

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:00 a.m. Meeting Location: Virtual Setting (using Zoom) Teleconference: 1-877-853-5257

The November 4, 2020 Santa Cruz LAFCO meeting is called to order by declaration of Chairperson Roger Anderson. There currently are 13 public attendees joining this meeting.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present and Voting:	Commissioners Jim Anderson, Cummings, Estrada, Friend, Lather,
Com	Leopold, and Chairperson Roger Anderson
Absent:	None
Alternates Present:	Banks, Brooks, Hunt
Alternates Absent:	Coonerty
Staff:	Joe A. Serrano, Executive Officer
	Daniel H. Zazueta, LAFCO Counsel
	Debra Means, Commission Clerk

For the record, there is a quorum.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that since May, the Commission has conducted meetings remotely to ensure the safety of the board, its staff, and the public. During this webinar, the Commissioners will have complete control over their webcams and microphones.

For members of the public, webcams and microphones have been disabled but they will be able to view the entire meeting. They will have the opportunity to address the Commission on any of the agenda items. They can either send an email to LAFCO and it will be read on their behalf or they can raise their hand on Zoom. For those who are teleconferencing, they can raise their hand by pressing \*9. After staff has acknowledged the person raising their hand, their microphone will be unmuted and they will have up to 3 minutes to address the Commission. The Commission Clerk will notify them when they have 1 minute left and when their time is up.

For any Commission action, there will be a roll call vote for the record.

### MINUTES

#### MOTION

Motion: J. Anderson	To approve October 7th minutes.	
Second: Leopold	Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote.	

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

CENTRAL AND APTOS / LA SELVA FIRE CONSOLIDATION - LAFCO PROJECT No. DC 20-02

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that this consolidation has been a multi-year process with extensive analysis from the two fire districts and LAFCO. He has worked on consolidations and fire projects in other LAFCOs during his career. There are three common questions associated with consolidation. Residents typically want to know how much it will cost them or whether their property taxes will increase. For this consolidation, there will be no change. The fire districts have indicated that the existing revenue sources will be transferred over to the successor agency. There will be no change to their residents' property taxes or any additional costs or assessments.

Residents also want to be assured of their services. They want to know if this will negatively impact the level of service, whether firefighters will lose their jobs as a result of this consolidation, or will their response time to an incident take longer. There will be no change to their existing services. State law and this Commission require that the level of service remain the same or improve as a result of a boundary change including consolidation.

The two fire districts have adopted a Plan for Service which is a transitional plan indicating how the current operations will be implemented into the successor agency.

Residents may wonder why it is worth consolidating if there is no change in costs and services. It is not about fixing what is not broken, it is making sure the residents are covered with the best fire protection available. Consolidation is merely a mechanism that special districts can use to improve efficiencies. These two fire districts can maximize their existing staff, equipment, facilities, and their best practices by becoming one special district through consolidation.

These two fire districts are direct results of previous consolidations. In 1982, Live Oak and Soquel Fire Districts applied for consolidation with this LAFCO and formed the Central Fire Protection District. In 1985, Aptos and La Selva Fire Protection Districts consolidated into Aptos / La Selva Fire Protection Districts consolidated into Central Fire Protection District. In 1987, Central and Capitola Fire Districts consolidated into Central Fire Protection District.

History shows that consolidation has been a proven concept. There still needs to be evidence that consolidation makes sense before the districts take action. Since the 1990s, Central and Aptos Fire Districts have considered the idea of consolidation. Finally, in 2018, the fire districts partnered with LAFCO and hired an outside consultant to conduct a feasibility study to figure out whether consolidation makes sense in today's world.

The final version of this report was presented to the residents at a town hall meeting in August 2018 and the report supported consolidation. The report was also used for a service review for the two fire districts and it was adopted by LAFCO in November 2018.

The fire districts still needed to take action to initiate this process. In 2019, the districts adopted several resolutions. State law requires that one of the affected fire district needs to adopt a resolution of initiation. Only one resolution is required but the districts both adopted similar resolutions. The districts are taking additional steps for more transparency so that the public is fully aware of their progress. Those resolutions were both adopted in July 2019.

They also adopted similar resolutions about the board composition. Central Fire is larger than Aptos/La Selva Fire in terms of acreage, population, the number of parcels, and the assessed value. In order to have fair representation, both boards decided to adopt a resolution indicating that 3 board members from Aptos and two from Central will serve on the new successor agency board. The districts also decided that by 2022, the successor agency's elections will transition from at-large to district-based. Under this proposed election format, there will be better representation of the former fire districts as well as residents themselves.

