

DRAFT MINUTES

OC LAFCO REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
8:15 a.m.

Orange County Transportation Authority
Conference Room 07
550 South Main Street, Orange, CA 92868

Members of the public may access the audio live-streamed meeting at:
https://youtube.com/live/OVwx6oE_xqo?feature=share

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bucknum called the meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (OC LAFCO) to order at 8:29 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

General Counsel Scott Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present:

City Members

Wendy Bucknum
Peggy Huang
Carol Moore **(Alt.)**

County Member

Donald P. Wagner **(Chair)** (arrived at 8:31 a.m.)

Special District Members

Douglass Davert
James Fisler
Kathryn Freshley **(Alt.)**

Public Member

Derek J. McGregor

The following staff members and general counsel were present:

- Interim Executive Officer Luis Tapia
- Policy Analyst I Aimee Diaz
- Policy Analyst I Leo Lara

- Commission Clerk Cheryl Carter-Benjamin
- General Counsel Scott Smith

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATION (Received After Agenda Distribution)

The Commission Clerk noted that no supplemental communication was received.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Bucknum requested public comments on any non-agenda items. The Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests to speak from the public.

Vice Chair Bucknum closed the hearing of public comments.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Bucknum acknowledged the arrival of **Chair Wagner** and turned the remainder of the Commission's meeting over to the **Chair**. **Chair Wagner** called for the closed session, and the Commission adjourned at 8:32 a.m. to the following item:

- 6a. – Public Employment Appointment**
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1)
Title: Executive Officer (permanent position)

The Commission reconvened in open session at 8:55 a.m. General Counsel Scott Smith noted that the Commission discussed the closed session item, and there was no reportable action.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Wagner called for requests to pull the consent calendar item for discussion. There were no requests from Commissioners, and the Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests from the public to speak on the item. **Commissioner Davert** motioned for approval of the consent calendar, and **Commissioner McGregor** seconded the motion.

7a. – July 9, 2025 - Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

7b. – Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) Account Update

7c. – Bi-Annual News (“The Pulse”)

MOTION: Approve Consent Calendar. (Douglass Davert)
SECOND: Derek J. McGregor
FOR: Douglass Davert, Derek J. McGregor, Wendy Bucknum, James Fisler,

Peggy Huang, Donald P. Wagner
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

8a. – Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Reviews for Central Region (MSR 24-01 and SOI 24-02)

Interim Executive Officer Luis Tapia introduced the Municipal Service Review and noted that a 30-day public review and comment period was conducted for the Central Region MSR draft. Mr. Tapia noted that agency comments were received from Orange, Santa Ana, Villa Park, East Orange County Water District, and Irvine Ranch Water District, requesting non-substantive changes which were applied to the MSR. Mr. Tapia introduced Consultant Jim Simon from RSG, Inc., who provided a presentation on the Central Region MSR. The presentation concluded with recommended actions for Commission consideration.

Chair Wagner called for Commission discussion. Commissioners made general comments. **Chair Wagner** opened the public hearing. The Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests from the public to speak on the item. **Chair Wagner** closed the public hearing.

Chair Wagner called for a motion on the item. **Commissioner Davert** motioned to approve the staff recommended actions, and **Vice Chair Bucknum** seconded the motion.

MOTION: Receive and file the Municipal Service Review for the Central Region; Approve OC LAFCO Resolution No. MSR 24-01 adopting the Municipal Service Review Statement of Determinations for the Central Region; Approve OC LAFCO Resolution No. SOI 24-02 adopting the Sphere of Influence Statement of Determinations and reconfirming the sphere of influence for the cities and special districts identified in the Resolution; Approve the Notices of Exemption for MSR 24-01 and SOI 24-02. (Douglass Davert)
SECOND: Wendy Bucknum
FOR: Douglass Davert, Wendy Bucknum, James Fisler, Peggy Huang, Derek J. McGregor, Donald P. Wagner
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0.

9. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

9a. – Professional Consultant Services Agreement with RSG, Inc.

Interim Executive Officer Luis Tapia presented the staff report and recommended actions for Commission consideration.

