

Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2025

The Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) meeting of February 11, 2025, was called to order by Chair Ogren at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Siskiyou County Meeting Chambers, 311 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, Yreka, California.

Present: Commissioners Mazzoni, Valenzuela and Ogren; Alternate Commissioner Cook

Absent: Commissioners Harkness and Baker

Also Present: Hailey Lang, Executive Officer; Rachel Jereb, Deputy Executive Officer; Janine Rowe, Commission Clerk

Minutes: Review of the January 14, 2025, Minutes was postponed to the next LAFCo meeting due to the lack of a quorum of commissioners who could approve them.

Unscheduled Appearances: None

Conflict of Interest: None

New Business:

Agenda Item 1: LAFCo Policy Handbook (Action Item)

Staff prepared a policy handbook in order to provide clear guidance on processes and standards to staff and to members of the public.

Staff Report:

The previously circulated Staff Report was reviewed by the Commission, and a presentation of the project was provided by Executive Officer Hailey Lang.

Ms. Lang reminded the Commission that the purpose of having a Policy Handbook was to have a more user friendly format for applicants, staff and the public to assist them with new applications.

Commission Questions:

Commissioner Cook wanted to know if the Sphere of Influence Plans are limited to the establishment of a sphere of influence or if they are planning for community development within a sphere of influence (SOI). Ms. Jereb explained that an SOI is an area for potential expansion of a district or city, as territory cannot be annexed unless it is first within the SOI.

Commissioner Cook wanted to know if annexation is driven by a developer or a city/service district. Ms. Jereb noted that annexations can be proposed by a city, but LAFCo commissioners would ultimately decide to approve or deny a request.

Discussion was held regarding whether or not it would be a violation of the Brown Act for Commissioners Cook and Mazzoni, who were not present for last month's meeting, to approve the handbook. Since the Commissioners said they read what was provided for the January meeting, they would be agreeable to voting on the Handbook.

Public Hearing:

The Chair opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comments: None

There being no comments, the Chair closed the Public Hearing.

Motion: Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Mazzoni, to Adopt Resolution LAF 2025-01, A Resolution of Siskiyou LAFCo, Approving the Siskiyou County LAFCo Policy Handbook.

Voted upon and the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Mazzoni, Valenzuela and Ogren; Alternate Commissioner Cook
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioners Harkness and Baker
Abstain: None

Items for Discussion/Direction:

1. Tax Sharing Agreement Study

Staff provided a verbal update regarding the results from the Imperial LAFCo tax sharing agreement study.

Ms. Lang said she recently met with the Imperial County LAFCo Executive Officer, Tyler Salcido, who told her their study took six to eight months and cost approximately \$200,000. The study included all the cities and was a collaborative effort between the cities, the county, and Imperial LAFCo, which acted as a non-bias mediator. BAE Economics from the Bay Area conducted the fiscal analysis and impact studies. She said Mr. Salcido told her that the cities were initially hesitant to use the formalized calculations, but after El Centro revised their tax-sharing study based on those numbers, all cities followed suit. Ms. Lang said the process has now become streamlined, and the tax-sharing study numbers are still relevant years later. The collaborative approach has been well-received, and the study is expected to be updated every five to ten years. Ms. Lang said despite political challenges, the study has allowed for more detailed discussions during tax-sharing negotiations.

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Future Meetings:** Discussion was held that because there is currently nothing for an agenda in March, the next regular meeting would be Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Correspondence: None**
- 3. Staff Comments:** Ms. Jereb said staff received an application for an Out of Area Service Agreement (OASA) for Dunsmuir, and another application for an OASA on the same street is forthcoming.
- 4. Commission Comments:** Commissioner Cook wanted to know what the process would be to start offering Zoom for future LAFCo meetings. Discussion was held that it had been decided in the past that Zoom would be offered when a significant item was on the Agenda and participation by the public was expected. The ability to participate virtually would be stated in the Notice of Public Hearing, and the Zoom link would be included in the Agenda. It was also

mentioned that people can always submit their written comments via email or regular US Mail if they are unable to attend a meeting in person.

Adjournment: The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hailey Lang, Secretary

vjr

DRAFT