After the resolutions were adopted, the districts directed their fire chiefs to submit an application to LAFCO. A joint application signed by both districts was officially submitted to LAFCO December 30, 2019. This is when the LAFCO process officially begins.

State law requires a number of tasks to be completed before the consolidation can be presented to the Commission. Within 30 days of receiving the application, LAFCO needs to notify the applicants whether or not the application is complete.

A status letter was sent to the fire districts last January indicating that the application was incomplete. It still needed a property tax exchange agreement to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. It was also suggested that another town hall meeting should be set up to discuss the consolidation. Within 30 days, State law also requires LAFCO to notify all affected and interested public agencies about the consolidation and solicit comments. To date, LAFCO has not received any written opposition from any local agency.

In March, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved this property tax exchange agreement. This agreement makes sure the existing property taxes from both fire districts get transferred over to the successor agency. From April through August, the districts continued working together to address the items in LAFCO's status letter and other unresolved issues including the existing pension plans and obligations.

The two districts have different pension plans. It was unclear how that will affect the current pension obligations if they consolidate. LAFCO, CalPERS, Assembly Member Mark Stone and Senator Bill Monning helped get AB 1140 passed. This bill will help transition all existing pension obligations to the successor agency. In September, Governor Newsom approved AB 1140 and this bill will become law on January 1, 2021.

There was a virtual town hall meeting in September that was hosted by Supervisors Zach Friend and John Leopold and it was another opportunity for residents to learn more about consolidation and its benefits and offer an additional platform for the public to ask questions. Fire chiefs Don Jarvis and John Walbridge were guest speakers.

After receiving all the documentation in October, LAFCO staff signed the Certificate of Filing deeming the application complete and ready for the Commission's consideration. Staff advertised the public notice in the local Sentinel and Aptos Times.

Today the Commission is considering the proposed consolidation. There are still other milestones required. Assuming that the Commission approves the consolidation, State law requires two proceedings. The Request for Reconsideration is an opportunity to submit new substantial evidence that was not considered by the Commission that may overturn their approval. This period will be between November 5<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>. A Protest Proceeding will follow which is an opportunity for the affected residents to submit petitions of opposition. This Protest Proceeding will occur from December 4<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup>. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Protest Hearing in which LAFCO staff will gather any final petitions to determine whether or not those petitions will trigger an election or

terminate a consolidation. If 25% or less petitions in opposition are received, the Commission's approval stands. If 25% to 50% petitions in opposition are received, it triggers a special election. If more than 50% are received, this terminates the consolidation. During the entire LAFCO process, LAFCO staff did not receive any written opposition from the residents. Several inquiries with valid questions were received but no written opposition.

This consolidation was initiated by the two affected fire districts and it will not raise taxes or introduce any new costs or benefit assessments. It will not lower the level of service currently being provided by the two fire districts. The consolidation will maintain the level of service and ultimately improve the level of service. It will remove duplication in governance and it will maximize efficiencies and best practices.

He thanks Assembly Member Mark Stone, Senator Bill Monning and CalPERS for their efforts in introducing AB 1140 and getting the bill passed. Craig Scholer and Maureen McCarty from Stone's office were helpful in being LAFCO's direct contact for this effort. He thanks the County Departments that played a critical role in providing essential data for LAFCO's analysis. He also thanks Supervisors John Leopold and Zach Friend for providing leadership in adopting the property tax exchange agreement and hosting a virtual town hall meeting. The fire districts' board members, the union representatives and their staff deserve thanks for their time and effort in this multi-year process of completing this consolidation. He appreciates former fire chiefs Aaron Lowe and Steve Hall for initiating the consolidation. The current fire chiefs Don Jarvis and John Walbridge helped to spearhead this effort midway through the process. He appreciates the community members who participated in the board meetings, attended the town hall meetings, or were just aware of this process. Becky Steinbruner was also helpful with providing valid questions which helped him provide a more thorough analysis in his staff report. This consolidation should be useful as a model for other LAFCOs.

The draft resolution has a number of terms and conditions that need to be addressed before the resolution can be recorded, the consolidation can be finalized, and a new district is officially formed. The districts have up to one year to address those conditions.

