



PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, Room 525
Santa Cruz, California

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The April 4, 2018 Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission meeting is called to order by declaration of Chairperson Leopold.

ROLL CALL

Present and Voting:	Commissioners LaHue, R. Anderson, J. Anderson, Bottorff, Friend, and Chairperson Leopold
Absent:	Lind
Alternates Present:	Bobbe
Alternates Absent:	Coonerty, Lather, Terrazas
Staff:	Patrick M. McCormick, Executive Officer David Nefouse, Acting LAFCO Counsel Debra Means, Secretary-Clerk

MINUTES

MOTION

Motion: J. Anderson Second: LaHue	To approve January 3, 2018 minutes. Motion carries with Commissioner Roger Anderson abstaining.
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MOTION

Motion: J. Anderson Second: LaHue	To approve March 7, 2018 minutes. Motion carries with Commissioners Friend and Leopold abstaining.
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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Becky Steinbruner, an Aptos resident, brought late correspondence regarding problems with road maintenance for County Service Areas (CSAs). Public Works has not yet paid the bill in full to Earthworks contractors for work they did as a bundled project for several CSAs in 2016. Public Works has not responded to repeated calls and emails requesting this be resolved.

Earthworks is one of only a few contractors that bid on these small projects. They are now hesitant to bid on any further CSA projects. This will negatively impact property values in rural areas affecting the County's income.

She thinks Public Works used to work well but has not worked well in the last five years. She has been involved with CSA 33 for about 30 years. Some CSAs are pulling back with the minimal work necessary so it does not get dissolved. They are taking matters into their own hands and that means going door-to-door asking for donations to make repairs.

She asks the Commission to oversee the CSA functions and act as the mediator for Public Works, the local contractors, and road maintenance CSA representatives. There is a turnover almost every year that needs to be trained.

She thanks the Commission for hosting and organizing the second Connect the Drops water forum. She appreciates that Community Television filmed the form and that link is on the LAFCO website. She asks what happened to the questions that the public submitted on the question cards, but there was no time to answer. It would be good to extend that education and post those questions with answers.

Supervisor McPherson announced that he plans to put a fire fee on the ballot. The fee would not be part of CSA 48. She is concerned that the efforts will be duplicated without a real vote.

FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018

Mr. McCormick reports that the Commission asked for additional information at the proposed budget hearing last month, which included bundling all the sanitation agencies in the work program, and a breakdown of the charges from the County's Information Technology Department. There were also a few typographical errors that were corrected. There would be a 3% increase in agency contributions. The new revenue is \$383,900. The total budget increase would be 2.4% to \$759,200. The difference between those two numbers are the reserves.

LAFCO gets its Information Services from the County which includes computers, phones, and Geographic Information System maps. These service costs are summarized for the last two fiscal years. The costs are in the \$15,000 to \$16,000 range. He compared other LAFCOs' that have a similar budget item and identified their costs. Santa Cruz LAFCO is roughly in the mid-range.

Commissioner LaHue asks if Salsipuedes Sanitary District will be included in the group of sanitation districts even though their review was done in 2015.

Mr. McCormick replies affirmatively that the concept of that study is to look at all the County's sanitation districts together. Even though the Salsipuedes' review was done less than five years ago, it is worth looking at all of the sanitation districts in the same study to look at consolidation possibilities.

There is a small CSA 57 off Graham Hill Road that handles drainage for the Woods Cove subdivision. He moved that CSA out of the sanitation study and moved it further down the work program into the miscellaneous CSAs.

Commissioner Roger Anderson asks how many more reviews will be outstanding after this scope of work.

Mr. McCormick says all of the reviews are scheduled to be updated by June 2019. A few sanitation agencies will be ahead of schedule.

Ms. Steinbruner notices the 2018-19 budget will be funded with \$405,900 of new revenue. She asks what the source of that new revenue is.

Mr. McCormick answers that the details are in Attachment H of the staff report. The principal source of new revenues comes from agency contributions. State law requires that the cities, the County, and the special districts pay contributions to the LAFCO budget every year. The additional income comes from processing applications. There are also some minor revenues such as charging copies for County departments who use LAFCO's copy machine. Staff pays part of the health insurance premiums which show up as a revenue item.

MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: LaHue Second: R. Anderson	To adopt the final budget, Resolution No. 2018-5, and approve the proposed actions, as recommended by staff. Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote.
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OTHER BUSINESS

STATUS OF PROPOSALS

Chairperson Leopold is happy to see that the Pippin Apartments annexation application has been filed.

Mr. McCormick reports that staff is currently working on Watsonville's service review. He expects it will be a public hearing on the next agenda. In order to look at the Pippin application, Watsonville's service review needs to be up-to-date. The Pippin annexation also involves detaching from some CSAs and those applicable service reviews will be available.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STANDARDS OF COVERAGE STUDY

Mr. McCormick reports that LAFCO is the lead on a significant study about the consolidation feasibility of two mid-county fire districts. The related Standards of Coverage Study is now available on Central Fire's website.

