



**STANISLAUS LAFCO
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer
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Modesto, California 95354
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Chair Terry Withrow, County Member
Vice Chair Sue Zwahlen, City Member
Amy Bublak, City Member
Vito Chiesa, County Member
Bill O'Brien, Public Member
Charlie Goeken, Alternate City Member
Mani Grewal, Alternate County Member
Jami Aggers, Alternate Public Member

**AGENDA
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
6:00 P.M.
Joint Chambers—Basement Level
1010 10th Street, Modesto, California 95354**

- Members of the public may attend this meeting in person.
- You can also observe the live stream of the LAFCO meeting at:
<http://www.stancounty.com/sclive/>
- In addition, LAFCO meetings are broadcast live on local cable television. A list of cable channels is available at the following website:
<http://www.stancounty.com/planning/broadcasting.shtm>

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Introduction of Commissioners and Staff.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

This is the period in which persons may comment on items that are not listed on the regular agenda. All persons wishing to speak during this public comment portion of the meeting are asked to fill out a "Speaker Card" and provide it to the Commission Clerk. Each speaker will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Commission as a result of any item presented during the public comment period.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence addressed to the Commission, individual Commissioners or staff will be accepted and/or considered unless it has been signed by the author or sufficiently identifies the person or persons responsible for its creation and submittal.

- A. Specific Correspondence.
- B. Informational Correspondence.

- 1. Response Letter to the City of Modesto's Draft Environmental Impact Report for Scannell Industrial Project, dated July 24, 2026.

2. Response Letter to the City of Modesto's Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – Modesto 2050 General Plan, dated July 27, 2026.

3. 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors Election Packet

4. 2026 CALAFCO Achievement Award Nominations Packet

5. 2026 CALAFCO Save the Date Flyer.

C. "In the News."

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

5. CONSENT ITEMS

The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Commission at one time without discussion, unless a request has been received prior to the discussion of the matter.

A. **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2026, LAFCO MEETING**
(Staff Recommendation: Accept the Minutes.)

B. **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW NO. 2026-02 AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE NO. 2026-06 – EASTIN, EL SOLYO, DEL PUERTO AND OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICTS AND PATTERSON AND WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICTS:** The Commission will consider the adoption of a Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto and Oak Flat Water Districts and Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts. This item is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3). (Staff Recommendation: Approve the update and adopt Resolution No. 2026-14.)

6. PUBLIC HEARING

Any member of the public may address the Commission with respect to a scheduled public hearing item. Comments should be limited to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is permitted by the Chair. All persons wishing to speak are asked to fill out a "Speaker Card" and provide it to the Commission Clerk.

A. **CONTINUED FROM JUNE 24, 2026 - LAFCO APPLICATION NO. 2026-04 – CERES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REORGANIZATION TO THE STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:** Request to annex the Ceres Fire Protection District territory, comprised of approximately 2,444 acres, to the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District and simultaneously dissolve the Ceres Fire Protection District. The reorganization will also include a Sphere of Influence amendment for the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District. The Ceres Fire Protection District area is generally located south of the City of Ceres between the Union Pacific Railroad and Faith Home Road. The proposal is considered exempt for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to §15320 and §15061(b)(3). Section 15320 categorically exempts changes of organization or reorganization of local

governmental agencies where the proposal does not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised. Section 15061(b)(3) exempts the project though the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment; the activity is not subject to CEQA. (Staff Recommendation: Approve the proposal and adopt Resolution No. 2026-13.)

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Members may provide comments regarding LAFCO matters.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Commission Chair may announce additional matters regarding LAFCO matters.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Commission will receive a verbal report from the Executive Officer regarding current staff activities.

A. On the Horizon.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Set the next meeting date of the Commission for September 23, 2026.

B. Adjournment

LAFCO Disclosure Requirements

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions: If you wish to participate in a LAFCO proceeding, you are prohibited from making a campaign contribution of more than \$250 to any commissioner or alternate. This prohibition begins on the date you begin to actively support or oppose an application before LAFCO and continues until three months after a final decision is rendered by LAFCO. No commissioner or alternate may solicit or accept a campaign contribution of more than \$250 from you or your agent during this period if the commissioner or alternate knows, or has reason to know, that you will participate in the proceedings. If you or your agent have made a contribution of more than \$250 to any commissioner or alternate during the twelve (12) months preceding the decision, that commissioner or alternate must disqualify himself or herself from the decision. However, disqualification is not required if the commissioner or alternate returns the campaign contribution within thirty (30) days of learning both about the contribution and the fact that you are a participant in the proceedings.

Lobbying Disclosure: Any person or group lobbying the Commission or the Executive Officer in regard to an application before LAFCO must file a declaration prior to the hearing on the LAFCO application or at the time of the hearing if that is the initial contact. Any lobbyist speaking at the LAFCO hearing must so identify themselves as lobbyists and identify on the record the name of the person or entity making payment to them.

Disclosure of Political Expenditures and Contributions Regarding LAFCO Proceedings: If the proponents or opponents of a LAFCO proposal spend \$1,000 with respect to that proposal, they must report their contributions of \$100 or more and all of their expenditures under the rules of the Political Reform Act for local initiative measures to the LAFCO Office.

LAFCO Action in Court: All persons are invited to testify and submit written comments to the Commission. If you challenge a LAFCO action in court, you may be limited to issues raised at the public hearing or submitted as written comments prior to the close of the public hearing. All written materials received by staff 24 hours before the hearing will be distributed to the Commission.

