

# AGENDA

FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)

April 8, 2026 – 1:30 P.M.

Hall of Records, Room 301, 2281 Tulare Street, Fresno, California

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mario Santoyo, Chair  
Victor Martinez, Chair Pro Tem  
Nathan Magsig  
Daniel Parra  
Buddy Mendes

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

Tom Chaney  
Scott Robertson  
Vacant

**LAFCO STAFF**

Brian Spaunhurst, Executive Officer  
Amanda Olivas, Clerk to the Commission  
Jessica Gibson, LAFCo Analyst  
Joel Matias, LAFCo Analyst  
Lizbeth Dominguez, LAFCo Analyst  
Baker Manock & Jensen, LAFCo Counsel

LAFCo Office: 1401 Fulton Street, Suite 800, Fresno, CA - 93721 - (559) 600-0604  
Staff reports prepared for each item listed in this agenda may be viewed at [www.fresnolafo.org](http://www.fresnolafo.org).

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1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
  2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
  3. **Additions to the Agenda**
  4. **Comments from the Public:** Any person wishing to address the Commission on a subject not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. (State your name and address and please keep your comments to three (3) minutes.)
  5. **Potential Conflict of Interest:** Any Commission member who has a potential conflict of interest shall now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter pursuant to Govt. Code sec. 84308.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All consent agenda items are considered routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion; there will be no individual discussion of these items unless requested by a member of the Commission or the public. Any item pulled from the consent agenda for discussion will be set aside until after approval of the consent agenda. Prior to taking any action the public will be given the opportunity to comment on any consent item. The consent agenda will be considered on or about 1:30 p.m.

6. **Recommendation:** Approve 6A-B by taking the following actions:
  - A. **Consider Approval:** Minutes from the LAFCo meeting of March 11, 2026.
  - B. **Consider Approval:** “**Waterworks District No. 42**” A proposed detachment of approximately 40 acres from the Waterworks District No. 42, located adjacent to Montana Ave, between East Nees Avenue and East Alluvial Avenue (LAFCo File No. DD-26-01).

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**7. Proposed Budget and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

**Recommendation:** Receive Report; Provide Direction

**8. Workshop: Ad- Hoc Committee for Legal Counsel RFP Initial Report**

**Recommendation:** Receive Report; Provide Direction

**9. Executive Officer Comments**

**10. Commission Comments / Reports**

**11. Adjournment**

**THE NEXT LAFCO MEETING** will be held on May 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Chamber – Hall of Records, Room 301, Fresno, California.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

(1) "If you are an applicant for, or a participant in, any proceeding on the agenda for a land use entitlement and have made campaign contributions totaling more than \$500.00 to any member or alternative member of the Commission within twelve (12) months prior to the Commission considering your application, please immediately inform the Commission of your contribution. State law disqualifies each Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner from participating in and voting on land use entitlement decisions (which include changes of organization and reorganizations) if the Commissioner or Alternative Commissioner has received campaign contributions from (i) an applicant for a land use entitlement, (ii) someone who lobbies the Commission or LAFCo staff regarding an application for land use entitlement, (iii) someone who testifies in person before the Commission regarding an application for land use entitlement, or (iv) someone who otherwise acts to influence the outcome of an application for land use entitlement. State law also prohibits applicants, agents, and participants from making campaign contributions to a Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner within twelve (12) months after the Commission's action. If you have any questions regarding these requirements (which are contained in the California Gov. Code sec. 84308 *et seq.*) please feel free to contact LAFCo staff at (559) 600-0604."

(2) In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (**ADA**), if you need special assistance to participate at this meeting, please contact Ms. Amanda Olivas, Clerk to the Commission at 559-600-0604. Notification provided a minimum of 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Clerk to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Pursuant to the ADA, the meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled.



Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission  
1401 Fulton Street, Suite 800, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 600-0604

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-A**

**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11, 2026**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Magsig, Martinez, Mendes, Parra, Santoyo

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Brian Spaunhurst, LAFCo Executive Officer  
Amanda Olivas, Clerk to the Commission  
Jessica Gibson, LAFCo Analyst  
Joel Matias, LAFCo Analyst  
Monica Leon, LAFCo Analyst  
Lizbeth Dominguez, LAFCo Analyst  
Baker, Manock & Jensen, LAFCo Counsel

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Santoyo called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Executive Officer Brian Spaunhurst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Changes and Approval of Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

Motion to Approve Agenda: Commissioner Magsig

Second: Commissioner Parra

**4. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Commissioner Parra disclosed his residence in Fowler, however there is no conflict.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. A. Minutes from the LAFCo Meeting of February 11, 2026.**

**B. City of Fowler “Sunnyside South Northwest Reorganization.” (LAFCo File No. RO-25-15)**

Motion: Approve Items 6A- 6B  
Moved: Commissioner Martinez  
Second: Commissioner Mendes  
Ayes: Commissioners Martinez, Mendes, Magsig, Parra, Santoyo  
Noes: 0  
Absent: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Passed: 5-0

### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **7. Workshop: Preliminary Budget and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.**

This was a workshop; no action was needed.

