

**MINUTES OF THE LAFCO MEETING
February 28, 2013**

The County of Imperial Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) convened a regular meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. in the IID Board Chambers, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, California.

Commissioners present: Castillo, Campbell, Snively, Terrazas, and Ours.

Staff present: Executive Officer Heuberger, Clerk Bruce, Accountant Carter, and Legal Representative Childers.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for calendar year 2013.

Motion made by Commissioner Terrazas and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to elect Commissioner Castillo as the Chairman of the LAFCO.

Motion made by Commissioner Castillo and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to elect Commissioner Campbell as the Vice-Chairman of the LAFCO.

4. Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2012.

Motion made by Commissioner Campbell and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to approve the minutes.

5. A. Information from the CALAFCO Board of Directors.

In Commissioner Kelley's absence, Mr. Heuberger informed the Commission that before them was the backup from this month's CALAFCO Board of Directors meeting in Irvine.

No action was taken on this item.

6. Public Comments:

Mr. Ron Washington requested to know who attains the power generated by the valley's solar projects and why the valley is sending water to San Diego.

Commissioner Castillo suggested that he direct his questions to the IID.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. A. Announcements by the Commissioners:

Commissioner Snively welcomed alternate Commissioner Kay Ours to LAFCO, as she was filling in for the permanent City vacancy.

Commissioner Campbell announced that his appreciation for being a part of LAFCO and also welcomed Commissioner Ours.

Commissioner Castillo announced that the Mt. Signal Solar Photovoltaic project held their dedication ceremony the previous day. The 4200 acre solar farm connects to the Sunrise Powerlink, becoming one of the largest solar farms in the nation. At full operation, there will be nearly 1000 people working on site.

B. Announcements by the Executive Officer:

Mr. Heuberger informed the Commission that the previous dates for the CALAFCO Annual Conference have changed from September 4-6 to August 28-30 in Lake Tahoe. Due to the limited hotel options, he asked the Commissioners to inform staff as soon as possible if they plan on attending.

Mr. Heuberger announced that the Sol Orchard Solar project has recently been approved by the City and will be coming back to LAFCO. The tax sharing agreement between the City and the County may be the biggest difficulty to overcome when processing this application. LAFCO is currently awaiting the City's resolutions of approval.

Mr. Heuberger welcomed Commissioner Ours to the Commission as the alternate City member. Ms. Ours was a member of the Commission about 4 years ago. In the time that Ms. Ours was elected by the City Select Committee to present, the vacancy for a permanent City member has opened up with Commissioner Ludwig's leaving. Mr. Heuberger mentioned that the permanent City member vacancy may not be filled for a few months as the interim County Clerk is unfamiliar with the process of the City Select Committee.

C. Presentation to former Commissioner Colleen Ludwig.

Item has been continued to the following meeting.

ACTION/DIRECTION ITEM(s)

8. Discussion/Direction regarding the appointment an alternate CCL Board Member to represent the Imperial LAFCO. (Executive Officer recommends Commissioner Kelley.)

Commissioner Snively currently serves on the CCL Board. Being that Commissioner Kelley currently serves on the CALAFCO Board of Directors, he would make a good candidate to serve as the alternate CCL Board Member as well.

Motion made by Commissioner Snively and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to approve Commissioner Kelley as the alternate CCL Board Member.

9. Discussion/Direction/Approval regarding the official name change of the California Coalition of LAFCOs (CCL) to a new name to be discussed/decided by the CCL.

For the benefit of the new Commissioner, Mr. Heuberger provided a brief overview of what the CCL is and its history.

It has been mentioned among members of the CCL that the title should change to prevent harsh feelings from past disputes. At the last CCL meeting in Los Angeles on January 28, 2013, the topic was briefly discussed, but with no final outcome. The item has been continued to the following meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Snively and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to proceed with the necessary changes to change from the "CCL" title.

10. Discussion/Direction on shared services by public agencies in Imperial County and LAFCO's role.

Recently, CALAFCO has promoted LAFCOs in assisting their counties to share services. Benefits of sharing services include gaining efficiencies and cost savings. Mr. Heuberger mentioned that it is LAFCO's responsibility to motivate other agencies to do this.

Commissioner Snively mentioned that many agencies are hurting financially, but to make this work, it will require the cooperation of the agencies. LAFCO will not force anyone to partake in this, if they do not wish to do so. However, he would like to see this initiated. Commissioners Castillo and Terrazas agreed.

Commissioner Campbell recommended we include something into dealing with the homeless in the valley. He commented that a majority of the public parks have been taken over by the homeless and believes this would be a good opportunity for ideas to come together in how to deal with it.

Motion made by Commissioner Snively and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to move forward preparing proposals for shared services within the County.

11. Discussion/Direction on the appointment of David West as an alternate Public Commissioner.

As stated by law, LAFCO publicly advertised the notice of position availability for the alternate public member via newspaper and public postings. Mr. David West has been the sole respondent. Mr. Heuberger had previously met with Mr. West to brief him on LAFCO's duties.

Mr. West has been a longtime active member of the community. He announced that he would enjoy the opportunity to continue to serve the community.

Motion made by Commissioner Snively and passed by the unanimous vote of all commissioners present to approve the appointment of David West as the alternate public commissioner.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM(S)

No Public Hearing Items.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Public Hearing Items.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Ray Castillo, Chairman


Jurg Heuberger, AICP, CEP
Executive Officer to LAFCO