Reasonable Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, hearing devices are available for public use. If hearing devices are needed, please contact the LAFCO Clerk at 525-7660. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will

enable the Clerk to make arrangements.

Alternative Formats: If requested, the agenda will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12132) and the Federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Notice Regarding Non-English Speakers: Pursuant to California Constitution Article III, Section IV, establishing English as the official language for the State of California, and in accordance with California Code of Civil Procedure Section 185 which requires proceedings before any State Court to be in English, notice is hereby given that all proceedings before the Local Agency Formation Commission shall be in English and anyone wishing to address the Commission is required to have a translator present who will take an oath to make an accurate translation from any language not English into the English language.

July 24, 2026

Sent by e-mail to planning@modestogov.com

Jessica Hill, Director
City of Modesto, Planning Division
1010 10th Street, 3rd Floor
Modesto, CA 95354

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT – SCANNELL INDUSTRIAL

Dear Ms. Hill:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Scannell Industrial Project. As Lead Agency, the City of Modesto is responsible for considering the effects, both individual and collective, of all activities involved in the project (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq). LAFCO, as a Responsible Agency, will utilize the CEQA documents prepared by the City when reviewing the proposed sphere of influence expansion and annexation of the project area.

LAFCO previously commented on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this project and has reviewed the DEIR in accordance with State and locally-adopted policies to discourage sprawl, preserve open space and agricultural lands, encourage the efficient provision of services and encourage the orderly development of local agencies (Government Code §56001, §56301).

The following comments are provided for the City's consideration regarding the DEIR.

Comprehensive Planning / General Plan Consistency

LAFCO's response to the Notice of Preparation identified numerous concerns with General Plan consistency and the need for comprehensive planning in the proposal area. The proposal—a simultaneous sphere of influence expansion and annexation of a 145-acre parcel—skips ahead of both the City's comprehensive General Plan update process and the County's preparation of environmental review for the Salida Community Plan.

Chapter III of the City of Modesto General Plan states, "if the Salida Comprehensive planning district is annexed to the City of Modesto, the City does not propose to change any land use designations from those established by Stanislaus County. Therefore, the Salida Community Plan, as adopted by Stanislaus County, will continue to guide growth and development for this area, even upon annexation to the City." These statements rely on the Salida Community Plan as the "comprehensive plan" for the area; however, as noted, the County is still in the process of preparing an environmental impact report and the area has not yet been fully studied or planned, having been immediately adopted as part of a voter initiative.

The City's General Plan policies encourage the use of Comprehensive Planning Districts (CPDs) and Specific Plans within these CPDs to ensure orderly, well-planned development. The Salida Community Plan area, including the proposed project site, are identified in the City's

General Plan as being a CPD. Chapter VIII of the City's General Plan states, "Specific Plans are used by the City to implement the Comprehensive Planning Districts (CPDs)... A CPD shall consist of one or more Specific Plans. The General Plan describes the minimum planning area for new specific plans to be approximately 480 acres or otherwise determined adequate for "true comprehensive planning of new growth areas (pg. III-18). The proposed sphere of influence expansion and annexation do not appear to implement or be consistent with these General Plan policies.

The Draft EIR notes that the City intends to maintain the County's Salida Community Plan as an "overlay" designation while designating the site on the City's General Plan as industrial. Page 3.10-17 states, "ultimately the General Plan land use designation on the Project site would be SCP-I [Salida Community Plan – Industrial]." Later in the document, when analyzing whether development will be consistent with General Plan designations adopted by the City, the Draft EIR again references Salida Community Plan designations of SCP-IBP for business park and SCP-PI for planned industrial (pg. 3.10-21). Have these specific designations likewise been adopted by the City? Additionally, how does the City's proposed rezoning to Industrial correspond to the City's proposed 2050 General Plan update designation of "Business Center"?

Sphere of Influence Policies

A sphere of influence is defined by Government Code section 56425 as a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency as determined by LAFCO. A sphere of influence is intended to be a long-term growth boundary. For cities, a sphere of influence is typically amended in conjunction with a comprehensive planning document, such as a General Plan update, with associated updates to utility master plans. Stanislaus LAFCO also designates a "primary area" within the sphere of influence of cities to represent a more near-term growth area. The sphere of influence and primary area designations function as planning tools intended to carry out the Commission's role to promote logical and orderly development and guide timely changes of organization (annexations).

The Commission's policies relating to spheres of influence and communities also state:

Sphere of influence boundaries shall, to the extent possible, maintain a separation between existing communities to protect open space and agricultural lands and the identity of an individual community.

The current proposal overlaps into an area being simultaneously planned by the County for the Salida Community Plan. LAFCO also provided comments on the County's environmental referral, noting concerns regarding the need for comprehensive planning and studies related to services in the area.

The City's Draft EIR states that the project is expected to be developed in four phases over 10 years and that an end user is not currently known. Annexations are intended to accommodate development where growth is imminent and a city has demonstrated the need for additional territory after prioritizing development within current boundaries and the current Sphere of Influence.

Multiple sections of the Draft EIR incorrectly identify the property as already located within the City's Sphere of Influence and rely on this to justify consistency with the City's policies prioritizing development within existing boundaries. For example, page 3.10-17 of the Draft EIR states, "the project is consistent with the General Plan land use policies that encourage an

orderly pattern of development in the areas within the City's SOI." Further in the document, when analyzing consistency with policies related to orderly growth, the document erroneously states that the project site is "within the City's established Sphere of Influence" (Page 3.10-21).