#### **8. AD- Hoc Committee for Legal Counsel RFP Initial Report.**

The Ad-Hoc Committee recommends re-issuing the RFP.

Motion: Approve Item 8  
Moved: Commissioner Mendes  
Second: Commissioner Parra  
Ayes: Commissioners Mendes, Parra, Magsig, Martinez, Santoyo  
Noes: 0  
Absent: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Passed: 5-0

#### **9. Executive Officer Comments.**

LAFCo Executive Officer Brian Spaunhurst provided comments.

#### **10. Commission Comments/Reports.**

There were no comments from the Commission.

#### **11. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Mendes  
Second: Commissioner Martinez  
The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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Amanda Olivas  
Clerk to the Commission

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**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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AGENDA ITEM No. \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** April 8, 2026

**TO:** Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

**FROM:** Brian Spaunhurst, Executive Officer

**BY:** Lizbeth Dominguez, LAFCo Analyst I

**SUBJECT:** **Consider Approval – County of Fresno “Waterworks District No. 42 Detachment (Sobaje).”** A proposed detachment of approximately 40 acres from the Waterworks District No. 42, located adjacent to Montana Ave, between East Nees Avenue and East Alluvial Avenue (LAFCo File No. DD-26-01).

**Applicant:** County of Fresno

**Landowners/Parties of Real Interest:** County of Fresno, Dale G. Mell Associates, Sobaje Property Group Inc.

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve by Taking the Following Actions:**

**Action 1:**

- A. Acting as Responsible Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, find that prior to approving the proposed reorganization, the environmental effects of the Proposal as shown in the CEQA documents prepared, adopted, and submitted by the Lead Agency, were reviewed, and considered, and determine these documents to be adequate pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15096.

**Action 2:**

- A. Find that the proposed detachment is consistent with LAFCo Policies and the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (“CKH”).
- B. Find pursuant to CKH and information in the record that:
  - a. The territory is uninhabited pursuant to Gov. Code § 56079.5
  - b. No affected agencies have submitted a written demand for notice and hearing or otherwise opposed the detachment.
- C. Assign the distinctive short form designation “Waterworks District No. 42 Detachment (Sobaje)” and approve the reorganization subject to the following conditions of approval:

- a. Pursuant to Fresno LAFCo Policy 108-07, the Executive Officer shall record the approved application if all conditions have been satisfied and once he or she has determined that the facts pertaining to the application during the time of recording are materially similar to those facts considered by the Commission when the application was approved. "Facts", as used in the proceeding sentence, are defined to include, but are not limited to, whether or not the proposed project is materially similar to the project described in any application before the Commission.
  - b. Submittal of corrected map and legal description.
  - c. Submittal of a filed CEQA Notice of Determination with the Fresno County Clerk.
  - d. In order to ensure logical boundaries and the efficient provision of public services by the District the detachment shall include the full right-of-way width of adjacent roadways currently existing, including any proposed expansion or reduction of roadway rights-of-way included in a development application for the proposed project in the affected territory. The District shall acquire all property, real or personal, within the affected territory. (Gov. Code § 56886(h).)
- D. Waive further Conducting Authority Proceedings and order the reorganization subject to the requirements of CKH and the conditions of approval listed above.
  - E. This Commission's action approving this proposal shall expire one year from the date of this resolution unless all proceedings are complete including condition compliance and the Certificate of Completion is issued by the Executive Officer.
  - F. Authorize and direct the Executive Officer to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided in Government Code Section § 56882 and file as appropriate in the office of the Fresno County Clerk all environmental documents, if any, pertaining to the approval of this proposal, as required by State Law.

### **Executive Summary**

On February 17, 2026, the County of Fresno's Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 25-341 requesting the Commission to begin proceedings for the "Waterworks District No. 42 Detachment (Sobaje)" to detach approximately 40 acres from the Waterworks District No. 42.

### **Proposal/Land Use**

- The proposal consists of the detachment of 40 acres from County of Fresno's Waterworks District No. 42.
- Information related to the proposal's affected territory, land use, proposed development, special districts, surrounding areas, and existing/proposed services can be found on **Attachment A**.

- The affected territory is within the Waterworks District No. 42 sphere of influence (**Attachment B**) and is contiguous to the district's service area (**Attachment C**).
- The territory is uninhabited (1 registered voter).

### **Consistency with LAFCo Policies, Standards, and Procedures**

- The proposal is consistent with the CKH and LAFCo Policies, Standards, and Procedures, including, but not limited to, sections 100 and 200.