<u>Pat McCormick</u>, retired EO from Santa Cruz LAFCO, has been following this effort and he congratulates everyone for their hard work.

<u>Interim Fire Chief John Walbridge</u> from Central Fire thinks Mr. Serrano did a great job thanking everyone involved. He appreciates Mr. Serrano's excellent presentation and LAFCO's partnership with the fire departments.

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> thanks both fire districts for their hard work. The firefighters were the initial drivers of this effort and they recognize the value this consolidation could have for their community. It shows the firefighters' leadership when they help educate the community and it helped shape their boards' support. The boards and the fire chiefs have done an incredible job bringing all the pieces together. Four years ago, they began having conversations about consolidating. LAFCO played a role with an annexation that reshaped the size of the Central Fire board which made the consolidation easier. There were some obstacles but there is good data to support this move. It is easy to talk about merging fire departments together but to actually do it is much more difficult.

He wonders about the labor and benefits agreements. Passing AB 1140 will help allow this to happen. There are still two labor contracts between the individual unions. He wants to hear from the districts about what their plans are to become one unified labor contract, the timing of it and its priority.

<u>Commissioner Friend</u> thinks it cannot be overstated how much background work and public work has gone into this project. There have been many meetings and discussions with elected officials, the agencies' boards, firefighters, and community members to bring forth a robust prevention, operations, training, and a solvent organization from a financial standpoint. This will become the model agency countywide with the work that has already been done with respect to management and prevention. Other agencies will be looking to them for leadership. This benefits the two districts and their residents as well as everyone who sees the benefits of combining these two agencies. He knows this progress will help the residents receive better fire service long term. They will have a more financially responsible department. Mid-County and South County areas will be stronger from a fire prevention perspective. Those involved should be proud of the progress.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> adds that there is a lot of documentation and detailed negotiated labor contracts. He asks if there are any substantial differences between the contracts. The pension issue appears to have been settled. He wonders if there will be an incentive for the residents in the consolidated district to get hired under one contract or the other, or are they the same contract.

<u>Interim Aptos / La Selva Fire Chief Don Jarvis</u> says it has already been acknowledged that fire district consolidations are extremely difficult. There are so many moving pieces and everyone is emotionally invested in each one of those pieces. Central and Aptos / La Selva Fire Districts each have a long history of proud service to their communities. Each has a host of retired firefighters that are still part of the fire service family and the fire agencies. The two districts have developed a culture and an organizational philosophy over time.

The two districts have grown up in the same environment, but they have turned out completely different, such as their labor contracts. The philosophy at Aptos / La Selva has been for higher wages and a lower tier of benefits but Central Fire's philosophy involves slightly lower wages but a higher tier of benefits.

Combining those two labor contracts has probably been the most challenging. The meetings are still continuing. The ad-hoc committee from both fire districts that includes both boards of directors have been meeting regularly with representatives of the two labor unions to hammer out some of the differences in these contracts. Currently, there are two separate labor contracts that are valid and binding until the end of 2021. Meetings are ongoing to continue working towards a single labor contract.

One scenario is that those labor contracts run in parallel and they expire in 2021. The new board of directors will undertake negotiations to develop a successor labor contract. Another possibility is that these meetings continue to be fruitful and the two contracts are not combined before they expire on their own terms.

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> thinks it is very important that these critical issues are resolved. He wonders what the districts priorities are to resolve this before the consolidation is official which could still be several months away.

<u>Chief Jarvis</u> says all the involved parties recognize that the ultimate goal with the best advantage is to come to an agreement and combine the two contracts into a single memorandum of understanding (MOU). The problem is that this is easier said than done. Negotiations are ongoing and it is a high priority. Negotiations with labor can often be difficult. There are two different philosophies involved in these negotiations which makes it difficult to resolve. He cannot promise that they will come to an agreement with the labor unions before the consolidation is finalized. The boards of directors are involved with the negotiations and they realize what a high priority this is to get it resolved.

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> is concerned because there is a new board with a majority of one culture and a minority of another culture. Trying to resolve this on an even playing field should be a priority.

Chief Jarvis agrees.

Commissioner Leopold wonders if there are any board members listening who could comment.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> wonders what happens if there is not a labor agreement by the end of 2021 and where would it leave the status of the consolidation.

