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E lafco@sdcountry.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org</p>	<p>Chair Jim Desmond County of San Diego</p> <p>Joel Anderson County of San Diego</p> <p>Nora Vargas, Alt. County of San Diego</p>	<p>Krista Becker City of Solana Beach</p> <p>Dane White City of Escondido</p> <p>John McCann, Alt. City of Chula Vista</p>	<p>Vice Chair Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego</p> <p>Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego</p>	<p>Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation</p> <p>Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection</p> <p>David A. Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo</p>	<p>Vacant General Public</p> <p>Harry Mathis, Alt. General Public</p>
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Membership Terms

All terms are four-years and commence on the first Monday in May in the affected year. There are no term limits involving LAFCO appointments in statute or under local policy.

Resignation of Public Member Andy Vanderlaan

San Diego LAFCO received written notice from Andy Vanderlaan on January 19, 2024 of his immediate resignation as regular public member on the Commission. Mr. Vanderlaan has served on the Commission since 1996 with the current four-year term extending through April 2025. A copy of Mr. Vanderlaan's resignation letter is provided as Attachment One.

DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to consider options and providing related direction to staff in making a future appointment to fill the unexpired term of the regular public member through April 2025. Appointment options contemplated by staff range from holding an open or closed recruitment as well as the ancillary feature of creating an advisory committee.

ANALYSIS

San Diego LAFCO has broad discretion in statute and policy in how it chooses to appoint a public member. Statue only requires the appointment follow basic noticing, the appointee be a resident of San Diego County and not be an employee or officer of a member agency (i.e., the County, cities, or special districts), and an affirmative vote is achieved by all appointing categories on the Commission. Materially, this provision means a successful appointee must receive an affirmative vote by the lone City of San Diego voting member on the Commission. Further, the Commission has no local policies to prescribe the appointment process.

Basic noticing for a public member appointment is 21 days and can be satisfied ahead of the next regular meeting set for March 4, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO consider its options and preferences and provide related direction to staff in making a future appointment to fill the unexpired term of the regular public member through April 2025.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternatives are available to San Diego LAFCO:

Alternative One:

Provide direction to San Diego LAFCO staff on preferences in making a future appointment to fill the regular public member term through April 2025 – including, but not limited to – creating an advisory committee.

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

Attachment:

- 1) Andy Vanderlaan Resignation Letter – January 19, 2024

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Andrew L. Vanderlaan



P.O. Box 921
Bonsall, CA 92003

Home Phone/Fax 760 726-8913

January 19, 2024

Dear Supervisor Desmond, LAFCO Commissioners and LAFCO Staff,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my role as LAFCO Commissioner, Public Member, effective immediately.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of San Diego County these past 28 years. I am very grateful for the time I have spent with all those who have served on the LAFCO Commission and the excellent staff that has worked tirelessly. It's been my pleasure to serve in this capacity.

I look forward to following the important work done by LAFCO. I encourage the Commissioners, EO Keene and staff to continue to seek excellence for San Diego County. You are a diligent and dedicated team that serves as a beacon for other governmental agencies on how to work together for the good. Thank you for allowing me to "play" in your "sandbox".

Gratefully and Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew L. Vanderlaan".

Andrew L. Vanderlaan

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