### **Revenue & Tax Code**

Fresno County has determined that the proposed "Waterworks District No. 42 Detachment (Sobaje)" involving the detachment of 40 acres will not have an impact on taxes. Therefore, no further tax negotiations are necessary pursuant to Revenue and Tax Code section 99.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") was signed into law on September 16, 2014. This three-part legislation requires local agencies to develop groundwater sustainability plans that are compatible with their regional economic and environmental needs. SGMA creates a framework for sustainable local groundwater management for the first time in California's history.

SGMA requires local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") in local groundwater basins by June 2017 and requires the adoption of Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSPs") for groundwater basins deemed critically over drafted by year 2020. The North Kings GSA represents the proposed territory. There are currently no pumping restrictions in place.

After detachment, the water entitlement within the area will be managed through private wells.

### **Environmental Determination**

The County of Fresno, acting as the "Lead Agency" for purposes of CEQA review, has determined that the proposed detachment is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15320 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors further determined, through Resolution No. 25-341, that a Negative Declaration has been adopted for the proposal. This document has not yet been filed with LAFCo and has been included as a condition of approval.

As the Responsible Agency, the Commission is required to review and consider the environmental documents prepared by the District. If the Commission finds these documents adequate under CEQA, it may adopt the required findings described in the "Recommendations" section above.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(i), if the Commission determines that the environmental documents are adequate, a Notice of Determination will be prepared and filed with the Fresno County Clerk in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21152.

**Costs and Other Changes Affecting Residents or Landowners**

Landowners and residents will be responsible for securing and maintaining their own private wells

**Agencies and Individuals Submitting Comments**

- Elections IT, Fresno County Elections Department
- Bryant Vandervelde, Supervising Cadastral Tech, Fresno County Assessor’s Office
- Kevin Tsuda, Environmental Health Specialist II, Environmental Health Division
- Cindy K. Schroeder, Project Coordinator, Dale G. Mell & Associates
- Laurence Kimura, P.E. Chief Engineer, Fresno Irrigation District
- Dave Merritt, Kings River Conservation District
- Leana Lopez, Office Program Technician, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

**Territory Boundaries**

The boundaries of the proposed detachment **are** definite and certain, and the County Assessor has determined that the map and legal description **are adequate** to file with the State Board of Equalization.

**Registered Voter Data**

The County of Fresno Elections Office reported that there is **one** registered voter in the affected territory.

**Compliance with the Requirements of CEQA**

**Lead Agency:** County of Fresno

**Level of Analysis:** Negative Declaration

**Finding:** A Negative Declaration was prepared for the project pursuant to the provision of CEQA and adopted by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. It was determined that there are not project specific impacts which require specific mitigation measures.

**Individuals and Agencies Receiving this Report**

- LAFCo Counsel
- Kings River Conservation District
- Fresno County Fire Protection District
- Christopher Bump, Special Districts Manager, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Cindy K. Schroeder, Project Coordinator, Dale G. Mell & Associates
- Clovis Unified School District

# Attachment A

## PROPOSAL INFORMATION

1. Affected Territory

<b>Acreage:</b>	40
<b>Current Land Use:</b>	RR – Rural Residential
<b>Number of Residences/ Population:</b>	Residents: 0 / Population: 8 estimated
<b>Registered Voters:</b>	Voters: 1
<b>Assessor Parcel Number(s):</b>	566-014-20, 566-014-32, 566-014-31, 566-014-30, 566-013-32 566-013-33, 566-013-34, 566-013-35

2. Proposed Development – The applicant proposes to develop eight residential single-family homes.

3. Surrounding Territory – North: Limited Agriculture, East: Rural Residential, South: Rural Residential, West: Rural Residential

