

FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)

(Fresno County, California)

“MINUTES”

REGULAR LAFCo MEETING – JULY 8, 2009

Call to Order: Chairman Victor Lopez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Commissioners: Larry Fortune, Victor Lopez, Henry Perea and City Alternate Dennis Lujan, County Alternate Phil Larson and Public Alternate Joe Chaidez

Members Absent: Commissioners: Susan Anderson and Trinidad Rodriguez

Staff Present: Rick Ballantyne, LAFCo Executive Officer
Darrel Schmidt, LAFCo Deputy Executive Officer
Kenneth J. Price, LAFCo Counsel
Candie Fleming, Clerk to the Commission
Samantha Hendricks, LAFCo Technician II

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Minutes from the regular LAFCo Meeting of June 10, 2009.**

The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. **Potential Conflicts of Interest: Any Commission Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.**

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **“Glenn-Shaw No. 3B Reorganization” (LAFCo File RO-09-2) (Continued from June 10, 2009).**

A motion to continue the item to a future date and provide re-notification, as recommended in staff’s report, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Request for a One-Year Extension to Complete Proceedings for the City of Fresno “Whitesbridge-Valentine Southwest Reorganization” (LAFCo File No. RO-06-20).

Commissioner Larson questioned if this proposal was within the City of Fresno’s Sphere of Influence. He also expressed concern over its proximity to the bankrupt Running Horse development suggesting it was “leapfrog” planning. Deputy Executive Officer, Darrel Schmidt, explained that this proposal was approved in 2006 by the Commission and that this was just a request for extension of time to complete the proceedings. Chairman Lopez then opened the hearing to the public.

Dirk Poeschel, representing the developer, reported on the progress being made towards completion of the proposal and explained the reason for their request for a one-year time extension. With no other public testimony offered, the public hearing was closed. A motion to approve the time extension was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

7. Conducting Authority Proceedings: City of Fresno “Church-Fowler No. 2 Reorganization” (LAFCo File No. RO-07-4).

Deputy Executive Officer Schmidt stated the protest hearing was being conducted because not all landowners had consented to the annexation. He also reported that no formal protests had been received prior to the hearing. With no public testimony offered, the public hearing was closed. A motion to reaffirm the Commission’s prior approval was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS:

8. LAFCo Independence: Recent Actions Taken Towards LAFCo Independence

Executive Officer Rick Ballantyne reported that at last month’s hearing, the Commission approved the four recommended actions necessary (contained in June 10 staff report) for the “County employees” of LAFCo to transition to “LAFCo employees”.

In addition, Executive Officer Ballantyne and LAFCo Counsel Price met with Roberto Pena and Becky Van Wyk of the Fresno County Employee Retirement Association (FCERA). FCERA recommended that a formal letter requesting membership be submitted to their Board of Directors in order to provide for a seamless transition.

Finally, it was reported that LAFCo may not need to complete the actuarial study as first thought. Staff recommended that the Independence Sub-Committee members meet with the FCERA to ask any questions they may have regarding LAFCo’s staff becoming Independent. LAFCo Counsel Price stated the transition could occur within the next six months.

Informational item only, no Commission action was taken.

9. CALAFCO State Conference: Update Regarding Conference Planning

Executive Officer Ballantyne informed the Commission that CALAFCO would be electing new Board Members to serve a two-year term at the Annual State Conference. Also, that CALAFCO was accepting nominations for new Board members. Executive Officer Ballantyne requested that the Commission also select a voting delegate to represent Fresno LAFCo at the State Conference.

Commissioner Perea expressed his interest in running for the County delegate position. The Commission supported Commissioner Perea's request. Commissioner Rodriguez was also nominated by Commissioner Lujan to run for one of the City seats, and Commissioner Fortune was selected to be Fresno LAFCo's voting delegate at the Yosemite Conference.

Deputy Executive Officer Schmidt presented an update of the Conference Mobile Workshop event and stated that staff would be meeting with representatives of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust to discuss the program.

CLOSED SESSION:

10. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT Title: Executive Officer

Chairman Lopez reported that recruitment for a new Executive Officer would be commencing and thanked Executive Officer Ballantyne for his service to LAFCo and commended Alternate Commissioner Joe Chaidez for his frequent attendance at the meetings. Executive Officer Ballantyne also extended his appreciation to Alternate Commissioner Chaidez for his assistance in helping with the 2009-2010 LAFCo Budget.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

LAFCo Counsel Price took a moment to introduce Josh Hobbstone, a law student visiting from the University of Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT LAFCO MEETING will be held on August 12, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Chamber - Hall of Records, Room 301, Fresno, California.

Note: The July 8, 2009 Fresno LAFCo meeting may be heard on the Fresno LAFCo website (see Hearings/Workshops tab) at fresnolafco.org.