



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Dave Braun, Executive Officer

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MEETING MINUTES

Madera County Government Center
Board of Supervisors' Chamber
200 West 4th Street, 1st Floor
Madera, California 93637

LAFCO Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
11:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laura Young called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Laura Young, Public Member At-Large
Robert Macaulay, County Member
Robert Poythress, County Member
Waseem Ahmed, City Member (Chowchilla)
Mark Stamas, Alternate Public Member At-Large

Commissioners Absent: Jose Rodriguez, City Member

Others Present: Dave Braun, Executive Officer
Joann Zuniga, LAFCO Clerk
Laurie Avedisian-Favini, Attorney at Law, LAFCO Legal Counsel
Wallace Nishimoto, Senior Business Systems Information Analyst

Pledge of Allegiance

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Macaulay.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chair Laura Young called for public comment. There was none. The Chair closed the public comment period.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024.

Commissioner Poythress moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Macaulay; motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, 1 absent.

Vote: Yes - Poythress, Macaulay, Ahmed, Young
 No - None
 Absent - Rodriguez
 Abstain - None

The Consent Calendar was approved. The February 21, 2024, meeting minutes were approved and filed as presented.

4. NEW MATTERS

Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget/Schedule of Fees and Charges

Executive Officer Dave Braun presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget for the Commission's consideration and approval. Braun stated the final budget approval would be scheduled for consideration in May; stated the County deadline for final budget adoption was June 15, 2024.

Dave Braun stated this year's proposed budget reflected an increase of \$86 in the annual CALAFCO membership dues from \$3650 to \$3736; stated the budget also included an increase of \$5,000 in the category of Outside Consultants for the preparation of a Municipal Service Review; mentioned it could be for either the Oakhurst Area or the Water Districts in Madera County.

Dave Braun stated there was an anticipated carryover amount of \$45,758.10 in the Operating Fund, which was less than the carryover amount in the 2023-2024 budget; stated since the budget increased and the operating fund decreased, there would be a modest increase in the contribution to LAFCO for the 2024-2025 budget from Madera County and the cities of Madera and Chowchilla.

Dave Braun mentioned that the 2024 annual CALAFCO conference was scheduled to be held at Tenaya Lodge Fish Camp in October 2024; stated three Commissioners normally attended the annual conference, however, since this year's conference would be closer to Madera, it was proposed that the Commission consider an increase in the travel budget so that more Commissioners could attend the annual conference.

Dave Braun stated there was an increase in the Fee Schedule to keep pace with inflation; stated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.1 percent through January 2024 and, therefore, an adjustment to the Fee Schedule was proposed; stated the basic application fee would be increasing from \$2,969 to \$3,061 in the FY 2024-2025 Budget year.

Dave Braun recommended approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and approval of a 3.1 percent increase in the Fee Schedule in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Commission Action

Commissioner Poythress stated he had served on the LAFCO Commission for a number of years (2005-2012 and since 2021) and had attended CALAFCO conferences; stated he found the conferences to be educational; and also useful especially as he became more familiar with LAFCO laws and the purpose of the Commission; stated the more informed a Commissioner becomes, he or she becomes a better Commissioner; stated he also learned the nuances of other LAFCOs in the State; stated he believed attendance at the annual conference was very beneficial and encouraged attendance by Commissioners.

Chair Young stated she had enjoyed every CALAFCO conference she had ever attended; asked Dave Braun would there be any associated conference costs that Madera LAFCO might incur because the conference would be nearby. Dave Braun replied no; stated the 2024 conference would be closer, so travel mileage costs would be less.

Commissioner Ahmed encouraged Commissioners to plan to attend this year's annual conference; recommended the travel budget be increased so more Commissioners could attend. Dave Braun stated \$10,000 was budgeted for travel, and the Commission could increase it; stated it could be adjusted by \$2,000 or \$3,000, and the change would be approved at the time of final budget adoption by the Commission.

Chair Young asked if alternates could attend a conference and was it budgeted. Dave Braun stated alternates could attend but the priority was the Commission; stated if they were not available, then the alternates could attend the conference. Commissioner Macaulay stated he had an opportunity to attend; stated it would be a great opportunity for the alternates and was open to alternates attending the conference.

Commissioner Macaulay moved to approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 LAFCO budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges as recommended by Executive Officer Dave Braun; and further moved to increase the travel budget by \$2,000--from \$10,000 to \$12,000--to cover Commissioners' expenses to attend the CALAFCO 2024 Annual Conference in October 2024 at Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Poythress.

Vote: Yes - Macaulay, Poythress, Ahmed, Young
 No - None
 Absent - Rodriguez
 Abstain - None

Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0, with 1 absent.

5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

None given.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Commissioner Macaulay stated in last year's budget a water districts MSR was planned; asked about the likelihood that an MSR for water districts would be prepared this year; asked would it be for agricultural water districts. Dave Braun responded it would be a global MSR that included agricultural water districts but not mutual water districts. Dave Braun stated due to complications related to SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act), it was decided last year to postpone the water districts MSR and, instead, prepare an MSR for the Rio Mesa Area.

Commissioner Poythress commented that because of issues surrounding water districts, especially in agricultural areas, and the nuances of SGMA and DWR (Department of Water Resources) regarding water districts, the water districts MSR would be of substantial size. Dave Braun stated the issues today were not around 10 years ago when the last MSR was prepared for the water districts; stated because of today's issues surrounding water districts, the next MSR to be prepared would most likely be the Oakhurst MSR.

Dan Metz asked what the total Municipal Service Review budget would be with an increase of \$5,000. Dave Braun replied that it would be \$45,000 in the FY2024-2025 budget.

Dave Braun briefed the Commission on the status of the Greater Rio Mesa Area Municipal Service Review; stated he had just received a draft copy of the MSR document; stated he would like to have a workshop on the MSR at a future meeting; posed the question would the Commission prefer to meet off-site in the Rio Mesa Area or at the downtown County Municipal Government Center.


Chair Young asked about the venue for the Greater Rio Mesa MSR. Commissioner Macaulay stated he was in favor of meeting in the Rio Mesa Area and commented that Camarena Health Center in the Tesoro Viejo community had a conference room that might be available to hold the meeting. Commissioner Poythress agreed with Commissioner Macaulay's comments and recommended the meeting be scheduled in the late afternoon.

Dave Braun asked the Commission to lock in the dates of October 16-17-18, 2024, and plan to attend the annual CALAFCO conference; stated Chair Young had volunteered to work with the planning committee to arrange a bus trip to Glacier Point; stated the Conservancy would be the guest speaker at the conference and talk on such topics as land allocations and the history of Yosemite.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Laura Young adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Submitted by:



LAFCO Executive Officer David E. Braun

Approval Date: May 22, 2024