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Luis Tapia
Executive Officer

Scott Smith
General Counsel

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2026

8a | Commission
Discussion

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
of Orange County

FROM: Executive Officer
Policy Analyst I

SUBJECT: Legislative Report (October 2026)

DISCUSSION

The 2025-26 legislative session ended on September 30 with the deadline for Governor Newsom to sign or veto proposed legislation. This report includes a status update of legislation reviewed by the Commission during the current legislative session, a summary of recent activity by the Alliance Legislative Committee, and an update on the Amicus Brief for the *Monterey Peninsula Water Management District v. Monterey LAFCO* case. The 2027-28 legislative session is scheduled to start on December 7. With the start of a new legislative session, the next legislative report will provide a preview of expected legislation of LAFCO interest.

A Review of the 2026 Legislative Session

During the 2026 legislative session, 2,232 bills were introduced, of which 713 died in committee, 1,519 were enrolled to the Governor, and only 1,399 were signed by Governor Newsom. The Commission took positions on four bills the Governor signed. The table below provides additional information on each bill.

2026 Legislative Session – Bill Status			
Bill	Description	Adopted Positions	Status
AB 1821	AB 1821 amends the California Public Records Act by modifying an agency's response timeline for public records requests from calendar days to business days, including the allowable extension period.	Support	Signed by the Governor on September 30, 2026.
SB 1440 SB 1441 SB 1442	Annual Validating Acts are meant to retroactively fix typographical, grammatical, and procedural errors that might invalidate boundary changes or bond issues.	Support	Signed by the Governor on June 17, 2026.

Alliance of LAFCOs Legislative Committee

The Alliance of LAFCOs Legislative Committee met on September 28 to discuss the conclusion of the 2025-26 legislative session and began preparing for the upcoming 2027-28 legislative session. Discussions focused on identifying legislative priorities for the upcoming session and strategies to effectively monitor and track legislation. The Committee also discussed the importance of LAFCOs identifying additional legislation of interest to their individual agencies that may warrant monitoring or consideration by the Alliance. Looking ahead, the Committee anticipates focusing on topics such as water and wastewater service issues, including legislation addressing small or failing water systems, as well as legislation affecting LAFCO authority, governance, and administrative matters. The Committee agreed to revisit and expand its existing legislative priorities list and continue discussions at its next meeting.

Amicus Brief: Monterey Peninsula Water Management District v. Monterey LAFCO

The appellate proceedings in the court case continue to move forward, with responses to the amicus briefs submitted by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions and other participating LAFCOs, as well as the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Special District Association. Following the completion of the time allotted to respond to the amicus briefs, the case will be submitted to the Court for consideration unless the Court requests supplemental briefings or schedules oral arguments. The table below provides a timeline of the proceedings and anticipated next steps. Staff will continue to monitor the proceedings and provide updates to the Commission at future meetings.

Date	Action
Feb. 28, 2022	Monterey LAFCO denies Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's request to activate latent powers.
April 2022	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District files lawsuit challenging Monterey LAFCO's denial.
Dec. 11, 2023	Trial court's judgment in favor of Monterey Peninsula Water Management District was filed.
Feb. 9, 2024	Monterey LAFCO filed its notice of appeal.
Feb. 15, 2024	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District filed its cross-appeal.
May 12, 2025	Monterey LAFCO files opening appellate brief.
Sept. 10, 2025	OC LAFCO approves participation in amicus brief.
Jul. 24, 2026	California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions/Participating LAFCOs Amicus Brief filed.
Aug. 11, 2026	Association of California Water Agencies/California Special Districts Association Amicus Brief filed in support of the trial court's ruling.
Oct. 16, 2026	Responses to Amicus Briefs due/remaining briefing expected to conclude.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

Respectfully Submitted,



LUIS TAPIA

AIMEE DIAZ