The district hired the same consultant as Aptos / La Selva FPD. They looked at staffing, response patterns, and all aspects of what a fire district does. It did not include as much financial information as Aptos / La Selva's study. It focused more on the services. The study shows that traffic has become a major impediment to timely fire service. Central FPD is doing an excellent job of quantifying the problem. The study also shows that turnout time has room for improvement.

Another item for improvement is the 911 center. The call handling time is not at industry expectations, according to the consultant. It affects every agency that goes through 911. Central FPD will be working with the 911 center to address how to increase efficiencies to industry standards.

Commissioner LaHue asks if they will look at possible improvements that can be made to these metrics by consolidation.

Mr. McCormick does not think consolidation will necessarily be able to address this. There are some standard approaches to cutting down turnout time. The other issue is with time stamping within the 911 system that may make the response time seem longer than it really is. There is probably a technological solution.

Alternate Bobbe asks if it is regarding calls just for fire, or whether it is for 911 calls county-wide.

Mr. McCormick answers that the consultant only looked at fire response in 911 dispatch. One could expect that if it is happening for this fire district, it is probably happening to all the other fire agencies, at least. He does not think the consultant made any quantification of law enforcement dispatch.

Commissioner Jim Anderson adds that AMR ambulance service is dispatched on the same channels as fire departments.

Commissioner Friend thinks there are improvements certainly within Central FPD and NetComm's control. He wonders if station location is being looked at as part of consolidation and whether it will impact traffic. He asks what the next steps are for NetComm. They tone out fire immediately upon the call to make it faster than the actual call. They receive a pre-alert. He thinks it would be useful to find out more.

Commissioner Bottorff thinks it is a technological problem. Pulse Point is a program that allows the call to come in on an iphone prior to it being dispatched. The problem is correctable.

Chairperson Leopold says Mr. McCormick was at the board meeting. He asks him about the context of the discussion.

Mr. McCormick replies that the board and Central's staff were motivated to address the problems under their control. Regarding traffic issues, they were thinking outside of the box with different alternatives for future stations and staffing, but they could not yet make any major decisions. There was much discussion about response times and different techniques for improvement. There is enough software and data to do a station analysis for different locations and their response times.

Commissioner Jim Anderson remembers reading that one station was particularly out of line compared to the others, thus affecting their overall average.

Chairperson Leopold says they have been trying to move the Soquel station elsewhere for many years.

Mr. McCormick adds that the LAFCO study will be out in early summer.

Commissioner Roger Anderson found the recommendations somewhat disappointing. They were very generic, with very little direct local implications for changes in policy. It is a difficult document to use the summaries and recommend changes to the system.

Ms. Steinbruner asks how to obtain a copy of the study.

LEGISLATION

Mr. McCormick reports a few bills worth taking a position of support on. He recommends a position of support for Anna Caballero's AB 2258, Assembly Member Flora's AB 2600, and AB 3254.

Chairperson Leopold adds that two of these bills have a Santa Cruz connection to it. He has been involved in drafting AB 2258. He will go to Sacramento on April 18th to testify for the bill. It is a unique opportunity to find funding for special studies.

Mr. McCormick has been involved with AB 2600. The idea came out of the Little Hoover Commission report. CALAFCO was unable to work on this and Mr. McCormick is working with another Executive Officer to move the bill along. There have been maybe 12 different attempts to create an open space district through legislation and bypassing LAFCOs. This bill is a good effort to initiate a process that includes LAFCO's.

Commissioner Roger Anderson supports staff's recommendation for these bills. There are some other bills CALAFCO is supporting that are not on Mr. McCormick's list.

Mr. McCormick says that those bills are not among his recommendations because they address situations that this LAFCO does not have to deal with in this County, such as recent incorporations of cities.

Ms. Steinbruner is concerned about AB 2258 and how it would change protest provisions for consolidations.

Chairperson Leopold says that the protest language is being vetted with the California Special Districts Association and the California Association of Water Agencies.

MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: R. Anderson Second: J. Anderson	To write letters in support of the three bills, as recommended by staff. Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote.
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CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner LaHue asks what happened at the Coastal Commission regarding Opal Cliffs Recreation and Park District.

Chairperson Leopold replies that the Coastal Commission accepted the appeal and they have scheduled to hear this issue in July when they meet in the Central Coast Region.

CLOSED SESSION

PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957

SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES: EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SECRETARY-CLERK

The next LAFCO meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

CHAIRPERSON JOHN LEOPOLD

Attest:

Patrick M. McCormick, Executive Officer