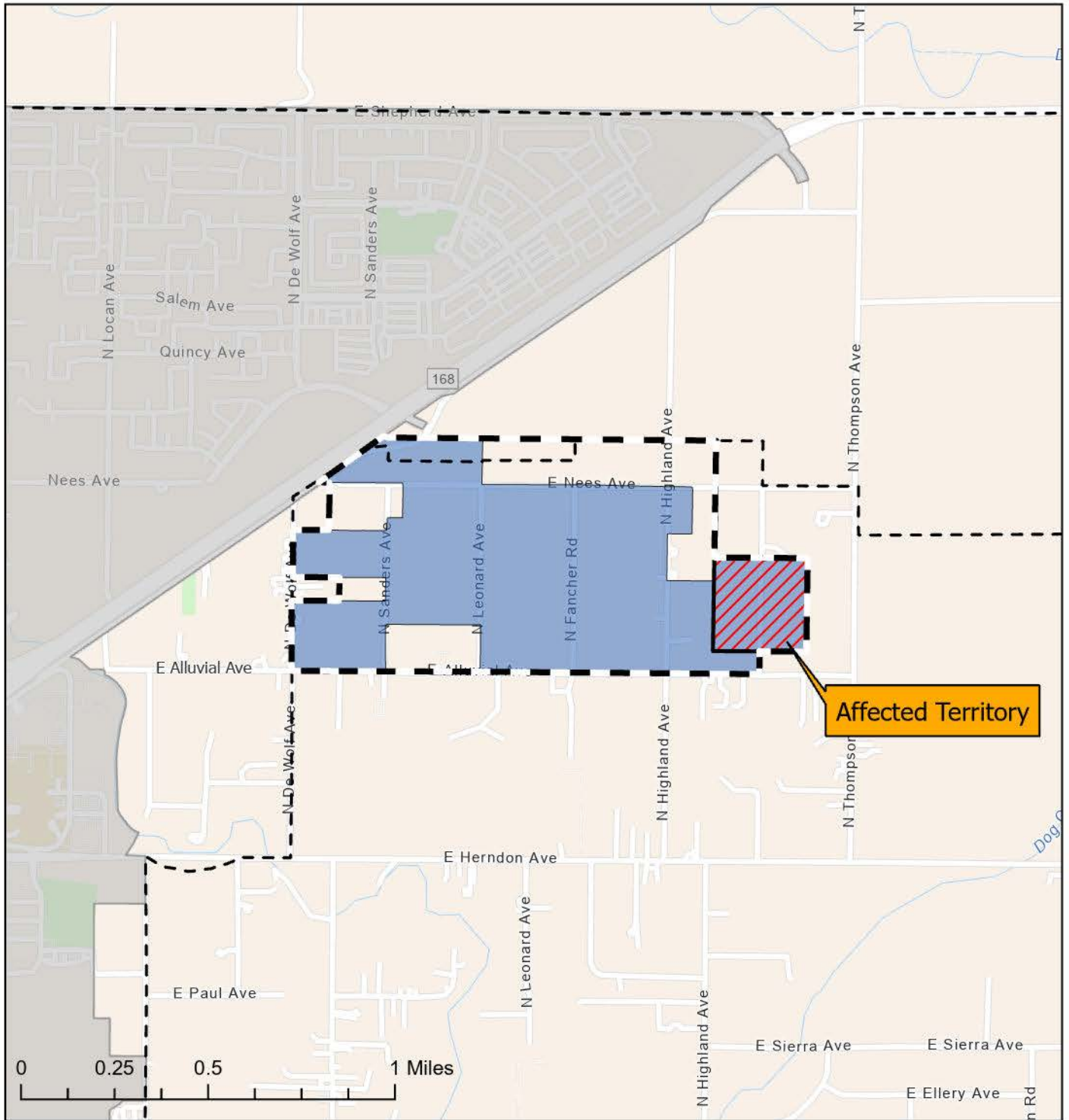
4. Existing Service Agencies and Proposed Service Changes

<b>Service</b>	<b>Existing Service</b>	<b>Change</b>
Water	Waterworks District #42	Private Wells
Sewer	N/A	N/A
Fire Protection	Fresno County Fire Protection District	Fresno County Fire Protection District
Solid Waste	Private Collection	Private Collection
Storm Drainage	N/A	N/A
Parks and Recreation	N/A	N/A
Police	Fresno County Sheriff's Department	Fresno County Sheriff's Department

5. Cities and Districts Included Wholly or Partially Within the Affected Territory

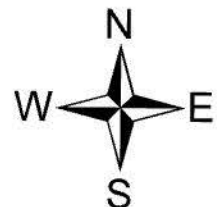
Fresno County	Fresno County Library
State Center Community College District	Fresno County Fire Protection District
Fresno County Sherriff's Department	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
West Fresno Red Scale Pest Control District	Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District
Clovis Unified School District	Fresno Irrigation District