Agricultural Resources

The entirety of the proposal consists of prime farmland. The DEIR describes LAFCO, City and County policies regarding agricultural resources. Stanislaus LAFCO's adopted Agricultural Preservation Policy requires cities to prepare a Plan for Agricultural Preservation for an annexation proposal that includes a detailed analysis of the direct and indirect impacts to agricultural resources, a vacant land inventory and absorption study evaluating lands within the existing boundaries of the jurisdiction that could be developed for the same or similar uses, existing and proposed densities, consistency with regional planning efforts, and the method or strategy proposed to minimize the loss of agricultural land. The Policy also includes findings that the Commission will make relative to the timing and scale of proposals.

LAFCO's response to the NOP noted concerns regarding growth-inducing impacts of the project. Figure 2.0-8 (on page 2.0-27) includes a utility plan depicting proposed water and sewer infrastructure extending outside to the east and west beyond the project site, towards properties currently enrolled in Williamson Act contracts. In addition to the proposal setting a precedence for growth north of Kiernan Avenue, the intent of utility extensions east and west are beyond what has currently been studied or planned. Additionally, any service extensions outside of the City's boundary, including those referenced in Figure 2.0-8, are subject to the restrictions of Government Code §56133.

LAFCO recognizes that the City proposes Mitigation Measure 3.2-1 for the preservation of agricultural land at a 1:1 ratio, consistent with LAFCO's policies. The City is encouraged to retain these mitigation measures during potential approval of the environmental documents for the project. The City is also encouraged to formally adopt policies and programs detailing how this mitigation will ultimately be accomplished.

Project Alternatives

The Alternatives section notes that the City's key considerations in identifying alternative locations included site availability within the City's Sphere of Influence. The City's current Sphere of Influence includes approximately 11,235 acres outside the existing City limits, yet the Alternatives section focuses solely on areas in the Salida Community Plan that are outside the City's existing Sphere of Influence. LAFCO's policies encourage compact and efficient growth, with a preference for infill development on those areas already within the City limits followed by areas within the Sphere of Influence (Policies 21 & 22).

While an analysis of project alternatives need not include every possible alternative, an alternative that includes lands within the City's existing Sphere of Influence is a reasonable expectation that the document itself identifies as a key consideration. No analysis or explanation is provided for why an alternative within the existing Sphere of Influence was not included.

Public Services & Municipal Service Review Requirement

LAFCO's response to the Notice of Preparation noted that the last Municipal Service Review prepared for the City was in 2004. An updated Municipal Service Review and Plan for Services is required to occur prior to or concurrently with a proposal to expand the City's Sphere of

Influence. Information from the City's latest utility master plans and other updated information will be required to support the determinations in Government Code §56653, §56425 and §56430.

Page 3.14-1 of the Draft EIR includes a citation to "City of Modesto 2020 Municipal Service Review (Stanislaus LAFCO, 2020)." This document does not exist and it is not clear whether this was intended to reference the last Municipal Service Review prepared for the City of Modesto that was adopted in 2004.

Additionally, Page 3.10-19 does not accurately describe the former Del Este water company nor the sewer or water service areas of the City of Modesto. Del Este was not a provider of sewer service. Likewise, the City of Modesto does not provide sewer service to the unincorporated areas of Del Rio and Grayson. This information will need to be correctly reflected in the City's updated Municipal Service Review.

While not explicitly stated in the document, the intent to retain the Salida Fire Protection District's special tax and CFD in the area implies that the City will be proposing to not detach from the Salida Fire Protection District. If this is the case, the City will need to include that in its resolution of application to LAFCO for the proposal.

City-County Meeting & Tax-Sharing Agreement

An expansion of a sphere of influence triggers a requirement for City of Modesto representatives to meet with the County to discuss the proposed sphere and explore methods to reach agreement on its boundaries, development standards, and zoning requirements within the sphere of influence in accordance with Government Code §56425(b). Evidence of this consultation and any resulting agreement must be provided as part of an application to LAFCO to modify the City's sphere.

Additionally, pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code §99(b)(6), the City must present resolutions adopted by the City and County whereby each agency agrees to an exchange or property tax revenues prior to an application for the proposal being deemed complete by LAFCO. While the City and County currently have a Master Property Tax Agreement executed in 2022, the project site was specifically excluded from the agreement. Thus, a separate agreement must be negotiated.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact our office at (209) 525-7660 or via email at LAFCO@stancounty.com.

Sincerely,



Sara Lytle-Pinhey
Executive Officer

cc: LAFCO Commissioners
LAFCO Counsel

July 27, 2026

Sent by email to GP-Modesto2050@modestogov.com

Michael Hren
City of Modesto, Planning Division
1010 10th Street, 3rd Floor
Modesto, CA 95354

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE MODESTO 2050 GENERAL PLAN**

Dear Mr. Hren:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for the City's preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Modesto 2050 General Plan. LAFCO's policies encourage cities and Stanislaus County to adopt general plans, policies, and agreements that protect farmland outside urban boundaries, encourage compact and efficient growth, and discourage sprawl. The General Plan Update includes a proposed planning area (also referenced as the "preferred land use alternative") which could result in a possible Sphere of Influence increase of approximately 12,240 acres and a population increase of 103,900 by 2050. As Lead Agency, the City of Modesto is responsible for considering the effects, both individual and collective, of all activities involved in the project (Public Resources Code §21102.1). LAFCO, as a Responsible Agency, will utilize the CEQA documents prepared by the City in reviewing the subject proposal.

