LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

ADOPTED MINUTES

LAFCO REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Start Time - 9:00 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Rachél Lather called the meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County (LAFCO) to order at 9:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. She asked staff to conduct a roll call.

The following Commissioners were present:

- Commissioner Jim Anderson
- Commissioner Joe Clarke *(Vice Chair)*
- Commissioner Justin Cummings
- Commissioner Manu Koenig
- Commissioner Rachél Lather *(Chair)*
- Alternate Commissioner Lani Faulkner

The following LAFCO staff members were present:

- LAFCO Analyst, Francisco Estrada
- Legal Counsel, Joshua Nelson
- Executive Officer, Joe Serrano

2. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

2a. Virtual Meeting Process

Executive Officer Joe Serrano welcomed everyone to the renovated Board of Supervisors Chambers and indicated that the meeting was being conducted through a hybrid model with Commissioners and staff attending in-person while members of the public have the option to attend virtually or in-person.

Chair Rachél Lather moved on to the next agenda item.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chair Rachél Lather requested public comments on the draft minutes. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** noted no public comment on the item. Chair Lather closed public comment.

Chair Rachél Lather called for a motion. **Commissioner Jim Anderson** motioned for approval of the August 5th Meeting Minutes and **Commissioner Manu Koenig** seconded the motion.

Chair Rachél Lather called for a voice vote on the approval of the draft minutes.

MOTION: Jim Anderson
SECOND: Manu Koenig
FOR: Jim Anderson, Joe Clarke, Justin Cummings, and Manu Koenig.
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: Rachél Lather

MOTION PASSES: 4-0-1

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Rachél Lather requested public comments on any non-agenda items. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** noted no requests to provide public comment.

Chair Rachél Lather closed public comment and moved on to the next agenda item.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chair Rachél Lather requested a presentation about the Big Basin Water Company (BBWC) from the court-appointed receiver, Serviam by Wright LLP.

Mayya Magay, Attorney at Serviam by Wright LLP, provided the Commission with an update on the BBWC receivership, its operational status, and on their effort to consolidate with San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD). Wastewater service responsibility has been transferred to the County under CSA 7, but transferring water services has been more complicated due to a lack of funding to address longstanding infrastructure needs. Ms. Magay reported receiving a grant to address immediate capital improvement projects, which has allowed BBWC to no longer solely rely on the intertie with SLVWD. Ms. Magay also stated that consolidation with SLVWD remains the most sustainable option for the BBWC community. Finally, BBWC is currently developing a technical plan, the court-receiver will continue to apply for additional funding, and they will pursue consolidation with SLVWD.

Chair Rachél Lather requested public comments on the item. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** indicated that there was a request to address the Commission.

Becky Steinbruner, a member of the public, inquired about public outreach efforts. **Mayya Magay**, Attorney at Serviam by Wright LLP, provided information regarding the quality of the drinking water and stated that townhalls may be considered in Spring 2027.

Chair Rachél Lather closed public comments and opened the floor for Commission discussion. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** noted no requests from the Commission.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair Rachél Lather stated that there were no public hearing items.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7a. Fire-Related Projects (Recurring Item)

Chair Rachél Lather requested staff to provide a status update on the ongoing reorganization efforts involving CSA 48 and other fire agencies.

Executive Officer Joe Serrano provided the Commission with an update on the Felton Fire Protection District's (FFPD) successful passage of a new benefit assessment. Executive Officer Serrano also provided an update on a potential study between Central Fire District, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District, and the City of Santa Cruz to explore potential shared services opportunities. Finally, information was provided on a public request for an additional feasibility study regarding the reorganization of the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District (PVFPD), as well as an updated timeline.

Chair Rachél Lather requested public comments on the item. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** indicated that there were three requests to address the Commission.

Liz Taylor Sellling, a member of the public, provided comments on the role of Felton community members in the successful passage of the FFPD benefit assessment and explained the next steps for the fire district.

Becky Steinbruner, a member of the public, provided comments on the countywide fire service municipal review and CSA 48 and expressed concerns on the proposed rate information for the PVFPD reorganization.

Don Jarvis, a member of the public, requested a study to analyze the cost for constituents to receive fire protection services through the proposed PVFPD reorganization.

Chair Dave Martone, from PVFPD, provided an explanation on why the PVFPD board has decided to discontinue their benefit assessment measure effort and move forward with the proposed reorganization.