# Attachment B

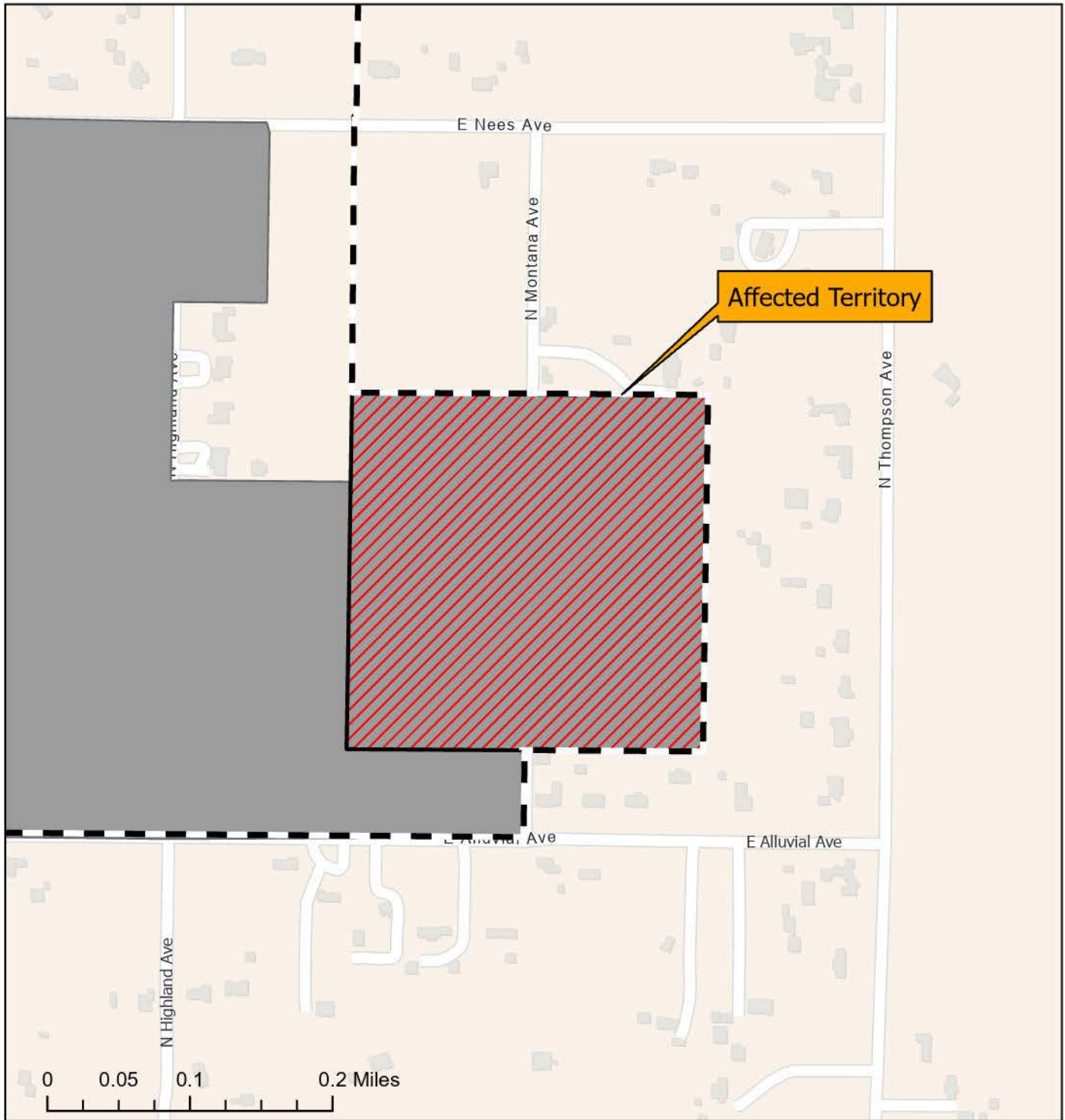


## Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

-  District SOI
-  City of Clovis SOI
-  Detachment
-  Service Area
-  City of Clovis City Limits



# Attachment C



## Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

-  Detachment
-  Service Area
-  District Sphere of Influence



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**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

**DATE:** April 8, 2026  
**TO:** Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission  
**FROM:** Brian Spaunhurst, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Budget and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-27

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive Report and Provide Direction

**Executive Summary**

The fiscal year (“FY”) 2026-27 LAFCo proposed budget estimate is summarized in Attachment “A” and the proposed 2026-27 work plan is presented in Attachment “B” for the Commission’s consideration and direction to staff.

The FY 2025-26 budget is \$914,514. Staff anticipates that fee revenue will close approximately \$61,000 above projections and expenses as a whole are projected to close approximately \$20,000 under budget at approximately \$895,000.

The proposed budget continues the Commission’s practice of maintaining an operational reserve of \$200,000. Staff estimates a proposed FY 2026-27 budget of approximately \$1,020,936, an increase of approximately \$106,422 from FY 2025-26.

Despite the overall increase in costs, budget savings and increased fee revenues from FY 2025-26 provides the Commission with the opportunity to consider applying these savings into the FY 2026-27 budget, resulting in Allocations increasing by \$5,711 for the County and \$5,711 to be split among the Cities (less than 2% increase).

This proposed estimate will be further refined based on continuing staff analysis and Commission direction leading up to the presentation of the Final Budget in May.

Based on Commission comments and direction, a Final Budget and Work Plan will be presented to the Commission at its May 13, 2026 hearing. In accordance with Government Code (“GC”) sec. 56381, the proposed and final budgets will be distributed to all local agencies and the County Administrative Officer.

## **Overview of Budget Process**

GC section 56381(a) states, “The commission shall adopt annually, following noticed public hearings, a Proposed Budget by May 1 and Final Budget by June 15. At a minimum, the Proposed and Final Budget shall be equal to the budget adopted for the previous fiscal year unless the commission finds that reduced staffing or program costs will nevertheless allow the commission to fulfill the purposes and programs of this chapter.”