Among the purposes of LAFCO are discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open space and agricultural lands, encouraging the efficient provision of services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances (Government Code section 56301). The Commission has adopted local policies and findings related to these purposes. The following summarizes some of these policies, as well as information the Commission will need in order to make determinations related to any sphere amendments and future annexations as a result of the 2050 General Plan:

Sphere of Influence Policies

A sphere of influence (SOI) is intended to be a plan for the long-term, orderly growth of an agency, as determined by the Commission. Stanislaus LAFCO's policies further identify a "primary area of influence," representing a short-term growth area within a city's SOI. The sphere of influence and primary area designations function as planning tools intended to carry out the Commission's role to promote logical and orderly development and guide timely annexations. Stanislaus LAFCO also promotes coordination and cooperative planning efforts among the County, cities, special districts, and communities by encouraging compatibility in their respective plans.

The City should identify how the proposal relates to its reasonable population estimates, existing capacity, historical and projected absorption rates, as well as cooperative planning

efforts with neighboring jurisdictions. Proposed phasing strategies should also be identified along with consistency with the City's policies to promote compact growth patterns within existing boundaries and infill areas.

Logical Boundaries & Communities of Interest

Policy 20 of LAFCO's Policies and Procedures states that the Commission encourages the creation of logical boundaries and proposals which do not create islands and would eliminate existing islands, corridors, or other distortion of existing boundaries. Further, proposals which are orderly and will either improve or maintain the agency's logical boundary are encouraged.

There are two communities of interest that the City's preferred land use alternative would encroach upon: Wood Colony and Salida. Each of these should be discussed relative to LAFCO's adopted policy that states, "sphere of influence boundaries shall, to the extent possible, maintain a separation between existing communities to protect open space and agricultural lands and the identity of an individual community."

The City's preferred land use alternative includes two urbanized corridors extending west of the City. The potential corridor along northern side of Beckwith Road, would extend over 3-miles west of the sphere of influence. A larger corridor along the northern side of Maze Boulevard would extend 4 miles west of the sphere of influence, leaving a remaining agricultural area known as Wood Colony as a pocket area surrounded on three sides by urban development. This illogical pattern of growth would place significant growth pressures on the remaining pocket area and threaten its long-term viability for agricultural use.

The City's preferred land use alternative also proposes inclusion of a large undeveloped portion of the Salida Community Plan that the County is currently in the process of preparing an EIR and infrastructure planning for as part of a comprehensive plan for the area. The Salida Community Plan currently identifies the area east of Stoddard Road as Planned Industrial with a smaller area adjacent to Kiernan Avenue (State Route 219) as Business Park uses. The City of Modesto's study area identifies this same area as Business Center, although a simultaneous proposal (Scannell Industrial) identifies it as being rezoned for industrial uses.

In total, the City's Sphere of Influence would not only overlap into the Salida Community Plan, but extend north, directly adjacent to the Del Rio Community Plan and easterly to and adjacent with the City of Riverbank's Sphere of Influence. The City of Modesto's proposal, taken in conjunction with these communities, as well as the City of Riverbank's the River Walk proposal, leaves no separation of communities in the area, and would almost completely urbanize the area between Kiernan Avenue north to the Stanislaus River. Only a small area of undeveloped land would remain (see attached map – "Stanislaus River Area"). The City's EIR should analyze the cumulative impact of growth in the Stanislaus River area.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

State law encourages the inclusion of disadvantaged communities within a city's limits and requires LAFCOs to identify these as part of a sphere of influence update. Likewise, the City is also required to identify and analyze disadvantaged communities as part of its General Plan and it is expected that this analysis be included as part of the EIR. Further, Government Code section 56375(a)(8)(A), prohibits a city from annexing territory greater than 10 acres where a disadvantaged community is adjacent to said proposal without also attempting to include the disadvantaged community in its entirety. The City of Modesto has many unincorporated

pockets and islands on the west side of the City, within the existing Sphere of Influence, that are considered disadvantaged unincorporated communities. These should be discussed relative to the City's goals and priorities for annexation of these areas into the City limits prior to additional expansion of the City's Sphere of Influence that could potentially disincentivize their inclusion.

City-County Meeting and Agreement

An expansion of the sphere of influence requires the City of Modesto to meet with the County to discuss the proposed sphere of influence and explore methods to reach agreement on its boundaries, development standards, and zoning requirements within the sphere. Evidence of this consultation and any resulting agreement must be provided as part of an application to LAFCO to modify the City's sphere.

Agricultural Resources

One of LAFCO's main charges, as set forth by the Legislature, is to protect and promote agriculture. Stanislaus LAFCO has adopted local policies with the goal of minimizing impacts of growth on agricultural lands. Local agencies are likewise expected and encouraged to adopt similar policies. The Commission's Agricultural Preservation Policy (Policy 22) requires the City to prepare a Plan for Agricultural Preservation ("Plan") for a sphere of influence expansion or annexation to a city. The Plan must include information such as the proposal's direct and indirect impacts to agricultural resources, the availability of other lands in the City's existing boundaries, and relevant General Plan policies. A significant amount of acreage within the study area and possible Sphere of Influence is considered prime farmland. Consistent with Commission's Policy 22, the City must demonstrate how the loss of agricultural lands, including prime farmland, has been minimized. The Plan must also specify the method or strategy proposed to minimize the loss of agricultural lands and should be consistent with the environmental documentation prepared by the City.