<u>Chief Jarvis</u> says that every labor contract has an expiration date. If Aptos / La Selva stayed as its own fire district, their labor contract would expire the end of 2021. The board and the union would enter into negotiations and they would hammer out a successor agreement. This is what they expect will happen at the end of 2021 and they are not sure whether it would be easy or difficult. They cannot short cut it and they cannot ignore it. The new successor board and the labor unions would go through the same process together or separately.

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> asks if there are negotiations occurring now to work towards resolution before the consolidation occurs.

<u>Chief Jarvis</u> answers yes. There are regular meetings happening between the labor unions and the representatives of the two boards.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> adds that the draft resolution includes a condition that all existing MOUs, contracts, and agreements will be honored by the successor agency. Any other MOUs, contracts and agreements that are adopted after November 4<sup>th</sup> but prior to recordation will be honored as well. This is an attempt to encourage ongoing negotiations and discussions between the two fire districts before it gets recorded.

Commissioner Jim Anderson asks if both contracts expire near or at the same time.

Mr. Serrano answers yes. Both contracts expire at the same time which is at the end of 2021.

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> adds that what makes consolidations difficult is multiple hurdles that have to be overcome through persistence. He has noticed through this entire process that there has been incredible persistence from the firefighters, the fire boards, the districts, and LAFCO. There are other players who have tried to help with this consolidation. He hopes that the labor contract gets resolved before the consolidation happens.

### MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: Leopold	То	adopt	the	draft	Resolution	No.	2020-30	approving	the	fire
Second: Friend	con	solidati	on ar	nd inclu	ıde:					
	<ul> <li>a minor edit to the proposed name which will now be "Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County" for the proposed agency, and</li> </ul>									
	<ul> <li>to get reports from the fire districts at the LAFCO meetings about the status of negotiations until the consolidation is complete.</li> </ul>									
	Mo	tion pas	ses v	vith a ι	unanimous v	oice v	ote.			

<u>Commissioner Leopold</u> is proud to have played some part in this and wants to recognize everyone who put time into it. He is proud of the work this LAFCO has done and its good government towards efficient government services. He thinks it is underappreciated what LAFCO does and the importance LAFCO plays in the community. When people have experiences with LAFCO, they find out what a valuable tool they offer.

Chairperson Roger Anderson appreciates Mr. Leopold's leadership locally and statewide.

\* Commissioner Leopold leaves

SERVICE AND SPHERE REVIEW FOR THE SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (SLVWD)

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that SLVWD was formed in 1941 to develop and provide water for domestic use, fire protection and recreation in San Lorenzo Valley. Since 1963, the district has experienced several boundary changes including the 2016 reorganization involving Lompico County Water District.

Currently, the district's service area encompasses approximately 60 square miles. Detailed analysis of the district was conducted as part of the service review. The district provides water service to approximately 20,000 residents. Their source of water comes from surface water and groundwater.

SLVWD also provides sewer service to a small community. During the countywide sanitation service review, SLVWD expressed interest in transferring over sewer responsibilities to another public agency and it is still the case. Their hope is for another public agency such as the County to assume sewer responsibilities for this small community.

This district is fiscally sound. They did not encounter any single deficit in the last six fiscal years. This is unique compared to the other agencies this LAFCO has analyzed this year. One reason why their revenues accurately cover their expenses is because they plan for capital improvement projects and they earmark necessary funds. 21 projects have been scheduled to be completed by 2022.

All special districts are now required by law to maintain a website. SLVWD is one of the districts that has maintained a website for a long time. It includes an array of information available to the public.

There has been substantial infrastructure damage due to the recent fires. It is unclear how it will impact the district's funding and operations. LAFCO is recommending an update be presented to this Commission by November 2021.

There are 24 unserved areas surrounded by the water district but outside its jurisdiction. These areas are excluded from the service boundary. He thinks the sphere boundary should include these unserved areas to encourage annexation in the future if desired by the residents and the water district. Any annexation would require additional analysis and an application. A precursor to these discussions would be updating the sphere boundary to include these 24 unserved areas.

<u>Nicole Berridge</u> is an HOA water commissioner for Brackenbrae. She just stumbled upon LAFCO's notice in the paper. Excluding the recent fires, they are happy with their water system. They have good quality water service. She asks if staff is recommending that the unserved islands within those boundaries be considered part of SLVWD's potential service area. If there is an independent water company with State oversight, she wonders if they can maintain their company without an imminent domain takeover.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> answers that the intent of these sphere boundaries is that they are a planning tool. These areas may be part of the water district in the foreseeable future. These areas are not part of the district, but they are substantially surrounded by it. There is no imminent domain. There needs to be support by the affected area such as the private water system as well as the water district and it needs to be initiated by an application. There is no application currently and the Commission is not forcing annexation. If there is no interest from the water district, the private water system, or the residents, there is no need to move forward. This is just an informational report that can be used to start discussions if there is a desire to do so.