Chair Wagner called for Commission discussion and public comments. There was no noted discussion from Commissioners, and the Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests from the public to speak on the item. **Chair Wagner** called for a motion on the item. **Commissioner Davert** motioned to approve the recommended staff actions, and **Commissioner Fisler** seconded the motion.

MOTION: Approve the Professional Services Agreement with RSG to conduct the MSR and SOI reviews for the North MSR Region; Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to execute the agreement. (Douglass Davert)
SECOND: James Fisler
FOR: Douglass Davert, James Fisler, Wendy Bucknum, Peggy Huang, Derek J. McGregor, Donald P. Wagner
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0.

9b. – Legislative Report (September 2025)

Policy Analyst Aimee Diaz presented the staff report and recommended action for Commission consideration.

Chair Wagner called for Commission discussion and public comments. There was no noted discussion from Commissioners, and the Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests from the public to speak on the item. **Chair Wagner** called for a motion on the item. **Vice Chair Bucknum** motioned to approve the staff recommended action, and **Commissioner Davert** seconded the motion.

MOTION: Adopt a *Watch* position on SB 777. (Wendy Bucknum)
SECOND: Douglass Davert
FOR: Wendy Bucknum, Douglass Davert, James Fisler, Peggy Huang, Derek J. McGregor, Donald P. Wagner
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0.

9c. – Request to Join an Amicus Brief

Interim Executive Officer Luis Tapia presented the staff report and recommended actions for Commission consideration.

Chair Wagner called for Commission discussion and public comments. Commissioners made general comments and asked clarifying questions, and the Commission Clerk noted that there were no requests from the public to speak on the item. **Chair Wagner** called for a motion on the item. **Commissioner Davert** motioned to approve the staff recommended actions, and **Commissioner Fisler** seconded the motion.

- MOTION:** Authorize the Interim Executive Officer to join the effort with other LAFCOs as a party to the amicus brief to be submitted in the appeal of Monterey Peninsula Water Management District v. Monterey LAFCO; Authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,200 from the *Other Professional Services* account included in the approved OC LAFCO Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, to cover OC LAFCO's portion of the cost to generate the amicus brief; Direct the Interim Executive Officer to provide the Commission with periodic updates on the amicus brief and the status of the case, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) v. Monterey LAFCO. (Douglass Davert)
- SECOND:** James Fisler
- FOR:** Douglass Davert, James Fisler, Wendy Bucknum, Peggy Huang, Derek J. McGregor, Donald P. Wagner
- AGAINST:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners made general comments.

11. INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Interim Executive Officer Luis Tapia reported on three items:

- Mr. Tapia formally introduced the newest member of the OC LAFCO Team, Policy Analyst Leo Lara. He noted Mr. Lara's previous experience as an intern for the Irvine Ranch Water District and in data analysis.
- Mr. Tapia noted the recent public release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) by Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD). The focus of the RFP is to identify neighboring agencies that can provide rate relief to assist with sustaining the District's

infrastructure and delivery of services. Mr. Tapia noted that the RFP mentions the possibility of a partial or full annexation as an option for rate relief, which would need to be considered by the Commission.

- Mr. Tapia noted that the Alliance of LAFCOs met on August 11th, with the participation of Commissioners and staff, including **Commissioners McGregor and Huang**. He further stated that some of the topics discussed included drafting a mission statement, selecting a logo, defining roles and responsibilities, applying for a 501(c)(3) non-profit status, exploring education opportunities, and hiring a consultant to represent the Alliance in Sacramento. Mr. Tapia informed the Commission that the next meeting of the Alliance was scheduled for Monday, September 22. **Commissioner Davert** asked Mr. Tapia to provide additional details on the Legislative Policies and Guidelines adopted by the Alliance. Mr. Tapia noted that the policies and guidelines were drafted using OC LAFCO's legislative policy as a template and that he would send an email with a copy of the approved policies and guidelines to the Commission.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wagner noted that there were no informational items or announcements.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Chair Wagner adjourned the Regular Commission Meeting at 9:33 a.m. to October 8, 2025.

Donald P. Wagner, Chair
Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County

ATTEST:

By: _____
Cheryl Carter-Benjamin
Commission Clerk