Within the 4-mile proposed extension of urbanization along Maze Boulevard, the City's preferred land use alternative designates a 155-acre area as "open space." This area includes the Menghetti Farm Property, which is encumbered by an agricultural conservation easement and not intended as simply "open space." A similar agricultural conservation easement lies to the southwest of the property. Proposed urbanization in and around these existing conservation easements weakens their original intent as long-term agricultural protection and provides no logical buffer against further conversion of agricultural uses in the area.

Williamson Act Lands

The study area includes numerous lands with active Williamson Act Contracts. The Williamson Act is considered a mechanism to preserve agricultural land both in the short and long term. Government Code §56856.5 prohibits the Commission from approving an annexation that contains Williamson Act lands unless it makes specific findings. Similarly, LAFCO's SOI policies state that territory not in need of urban services, including open space, agriculture, non-protested, or protested and not upheld Williamson Act contracted lands, shall not be assigned to an agency's sphere of influence, unless the area's exclusion would impede the planned orderly and efficient development of this area.

The EIR should discuss the location of these Williamson Act encumbered lands as it relates to general plan policies, development, and scenarios that would preserve the agricultural viability of this land.

Vacant Land Inventory

State law and Commission policies encourage the development of vacant or underutilized land within an agency's existing boundaries prior to annexation of additional land. As part of any Plan for Agricultural Preservation, the City must demonstrate that there is insufficient alternative land available within the existing city limits and sphere of influence (SOI) boundaries. LAFCO's policies state that sphere amendments will not be approved if there is sufficient alternative land available.

The supporting materials for the Notice of Preparation, including PowerPoint presentations provided during various workshops, significantly understate the amount of vacant acreage within the City's current Sphere of Influence. The discrepancies between the City's and LAFCO's data are outlined in the following table:

	City's PowerPoint Presentation	LAFCO Data
Existing SOI (including City Limits)	35,790 acres	40,492 acres
Acreage Remaining Outside City Limits (within SOI)	11,580 acres	11,235 acres
Vacant Land Within Existing SOI	1,840 acres	5,500+ acres (estimated using GIS)
Vacant Land Within Existing City Limits	Not stated	1,050+ acres (estimated using GIS, review of recent annexations)
Total Vacant Acreage w/in Existing Boundaries (City Limits and SOI)	Not stated	6,550+ acres (estimated)

LAFCO expects to see project alternatives included in the EIR that reflect reasonable population and growth estimates with consideration of lands currently available within the City's current City Limits and Sphere of Influence. A vacant land inventory and absorption study should be conducted to further demonstrate the City's need for the size and scope of the proposed expansion.

Mitigation Measures

The City of Modesto has regularly included mitigation measures requiring 1:1 mitigation for conversion of important farmlands, consistent with LAFCO policy, for annexations occurring since 2013. The City has also provided LAFCO with documentation demonstrating that it has collected in-lieu fees for agricultural mitigation during issuance of building permits since this time. However, the City has not established a program or policy directing how those in-lieu fees are to be used or how agricultural preservation is ultimately intended to be accomplished.

The City's General Plan Update must incorporate policies related collection and use of these fees that should also be reflected in the environmental documentation to ensure that agricultural mitigation occurs (either through direct acquisition or payment to an established and qualified agricultural conservation entity).

Public Services

The EIR should discuss what specific measures will be implanted to improve and/or maintain the current level of service (e.g. water quality and quantity, wastewater infrastructure and capacity, adequate police and fire protection services) prior to expansion of the City's boundaries. LAFCOs are required to consider a number of factors related to the City's ability to provide services to expanded territory, including the present cost and adequacy of governmental services, probable future need for those services, financial ability to provide such services, and the timely availability of water supplies adequate for projected needs. LAFCO will not approve a proposal that has the potential to significantly diminish the level of service within an agency's jurisdiction.

Municipal Service Review

In accordance with Government Code sections 56425 and 56430, any proposed Sphere of Influence expansion will necessitate an update to the City's Municipal Service Review, a document discussing the City's ability to provide services to both its existing and proposed boundaries. The City's last Municipal Service Review was prepared in 2004. Information contained in the updated Municipal Service Review will rely heavily on the City's utilities master plans and General Plan for the area.

Impacts on Special Districts

The EIR should also identify existing service providers within the study area and potential impacts of future growth on these entities and their ability to provide services. The study area contains territory within the boundaries of multiple special districts, including the Salida Fire Protection District, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, Woodland Avenue Fire Protection District, Burbank-Paradise Fire Protection District, Modesto Irrigation District, Salida Sanitary District, and several County Service Areas (including CSAs 4 and 14). Commission policies recognize that city Spheres of Influence generally take precedence over these district spheres. Environmental analysis should identify potential impacts as a result of future sphere amendments and annexations. The City is encouraged to consult with each of these Districts to resolve any identified concerns as part of the Environmental Impact Report.

LAFCO Staff has provided this response for the City's use in the development of an Environmental Impact Report and other studies that will assist in LAFCO's review of the project. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact our office at (209) 525-7660.