Chair Rachél Lather closed public comments and opened the floor for Commission discussion. **Commissioner Justin Cummings** provided comments on the recently approved benefit assessment for FFPD and inquired about consulting expenses. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** explained that if the agencies express support for the additional study, then LAFCO may take the lead and utilize the earmarked funds for professional services in the FY 26-27 budget. Executive Officer Serrano also reiterated the various studies, cost comparisons, and projected expenses already completed for the proposed reorganization.

Commissioner Jim Anderson provided comments on the recently approved benefit assessment process for the FFPD.

Commissioner Lani Faulkner provided comments on the importance of transparency and supporting clarity for the residents of PVFPD.

Chair Rachél Lather closed Commissioner discussion and requested a motion. **Commissioner Justin Cummings** made the motion to approve staff recommendation and **Commissioner Manu Koenig** seconded the motion.

Chair Rachél Lather called for a voice vote on the staff recommendation: **Direct staff to continue coordinating and assisting the affected fire agencies.**

MOTION:	**Justin Cummings**
SECOND:	**Manu Koenig**
FOR:	**Jim Anderson, Joe Clarke, Justin Cummings, Manu Koenig, and Rachél Lather.**
AGAINST:	**None**
ABSTAIN:	**None**

MOTION PASSES: 5-0

7b. CALAFCO Update

Chair Rachél Lather requested staff to provide a status update of CALAFCO.

Executive Officer Joe Serrano informed the Commission on the return of member agencies to CALAFCO, provided updates on the annual conference in Sacramento, requested nominations for voting delegates and CALAFCO board members, and discussed the CALAFCO award nominations being submitted.

Chair Rachél Lather had a clarifying question on the process. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** provided information on the nomination process. **Commissioner Jim Anderson** nominated Rachél Lather as the Voting Delegate and Jim Anderson as the Alternate Voting Delegate. **Commissioner Justin Cummings** seconded the motion.

Chair Rachél Lather called for a voice vote on the motion: 1) Designate Commissioner Rachél Lather as the Voting and Commissioner Jim Anderson Alternate Delegate for the upcoming election; 2) Approve the nomination of Joe Serrano as a candidate for the Coastal Region seat on the CALAFCO Board of Directors, and; 3) Approve the proposed nominations for CALAFCO's President's Award and the Government, Community, or Public Partner Award.

MOTION:	**Jim Anderson**
SECOND:	**Justin Cummings**
FOR:	**Jim Anderson, Joe Clarke, Justin Cummings, Manu Koenig, and Rachél Lather.**
AGAINST:	**None**
ABSTAIN:	**None**

MOTION PASSES: 5-0

7c. Legislative Update

Chair Rachél Lather requested staff to provide a status update on the new legislative session and any LAFCO-related bills.

LAFCO Analyst Francisco Estrada provided information on four LAFCO-related legislative bills. The Commission will receive updates in September and November 2026.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

7d. Comprehensive Quarterly Report – Fourth Quarter (FY 2025-26)

Chair Rachél Lather requested staff to provide an update on all staff activities.

LAFCO Analyst Francisco Estrada noted that this report is meant to keep the Commission informed about all LAFCO-related activities, including the status of active proposals, the schedule of upcoming service reviews, the current financial performance of LAFCO's adopted budget, and other projects. LAFCO Analyst Estrada addressed these areas, highlighted meetings held during the last quarter of the fiscal year and reported that approximately 69% of the Commission's anticipated annual expenditures had been incurred during the 2025-26 fiscal year, reflecting a favorable budgetary position.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

8. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Rachél Lather inquired whether there was any written correspondence submitted to LAFCO. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** indicated that no written correspondence had been submitted.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

9. PRESS ARTICLES

Chair Rachél Lather requested staff to provide a presentation on the press articles. **Executive Officer Joe Serrano** indicated that this item highlights LAFCO-related articles recently circulated in local newspapers.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

10. COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Chair Rachél Lather inquired whether any Commissioner would like to share any information. There were no requests from the Commission.

Chair Rachél Lather moved to the next item since no Commission action was required.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rachél Lather adjourned the Regular Commission Meeting at 10:06 a.m. for the next regular LAFCO meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

RLather

RACHÉL LATHER, CHAIRPERSON

Attest:

FRANCISCO ESTRADA, LAFCO ANALYST