The Commission’s *Financial and Accounting Procedures* stipulate that “In order to get an early start on the budget and allow for careful consideration of the budget options, the Executive Officer will present a preliminary budget to the Commission in March of each year in order to obtain advance direction from the Commission.” The Commission’s budget is based on a July 1st to June 30th fiscal year.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (“CKH”) authorizes the operational costs of LAFCo to be shared one-half by the County and one-half by cities where only the County and cities are represented on the Commission. In the event that special districts choose to be represented on the Commission, LAFCo funding would then be shared one-third by the County, cities, and the special districts or by an alternative method approved pursuant to GC sec. 56381(b)(4).

LAFCo’s operational expenses are augmented by fees established by the Commission in accordance with section 56383 of the GC for services rendered to process applications for annexations, reorganizations, and detachments, as well as other LAFCo actions.

## **Proposed Summary of FY 2025-26 Budget to Close**

### **Revenue**

FY 2025-26 anticipated \$914,514 in revenue, comprised of a net allocation of \$734,514 (\$367,257 from both the County and the 15 cities), and \$50,000 anticipated in application fees. Staff anticipates that FY 2025-26 fee revenue will close \$40,000 higher than projected due to an influx of project applications.

### **Expense - Office Operations**

FY 2025-26 budgeted office operations for \$176,119 and are estimated at this point to close at approximately \$162,000. Contributing factors include the preservation of our Contingency Fund, opting for free/reduced online training instead of in person, as well as reducing Commission Hearing Expenses by only meeting when Agendas are full or as needed. Staff also managed to win a CALAFCO drawing that provided one free registration fee for this year’s Annual Conference.

### Expense - Personnel

FY 2025-26 personnel expenses were budgeted at \$661,564 and are estimated to close at \$661,564. A fourth analyst was hired at the beginning of the Calendar year, however, one of our existing analysts took a position in a different field of work. The extra anticipated expenses are expected to more or less equal out with the savings from not filling the fourth analyst position for the remainder of FY 2025-26.

### Expense - Consulting Services

Consulting services expenses were budgeted for \$76,831 and are estimated to close at \$64,000. While this appears as savings, audit related expenses will likely come through in the beginning of the next FY as well as any anticipated legal counsel savings.

### **Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget and Work Plan**

The Proposed FY 2026-27 budget estimate is \$1,020,934, comprised of the following:

#### Revenue

The proposed FY 2026-27 revenue forecast is approximately \$1,020,934, with an estimate of County and cities' contribution of approximately \$372,967, respectively, \$50,000 in application fees, and a \$225,000 fund balance contribution from surplus and interest rolled over from FY 2025-26.

#### Expenses – Personnel

The proposed personnel expense forecast is \$777,864. This figure reflects anticipated updates to the Salary Resolution, merit-based step increases for permanent staff, and funding three part time student interns.

#### Expense - Office Operations

The proposed office operations expense forecast is \$171,560. This figure reflects planned increases in: Office lease, CALAFCO and SDRMA dues, liability insurance, staff and Commissioner participation in the Annual CALAFCO Conference/Staff Workshop, publication and legal noticing fees, and staff mileage.

#### Expense - Consultant Services

The proposed consulting services expenses forecast is \$71,510. This figure includes expenses anticipated for the next audit adjusted to reflect annual expenses instead of separating audit related expenses every other year.

## **Proposed FY 2026-27 Work Plan**

The proposed budget supports the Commission's role as an independent planning and regulatory agency whose purposes are to encourage the orderly formation of local governmental agencies, preserve agricultural land resources, and discourage urban sprawl. The Commission's work plan represents projects and activities that fulfill its goals and objectives. The budget represents the funding to accomplish projects important to the Commission.

A proposed FY 2026-27 work plan is included as Attachment "B," consistent with the analysis presented in this report. It contains ongoing assignments such as the MSR program, application processing and consultation and facilitation to local agencies and the public.

[https://fresnocounty.sharepoint.com/sites/LAFCo/SharedFiles/LAFCO WORKING FILES/000 BUDGET/26-27 Budget\\_WP/Staff Report - Proposed Budget.doc](https://fresnocounty.sharepoint.com/sites/LAFCo/SharedFiles/LAFCO%20WORKING%20FILES/000%20BUDGET/26-27%20Budget_WP/Staff%20Report%20-%20Proposed%20Budget.doc)