Sincerely,



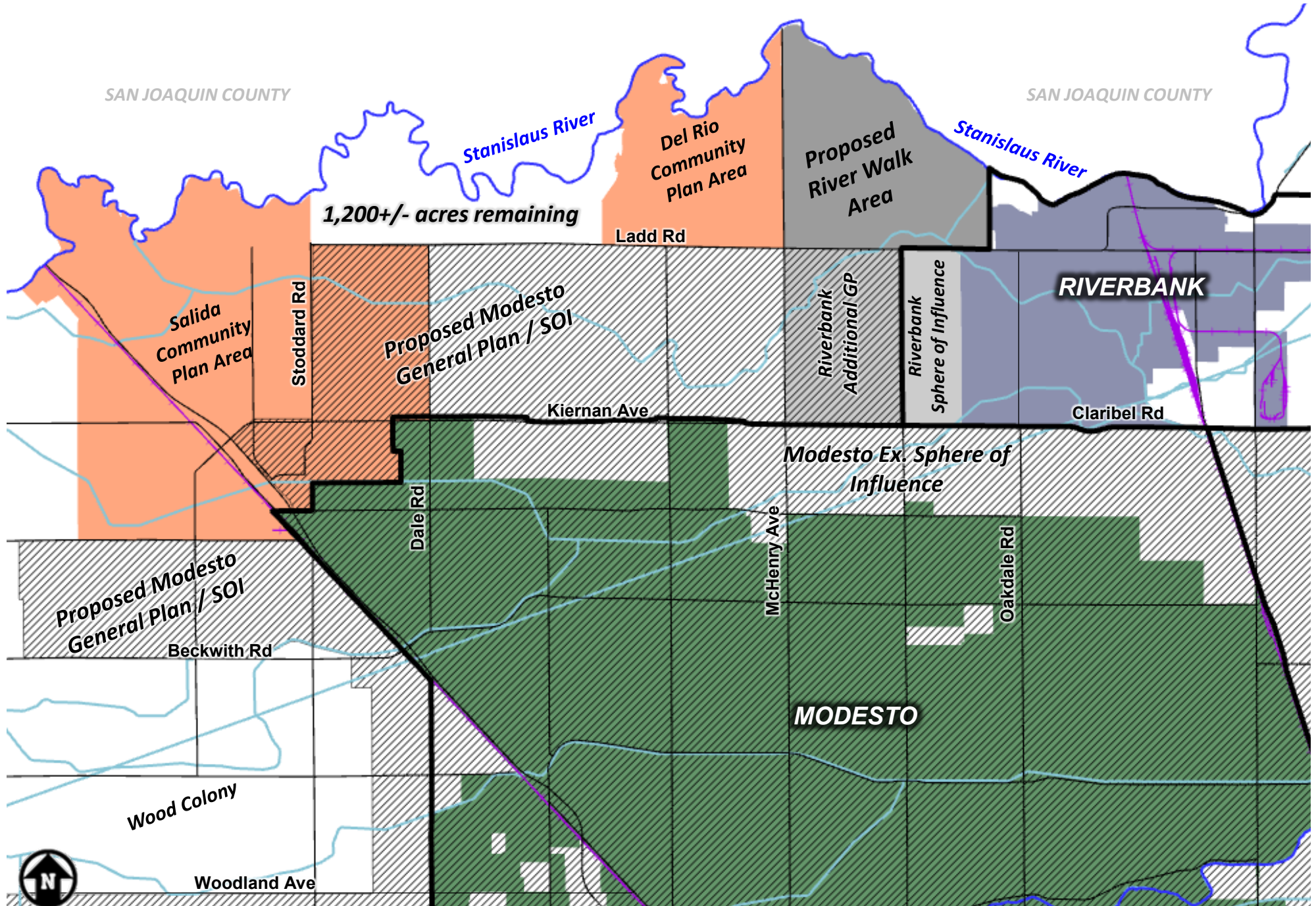
Sara Lytle-Pinhey
Executive Officer

Attachment: Map of Stanislaus River Area

cc: LAFCO Commissioners
LAFCO Counsel

Stanislaus River Area

Northern Stanislaus County



DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: CALAFCO Member LAFCOs

FROM: Michelle McIntyre, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors Election Now Open

CALAFCO is pleased to announce that the **2026 Board of Directors election is now open.**

This year's election marks the implementation of the updated Board structure approved by the membership in February 2026 and begins the transition to staggered Board terms.

The following changes apply to the 2026 election:

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2026 ELECTION

- All Board seats will be open for election.
- Board seat type distinctions have been eliminated.
- Executive Officers are eligible to serve as Board members if elected.
- Candidates must declare whether they are running for a one-year term or a two-year term.
- Candidates may only run for one term category.

ELECTION OVERVIEW

Each region will elect four (4) members to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. To stagger terms, two positions in each region will serve an initial one-year term, and two will serve an initial two-year term.

Regional caucus elections will be held during the 2026 CALAFCO Annual Conference in Sacramento on Thursday, October 22, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Candidates nominated during the nomination period will appear on the ballot in the order their completed nomination forms are received. Additional nominations may be accepted from the floor during the regional caucus in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.

Voting delegates, absentee ballots, and all election procedures will be conducted in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures. A majority vote is required. If no candidate receives the required majority, runoff elections will be conducted in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.

