

DRAFT MINUTES

OC LAFCO REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
8:15 a.m.

County Administrative North (CAN)
First Floor Multipurpose Room 101
400 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Members of the public may access the audio/video live-streamed meeting at:
<https://youtube.com/live/gjW9e3aLlul?feature=share>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Fisler called the meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (OC LAFCO) to order at 8:20 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wagner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. BOARD APPOINTMENTS – COMMISSIONERS HUANG AND WAGNER

The Executive Officer noted the recent board appointments, and Commission Clerk Cheryl Carter-Benjamin administered the Oaths of Office for the new appointments.

4. ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present:

City Members

Wendy Bucknum **(Chair)** (arrived at 8:32 a.m.)
Peggy Huang
Carol Moore **(Alt.)**

Special District Members

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

County Member

Donald P. Wagner

Public Members

Derek J. McGregor
Lou Penrose **(Alt.)**

The following staff members and general counsel were present:

- Executive Officer Luis Tapia
- Policy Analyst I Aimee Diaz
- Policy Analyst I Leo Lara
- Commission Clerk Cheryl Carter-Benjamin
- General Counsel Scott Smith

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

The Commission Clerk noted that no supplemental communication was received.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Vice Chair Fisler closed the hearing of public comments.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Fisler 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. **Vice Chair Fisler** called for a motion on the item. **Commissioner McGregor** moved to approve the consent calendar, and **Commissioner Wagner** seconded the motion.

7a. – August 12 - Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Approve Consent Calendar. (Derek J. McGregor)
SECOND: Donald P. Wagner
FOR: Derek J. McGregor, Donald P. Wagner, Douglass Davert,
Peggy Huang, James Fisler
AGAINST: None
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED: 5-0.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing items are scheduled.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

9a. – Santa Margarita Water District Annexation of San Juan Capistrano’s Water and Wastewater Utilities

Executive Officer Luis Tapia introduced Robert Grantham, General Manager of Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD), who provided a presentation on SMWD’s annexation of the City of San Juan Capistrano’s water and wastewater utilities approved by the Commission in 2021. Mr. Grantham’s presentation included an update on the transfer of the utilities, infrastructure investments, and service improvements.

Chair Bucknum arrived at 8:32 a.m. during this agenda item, and **Vice Chair Fisler** turned this item and the remainder of the agenda items over to the **Chair**.

Chair Bucknum called for Commission discussion. Commissioners made general comments related to the success of the annexation and the value of receiving an update on the approved annexation. **Commissioner McGregor** asked whether the system’s fire flows were analyzed as part of the annexation or studied further after the annexation. Mr. Grantham noted that the fire flows are sufficient for the City, and to maintain the level of service, SMWD has scheduled infrastructure improvements. **Chair Bucknum** noted this is a receive and file report and requires no action by the Commission.

10. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

10a. – Legislative Report (September 2026)

Policy Analyst Aimee Diaz presented the staff report and noted that it is a receive and file report.

Chair Bucknum called for Commission discussion and public comments. There was no Commission discussion. **Chair Bucknum** noted this is a receive and file report and requires no action by the Commission.

10b. – Orange County Water and Wastewater Service Providers

Policy Analyst Aimee Diaz presented the staff report and noted that it is a receive and file report.

During the presentation, **Commissioner Wagner** noted Golden State Water was a service provider for portions of North Tustin but was not included on the map. Staff noted that the change would be applied to the final report. **Chair Bucknum** called for Commission discussion on the item. There was no further Commission discussion. **Chair Bucknum** noted that this is a receive and file report and requires no action by the Commission.

Commissioner Davert left during this agenda item at 9:31 a.m.

10c. – Post-MSR Survey

Policy Analyst Leo Lara presented the staff report and noted that it is a receive and file report.

Chair Bucknum called for Commission discussion on the item. **Vice Chair Fisler** noted the importance of improving the Municipal Service Review (MSR) process and the value of agency feedback. **Chair Bucknum** noted this is a receive and file report and requires no action by the Commission.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no general comments from Commissioners.

12. EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

The Executive Officer noted that there were no additional items to report.

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

No informational items or announcements.

14. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session items scheduled.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Chair Bucknum adjourned the Regular Commission Meeting at 9:34 a.m. to October 14, 2026.

Wendy Bucknum, Chair
Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County

ATTEST:

By: _____
Cheryl Carter-Benjamin
Commission Clerk