<u>Ms. Berridge</u> asks if LAFCO chose to explore this option of hooking up to the water district, could it be done without a potential threat of being taken over. There have been discussions with SLVWD and Big Basin about connecting with them. They want to explore all of their options because their water treatment plant was burnt down. They just restored their water storage. They plan to rebuild the water treatment plant and they want to look at all of their options.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> replies that LAFCO staff encourages them to explore their options. If one of the options is to be part of SLVWD, then an application needs to be submitted and the LAFCO process begins. Any previous discussions of alternative approaches to ensure that these residents receive adequate water supply does not trigger any LAFCO action. LAFCO gets officially involved when an application is received.

<u>Ms. Berridge</u> asks if they were to have SLVWD serve them, who pays for funding the annexation. They have applied for a FEMA grant as a critical non-profit.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> answers that the applicant, the landowner, the registered voter, or the private water system would be subject to any connection costs to the water district. He does not want residents to have any sticker shock when they find out how much it will cost to hook up to the water district. These questions should be answered before it is brought to LAFCO.

He thinks their private water system and Forest Springs water systems are already SLVWD's jurisdiction and so annexation would not be required. These discussions can occur with SLVWD without LAFCO approval or action. If it is decided that the connection makes sense, they do not have to go through the LAFCO process. Annexation only occurs if it is area outside the jurisdiction of the water district.

<u>Rick Rogers</u>, SLVWD's General Manager, thanks Mr. Serrano for his extra time spent on this review due to the recent fire. He agrees with the summary of recommendations that was submitted.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> reviewed the rate study and a Lompico Assessment District Oversight Committee (LADOC) document. He asks if action has been taken on implementing the rate study and where does the LADOC plan fit into the overall future of SLVWD.

<u>Mr. Rogers</u> replies that the rate study has been implemented and they are getting ready to implement the fourth step on a five-year rate increase in a day or two. In its fourth year, they are moving ahead with the LADOC merger and they are currently constructing new storage. The LADOC merger outlines six different projects and it came with an assessment district. They are moving ahead with these projects, but they are a tad behind schedule.

## MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: J. Anderson Second: Lather	<ul> <li>To find the service review exempt from CEQA,</li> <li>The service review meets the statutory requirements for Government Code Section 56425 sphere determinations and 56434 service determinations and,</li> <li>To adopt draft Resolution No. 2020-31 approving the 2020 Service and Sphere Review for SLVWD, as recommended by staff.</li> <li>Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote.</li> </ul>
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# PROPOSED POLICY UPDATES

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that these are the last two policies to review. The sphere policy was adopted in 1977 and was last reviewed in 2010. The purpose of this policy was to outline how to designate sphere boundaries for all of the county's cities and special districts. This policy simply needed minor edits such as revising outdated language and implementing the new standard format for policies.

The water policy was adopted in 1964 and was last reviewed in 2010. The intent of this policy was to determine how to analyze current and future water demand when considering boundary changes such as annexations. The current version of this policy was merely the proposal and the sphere policies combined with highlighted areas of water-related issues. Staff felt it was more appropriate to create a formal policy so this policy has been revamped while using the same language.

<u>Commissioner Cummings</u> is glad that the policies are getting updated and he thanks Mr. Serrano for his efforts.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> asks whether the list of water information is intended to be exhaustive or is there some flexibility to consider other sources.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> thinks there are other opportunities to amend, improve and add to this current policy. There was much effort in creating this water policy so he wanted to keep that context intact. With the notion that all of the policies have been reviewed, they can be combined as one Policies and Procedures Handbook. New policies or new language can be added to improve the structure and the information provided in these policies. There is room for improvement in all of the policies.

<u>Commissioner Lather</u> thought it was interesting and enlightening to go through the water policy and understand how policies are reviewed. She appreciates these policies being updated. She thanks LAFCO staff for their efforts.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> appreciates all the effort in reorganizing this LAFCO's policies since it will make it easier for the Commission to understand them. It also allowed Commissioners to accumulate the history from these policies to make it clearer how they stand now.

## MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: J. Anderson	To adopt draft Resolutions No. 2020-32 and 2020-33 approving the
Second: Cummings	proposed amendments to the Sphere of Influence Policy and the Water
	Policy, as recommended by staff. The Water Policy shall include one
	minor correction. The annual reports filed by the public water systems
	are no longer sent to the California Department of Public Health. They
	are sent to the State Water Resources Control Board.

# **OTHER BUSINESS**

CALAFCO ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that there was no CALAFCO Conference due to the pandemic. The election for the CALAFCO Board was done with mail-in ballots. Most if not all of the incumbents were re-elected. Mike McGill from Contra Costa LAFCO was re-elected to represent the Coastal Region's special district seat. Christopher Lopez from Monterey LAFCO will be representing the Coastal Region for the county seat.

He wants to extend his appreciation to Commissioner Lather for her willingness to run and he encourages her and the rest of the Commission to continue working with CALAFCO. Hopefully, there will be a Santa Cruz Commissioner on the CALAFCO Board soon.

<u>Chairperson Roger Anderson</u> thanks Commissioner Lather for her interest. It is important to have some membership on the Board. He knows the power of incumbency. He tried three times before he was elected to the Board.

COMPREHENSIVE QUARTERLY REPORT – FIRST QUARTER (FY 2020-21)

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that September was the end of the first quarter and his report shows the service reviews, projects and staff meetings that occurred during this time. As of the end of the first quarter, LAFCO has already received 99% of the projected revenue. The majority of funding comes from the allocations from the cities, the special districts, and the County. It is customary to receive a majority of the revenue at this time.

LAFCO has only incurred 20% of the projected costs for this fiscal year. By the end of the first quarter, it is wise to be at 25% or below. He anticipates that the revenues will cover the expenses at the end of this fiscal year.

Chairperson Roger Anderson appreciates the comprehensive report.

WORK PROGRAM REVIEW

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that the work program adopted by the Commission in November 2019 lays out what the service reviews will be until 2024. In 2021, four service reviews are scheduled to be completed which will analyze about 18 special districts. The City of Scotts Valley will be the first review to tackle in March followed by the Scotts Valley Water District in May. The four recreation and park districts will all be analyzed in one service review that will be presented to the Commission in August.

A countywide comprehensive fire district review will analyze all of the fire districts in the County. The Commission requested that the scope of work be presented to the Commission outlining what the report will cover, and he plans to provide this to the Commission in January. The service review will be ready for Commission consideration by October 2021. This report will also fulfill the request from the Grand Jury to analyze any areas of improvement or opportunities with the fire districts. This report will be an important resource for the Commission, the public and the fire districts.

Chairperson Roger Anderson wonders what role the districts involved in the consolidation will have.

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> answers that his intent is to involve the affected agencies when he conducts this review. It will be a working document that they will have the opportunity to provide comments. At the beginning of the year, he will send out a survey to all of the existing fire districts including Central and Aptos / La Selva FPDs. It is still unknown when their consolidation will be finalized. The consolidation effort will be emphasized in the report. He will request that they provide feedback as part of this service review because it will be countywide. Hopefully, this consolidation effort will be a success story and a potential model for other opportunities within the County.

### LAFCO MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> has proposed a 2021 meeting schedule of ten regular Commission meetings excluding the months of July and December.

Commissioner Cummings asks if the meeting time will still be 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Serrano answers yes.

MOTION AND ACTION

Motion: Cummings	To approve the 2021 meeting schedule.	
Second: J. Anderson	Motion carries with a unanimous voice vote.	

### WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Mr. Serrano</u> reports that staff received several items of late correspondence after the agenda packet was distributed. Two documents were from Becky Steinbruner and most of her questions were addressed during the fire consolidation discussion.

The third document was sent by a resident regarding SLVWD's recent service review. This document was given to the Commissioners and posted on the LAFCO website. The resident's comments were supporting staff's recommendations and findings in the service review. He hopes the district explores alternatives with the private water systems and the unserved areas. He is a resident affected by the recent fire and he would appreciate coordination between the residents and the water district. He supports staff's recommendation to have these discussions.

# ADJOURNMENT

The next LAFCO meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 6, 2021. There will be no LAFCO meeting in December.

CHAIRPERSON ROGER W. ANDERSON

Attest:

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Joe A. Serrano, Executive Officer

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