KEY ELECTION DATES:

- **Nomination Period Opens:** Wednesday, July 1, 2026
- **Nomination Deadline:** No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026
- **Voting Delegate Names Due:** No later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026
- **Candidate Orientation (virtual):** 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026.
- **Electronic/Absentee Ballot Deadline:** No later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2026.
- **Election Committee Report Released:** Thursday, October 8, 2026
- **Regional Caucus Elections:** Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.
- **Annual Business Meeting:** Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

2026 ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member	LAFCO	Region	Email	Phone No.
Gary Thompson	Riverside	Southern	gthompson@lafco.org	(951) 369-0631
Shannon Costa	Butte	Northern	scosta@buttecounty.net	(530) 552-5820
José Henríquez	Sacramento	Central	henriquezj@saclafco.org	(916) 874-6458
Neelima Palacherla	Santa Clara	Coastal	neelima.palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org	(408) 993-4705

SUBMITTING NOMINATION MATERIALS:

Please submit completed nomination materials by email to mmcintyre@calafco.org or by mail to:

1451 River Park Drive, Suite 185
Sacramento, CA 95815

1. Candidate Nomination Form
2. Candidate Information & Statement Form
3. Election Timeline
4. Guide to the CALAFCO Board of Directors Election Process
5. 2026 CALAFCO Voting Delegate Authorization Form
6. Roles and Responsibilities of a CALAFCO Board Member
7. 2027 Board Meeting Schedule
8. Regional Map and Member LAFCOs by Region

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS ARE ENCLOSED:

Please distribute this announcement and the accompanying election materials to your Commissioners and Executive Officer.

Thank you for your attention to this important election process and for your continued participation in CALAFCO. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Michelle McIntyre

2026 CALAFCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Nomination Form

[To be completed by both the Member LAFCO making the nomination AND the Nominee]

This form is to be used by CALAFCO Member LAFCOs to nominate candidates for the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election.

Candidates should reserve Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. for the required virtual Candidate Orientation.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Completed nomination materials must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026.

1 - Election Information

CALAFCO Region:

☐ Northern Region ☐ Central Region ☐ Coastal Region ☐ Southern Region

Term Category Sought:

☐ One-Year Term ☐ Two-Year Term

Candidates may seek election to only one term category.

2 - Candidate Information

Candidate Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Member LAFCO: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

3 - Candidate Eligibility and Board Expectations

Candidate Eligibility

- ☐ I certify that I am eligible to serve on the CALAFCO Board of Directors consistent with the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.
- ☐ I certify that I am affiliated with a CALAFCO Member LAFCO.
- ☐ I certify that I am eligible to seek election within the region identified above.

Board Expectations

- ☐ I understand that Board members are expected to actively participate in Board meetings, committee assignments, CALAFCO conferences, and other Board responsibilities.
- ☐ I understand that candidates are expected to participate in the virtual Candidate Orientation scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- ☐ I understand that Board members have a responsibility to serve the interests of CALAFCO and the statewide LAFCO community.
- ☐ I understand that newly elected Directors begin their terms on December 1, 2026, consistent with the CALAFCO Bylaws.

4 – Candidate Acceptance

- ☐ I accept this nomination for the CALAFCO Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: _____

5 – Member LAFCO Certification

Name: _____

Title: _____

Member LAFCO: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

As Chair, I certify that this nomination has the support of our LAFCO. If elected, our LAFCO is committed to supporting the nominee in fulfilling the responsibilities of serving on the CALAFCO Board.

6 – Submission Instructions

Both the Candidate Nomination Form (Attachment 1) and the Candidate Information & Statement Form (Attachment 2) must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026. Pursuant to the CALAFCO Policies and Procedures, nomination materials received after the deadline will be returned marked "Received too late for Election Committee action."

SUBMITTING NOMINATION MATERIALS:

Please submit completed nomination materials by email to mmcintyre@calafco.org or by mail to:
1451 River Park Drive, Suite 185, Sacramento, CA 95815

Questions regarding the nomination or election process are welcome and may be directed to the CALAFCO Executive Director or members of the Election Committee.

2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors Candidate Information and Statement Form

[To be submitted with Candidate Nomination Form]

This form is to be completed by candidates seeking election to the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors. Information provided on this form, including the candidate statement and any submitted photograph, may be included in the election materials distributed to Member LAFCOs and voting delegates.

Candidates should reserve Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. for the required virtual Candidate Orientation.

1. Election Information

CALAFCO Region:

☐ Northern Region ☐ Central Region ☐ Coastal Region ☐ Southern Region

Term Category Sought:

☐ One-Year Term ☐ Two-Year Term

Candidates may seek election to only one term category.

2. Candidate Information

Candidate Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Member LAFCO: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3. Professional and LAFCO Background

Please provide a summary of your professional experience, current position, involvement with LAFCOs, and participation in CALAFCO activities-maximum 250 words.

4. Candidate Statement

5. Board Expectations

- ☐ I understand that Board members are expected to actively participate in Board meetings, committee assignments, CALAFCO conferences, and other Board responsibilities.
- ☐ I understand that Board members have a responsibility to serve the interests of CALAFCO and the statewide LAFCO community.
- ☐ I understand that Directors elected in 2026 begin their terms on December 1, 2026, consistent with the CALAFCO Bylaws.

6. Photo Submission (Optional)

- ☐ I have attached a photo for use in election materials.