**ATTACHMENT A**

<b>-- Proposed FY 2026-27 BUDGET --</b>			
Updated 4-2-2026			
<b>REVENUE SUMMARY</b>	<b>Adopted FY 2025-26 Budget</b>	<b>Estimate to Close FY 2025-26</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2026-27 Budget</b>
ALLOCATION COUNTY	367,257	367,257	372,967
ALLOCATION CITIES	367,257	367,257	372,967
APPLICATION FEES	50,000	90,530	50,000
ACCOUNT INTEREST	0	20,358	0
AUTH. FUND BALANCE CONTRIBUTION	130,000	130,000	225,000
AUTH. CONTRIBUTION FROM RESERVES	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>914,514</b>	<b>975,402</b>	<b>1,020,934</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>			
EXPENDITURE - OFFICE OPERATIONS	176,119	162,000	171,560
EXPENDITURE - PERSONNEL	661,564	661,564	777,864
EXPENDITURE - CONSULTING SERVICES	76,831	64,000	71,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>914,514</b>	<b>887,564</b>	<b>1,020,934</b>

**PROPOSED FY 2026-27 WORKPLAN**

April 8, 2026

**1. PROCESS APPLICATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS AND CITIES' SOI AMENDMENTS****Preliminary budget implication: Application fees will fund this activity.**

Proposals under discussion but not submitted include a City of Clovis Annexation, City of Fowler Annexation, City of Reedley Annexation, and a City of Kingsburg Annexation.

**2. FRESNO LAFCO'S MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAM****Preliminary budget implication: This activity can be funded from LAFCo's operating account.**

On November 5, 2014, the Commission adopted its MSR program. The goal of the Fresno LAFCo MSR program is to provide cities and special districts with an assessment of their provision of services, make recommendations regarding areas of improvement, and determine whether an agency is equipped to effectively provide services within its existing or expanded SOI.

An MSR is necessary for any update of an SOI pursuant to GC sec. 56430.

Fresno LAFCo's 132 MSRs are informally categorized in three "generations:"

- **"1.0" MSRs** are the first generation of MSRs adopted in 2007. These are the first MSRs performed; they are generally brief, frequently conclusory, and may not have been developed with the cooperation of the affected local agency.
- **"1.5" MSRs** are second generation MSRs that were updated between 2008 and 2014. These MSRs may present more analysis of the affected local agency as staff's experience preparing MSRs grew (locally and statewide through the CALAFCO community).
- **"2.0" MSRs** are MSRs that have been updated pursuant to the Commission's 2014 MSR Policy. The 2.0 MSRs present more complete and comprehensive data and analysis in compliance with the 2014 MSR Policy.

Since adoption of the Commission's 2014 MSR Program, this Commission has adopted a total of 49 2.0 MSRs in conjunction with the update of affected local agencies' SOIs. A list of the agencies with 2.0 MSRs is presented in **Attachment C**. Table 1-1 shows the Commission's MSR Inventory by generations.

Table 1-1: Fresno LAFCo MSR Inventory by Generation

Municipal Service Review Program	MSRs by Generation			Total MSRs
	1.0	1.5	2.0	
Special District MSRs by Generation	15	52	49	115
City MSRs by Generation	6	1	8	15
Total MSRs by Generation	21	52	56	131

### Summary of Remaining 1.0 MSRs

Of the remaining 15 special district 1.0 MSRs, the following types of special districts hold the largest number of 1.0 MSRs:

- 6 Irrigation Districts,
- 1 Mosquito Abatement Districts,
- 1 Community Service Districts,
- 2 Pest Control Districts (one currently in progress),
- 2 California Water District
- 1 Hospital District
- 1 Levee District
- 1 County Water District

The balance of 1.0 MSRs consist of the following agencies: Consolidated Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, Hills Valley Irrigation District, James Irrigation District, Riverdale Irrigation District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District, Lanare Community Services District, Central Valley Pest Control District, West Fresno County Red Scale Protective District, Kingsburg Healthcare District, Lower San Joaquin Levee District, Liberty Water District, Westlands Water District, and Malaga County Water District.

In 2018, the Commission directed staff to defer updates of Irrigation District and California Water Districts' MSRs until after these agencies' GSAs have adopted their GSPs.

Staff recommends that the Commission's work plan continue to prioritize the update of the remaining 2007 special district MSRs (AKA the "1.0 MSRs"). Work on these MSRs would, however, take second place to application-driven MSRs.

### **3. Review and update of Fresno LAFCo Policy Manual**

**Preliminary budget implication: Can be funded by operational funds.**

Fresno LAFCo's Policy Manual has undergone a complete and thorough examination to update policies consistent with CKH, and to reflect contemporary priorities and characteristics of the Commission's

local agencies. Unless major changes to CKH occur, only minor annual amendments will be made as needed.

### **BACKGROUND ON FRESNO LAFCO'S WORK PLAN**

Fresno LAFCo's Financial and Accounting Procedures specify that before July 1, the LAFCo Executive Officer shall prepare for the Commission's review and approval of an annual work plan. The work plan is prepared in conjunction with the annual budget. The work plan identifies the purposes and plans of state law and local policy, including requirements for service reviews, sphere of influence updates, and other mandated functions. The budget supports the work program.

