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MEETING DATE: March 11, 2026

8a | Commission
Discussion

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
of Orange County

FROM: Executive Officer
Policy Analyst I

SUBJECT: Legislative Report (March 2026)

The 2025-26 legislative session continues to move forward following the February 20 deadline for legislators to introduce new bills. In total, 1,798 proposed bills were introduced prior to the deadline, the lowest number of bills introduced in approximately 20 years. As the Legislature approaches Spring Recess on March 26, proposed legislation is advancing through multiple committees, and amendments to bills are anticipated. Upcoming key deadlines include policy and fiscal committee hearings in April. Proposed legislation must then advance out of its house of origin in May. Staff will continue to monitor legislation of interest to LAFCOs.

This report provides an update on a previously reviewed legislative effort discussed by the Commission and an update on the Alliance's legislative Committee.

UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE

During the February 2026 Commission meeting, staff provided an update on recent activity by the stakeholder group focused on addressing the recommendations in the University of California, Berkeley, published report, *"LAFCO and Water System Consolidation: Bridging the gap between local and state regulators to stop reverse water system fragmentation."* The stakeholder group proposed amendments to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) to strengthen and further LAFCO's ability to support the provision of efficient and reliable water and wastewater services in communities facing public health and safety threats. Additionally, the effort sought to improve coordination between state agencies and local regulators. Staff stated that the proposed amendments were presented to Senator Laird's office for review. Following this update, the Commission directed staff to continue participating in the stakeholder group and provide an update during the March meeting.

Since the meeting, Senator Laird has opted not to move forward with the bill proposal this year, recommending that the stakeholder group discuss the proposed amendments with other stakeholders. Consequently, the stakeholder group has paused its effort to move forward with the potential amendments. While no future meeting has been scheduled, the group remains open to resuming its effort at a later time.

ALLIANCE OF LAFCOs – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

In January, the Alliance entered a contract with Chris Lee of the Politico Group to assist with tracking and monitoring legislation of interest to LAFCOs. During a meeting on March 3 with Mr. Lee, the Alliance Legislative Committee began reviewing an initial list of bills provided to the group. The bills address topics such as teleconferencing, special district audit exemptions, nondisclosure agreements for local officials, public contracting disclosures, parkland use conversions, and other matters not directly related to LAFCOs. The Committee has a scheduled meeting in April, and staff will provide an update to the Commission during the May meeting.

In addition, staff contacted the Senate Local Government Committee regarding the 2026 Validating Acts. These acts, previously authored by the now-decommissioned Senate Governance and Finance Committee, are introduced annually to cure minor procedural or technical errors by public agencies. The Acts apply to state government, cities, counties, special districts, and LAFCOs and retroactively correct typographical, grammatical, or procedural defects that could otherwise invalidate boundary changes, annexations, bond issues, or similar actions. The Committee has advised staff that the 2026 Validating Acts will be introduced during the current session, and staff will provide an update at a future meeting once the Acts have been formally introduced.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is a receive and file report and requires no action by the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,



LUIS TAPIA



AIMEE DIAZ