This work plan reflects the Fresno LAFCo's Policies and Procedures and the current and the dynamic needs of the local agencies in Fresno County. The work plan is composed of projects to be undertaken directly by LAFCo staff during the year.

The work plan is developed to advance the goals and mission of Fresno LAFCo, consistent with state law.

#### **I. SCOPE OF WORK PLAN**

The scope of the work plan is consistent with the legislature's findings and declarations:

- It is the policy of the state to encourage orderly growth and development, which are essential to the social, fiscal, and economic well-being of the state.
- The logical formation and determination of local agency boundaries is an important factor in promoting orderly development and in balancing that development with sometimes competing state interests of discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, and efficiently extending government services.
- Providing housing for people and families of all incomes is an important factor in promoting orderly development.
- This policy should be effected by the logical formation and modification of the boundaries of local agencies, with a preference granted to accommodate additional growth within, or through the expansion of, the boundaries of those local agencies which can best accommodate and provide necessary governmental services and housing for persons and families of all incomes in the most efficient manner feasible.
- The Legislature also finds that, whether governmental services are proposed to be provided by a single-purpose agency, several agencies, or a multipurpose agency, responsibility should be given to the agency or agencies that can best provide government services.

## II. PROJECTS OF THE WORK PLAN

The projects are identified to address important issues identified by the Commission in its initial Policies, Standards, and Procedures document, adopted in 1986 or as revised. Fresno LAFCo identified the following list of problems and needs locally, which pertain to the Commission's responsibilities, and developed policies, standards and procedures in this document in order to help resolve the problems and meet needs within the Commission's jurisdiction:

1. Proliferation of overlapping and competing local agencies.
2. Need for more cooperation/coordination among local agencies.
3. Inadequate level or range of services in county/community.
4. Inadequate revenue base or adverse fiscal impacts for local agencies.
5. Illogical, gerrymandered agency boundaries, islands, surrounded areas.
6. Illogical agency service areas.
7. Conflicts between urban and rural/agricultural land uses.
8. Premature proposals and lack of development proposals.
9. Phasing of agency expansion/growth.
10. Determining environmental effects of proposals.
11. Determining consistency with city or county general plans.
12. Urban sprawl and leapfrog urban development.
13. Guiding urban growth away from prime agricultural lands.
14. Defining agricultural lands and open space lands.
15. Opposition of proposals by residents and popularity of proposals by landowners/developers.
16. Provision of adequate noticing of LAFCO hearing and conducting authority hearing.

On February 18, 2015, the following Special District issues were presented to the Commission:

1. No adopted annual budget, by-laws, or procedures.
2. No services.
3. District board nonfeasance.
4. Special district is the subject of a Grand Jury reports.
5. Lack of staff or staff lacks technological/managerial/financial (T/M/F) expertise.
6. Board members fulfill both policy and operational functions.
7. Lack of coordination of similar services between and among different special districts.
8. Lack of transparency and/or Brown Act compliance.
9. Changing demographics, antiquated mission.
10. The special district does not cooperate with LAFCo on the MSR.

Other special district issues have since emerged:

11. The district board frequently lacks a quorum.
12. Board members lack technical, managerial, and/or financial expertise.
13. Board members continue to serve after terms expire (though frequently permitted by the district's principal act).
14. District does not file annual financial statements with County Auditor Controller Treasurer Tax Collector.

### III. WORK PLAN CONFORMITY WITH FRESNO LAFCo GOALS

The work plan is refined annually to conform to Commission's adopted goals:

1. Encouraging orderly formation and development of agencies;
2. Encouraging consistency with spheres of influence and recommended reorganization of agencies;
3. Encouraging orderly urban development and preservation of open space patterns;
4. Encouraging conservation of prime agricultural lands and open space areas;
5. Providing public access to the Commission via the internet; and
6. LAFCo disadvantaged communities' policy.

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**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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**AGENDA ITEM No. 8**

**DATE:** April 8, 2026  
**TO:** Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission  
**FROM:** Legal Counsel RFP Ad-Hoc Committee  
**BY:** Brian Spaunhurst, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Ad-Hoc Committee for Legal Counsel RFP Initial Report  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive Report; Provide Direction

**Background**

At the February 11, 2026, hearing, the Commission directed staff to issue an RFP for legal counsel services and formed an ad-hoc committee to review proposals received, schedule and hold interviews as needed, and form a recommendation to the full Commission for consideration. At the March 11, 2026, hearing, the Commission directed staff to re-issue the RFP and publish it in the Fresno Business Journal.

**Discussion**

On April 6, 2026, the window for proposals to be submitted closed at 5pm. On April 7, 2026, the ad-hoc committee met to review the proposal received.

<https://fresnocounty.sharepoint.com/sites/LAFCo/SharedFiles/LAFCO WORKING FILES/000 HEARINGS/2026/04- April/Regular/Staff Report-Ad-Hoc Legal Counsel RFP Report.doc>