Candidates are encouraged to submit a recent headshot for inclusion in the election materials, if available.

7. Candidate Signature

Signature: _____ Date: _____

8. Submission Instructions

Both the Candidate Nomination Form (Attachment 1) and the Candidate Information & Statement Form (Attachment 2) must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026. Pursuant to the CALAFCO Policies and Procedures, nomination materials received after the deadline will be returned marked "Received too late for Election Committee action."

Submitting Nomination Materials:

Please submit completed nomination materials by email to mmcintyre@calafco.org or by mail to:
1451 River Park Drive, Suite 185, Sacramento, CA 95815

Questions regarding the nomination or election process are welcome and may be directed to the CALAFCO Executive Director or members of the Election Committee.

2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors Election Timeline

The following timeline summarizes the key dates and deadlines for the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election process. Unless otherwise noted, all deadlines are final.

Date	Election Milestone
Wednesday, July 1, 2026	Nomination Period Opens - Candidate nomination materials become available, and the nomination period begins.
Friday, September 4, 2026 <i>No later than 5:00 p.m.</i>	Nomination Deadline - Candidate Nomination Form (Attachment 1), Candidate Information and Statement Form (Attachment 2), and the Voting Delegate Authorization Form must be received by CALAFCO no later than 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 10, 2026 <i>At 10:00 a.m.</i>	Virtual Candidate Orientation - Candidates are required to participate in the virtual Candidate Orientation.
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 <i>No later than 5:00 p.m.</i>	Electronic/Absentee Ballot Deadline - CALAFCO must receive electronic absentee ballots by this deadline.
Thursday, October 8, 2026	Election Committee Report Released - The Election Committee Report is distributed to Member LAFCOs and voting delegates.
Thursday, October 22, 2026 <i>At 8:00 a.m.</i>	Regional Caucus Elections - Voting delegates elect Directors representing each CALAFCO region.
Thursday, October 22, 2026 <i>At 9:00 a.m.</i>	Annual Business Meeting - Election results are announced to the membership, and newly elected Directors are introduced.
Tuesday, December 1, 2026	New Directors Take Office - Directors elected during the 2026 election officially begin their terms in accordance with the CALAFCO Bylaws.

Questions:

Questions regarding the election process may be directed to the CALAFCO Executive Director or members of the Election Committee.



Introduction

This guide summarizes the procedures governing the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election, including voting procedures and the determination of election results. In the event of any conflict between this guide and the CALAFCO Bylaws or Policies & Procedures, the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures shall govern.

1. Voting Delegates

Each CALAFCO Member LAFCO is responsible for designating **one Voting Delegate** and may also designate **one Alternate Voting Delegate** to represent the Member LAFCO during the CALAFCO Board of Directors election.

The Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate must be an Officer of the Member LAFCO designated in writing by the Member LAFCO. Under the CALAFCO Bylaws, an Officer of a Member LAFCO includes a regular Commissioner, alternate Commissioner, Executive Officer, Deputy Executive Officer, Legal Counsel, or Deputy Legal Counsel. The Voting Delegate is authorized to cast the Member LAFCO's ballot during the Regional Caucus Election. If the designated Voting Delegate is unable to serve, the Alternate Voting Delegate may vote in their place.

Each Member LAFCO is entitled to one vote and may cast its ballot only within the CALAFCO region in which it is located.

The completed **Voting Delegate Authorization Form** must be received by CALAFCO no later than the deadline identified in **Attachment 3 - Election Timeline**. Member LAFCOs may revise their Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate designation at any time before the submission deadline. Once the deadline has passed, no changes may be made to the designated Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate.

Proxy voting is not permitted.

2. Voting Procedures

A. Regional Caucus Elections

Regional Caucus Elections are conducted during the CALAFCO Annual Conference. Each CALAFCO region meets separately to elect its representatives to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. The Regional Caucus Election is conducted as follows:

- Authorized Voting Delegates and Alternate Voting Delegates receive their voting credentials and ballots at conference registration.
- The Election Committee convenes the Regional Caucus and reviews the election procedures.
- The Election Committee presents the Election Committee Report.
- The Election Committee calls for additional nominations from the floor in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.
- Following the close of nominations, the Election Committee conducts a Candidates Forum. Candidates nominated from the floor respond to the candidate questions and are provided an opportunity to make a brief statement. Candidates who are unable to attend may designate a representative from their region to respond to the candidate questions and make a brief statement on their behalf.
- Only the designated Voting Delegate, or the designated Alternate Voting Delegate acting in place of the Voting Delegate, may cast a ballot.
- Voting is conducted by secret ballot.
- Ballots are collected and counted by the Election Committee.
- Following certification by the Election Committee, election results are announced during the Annual Business Meeting.

B. Electronic/Absentee Voting

Member LAFCOs that are unable to send an authorized Voting Delegate to the Regional Caucus Election may request an electronic ballot in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.

The electronic ballot process is conducted as follows:

- A Member LAFCO must designate its Voting Delegate using the Voting Delegate Authorization Form by the deadline identified in Attachment 3 - Election Timeline.
- A Member LAFCO requesting an electronic ballot must submit its request to CALAFCO in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.
- Completed electronic ballots must be received by CALAFCO no later than the deadline identified in Attachment 3 - Election Timeline.
- Member LAFCOs voting by electronic ballot may vote only for the candidates identified on the ballot and may not participate in any run-off election.
- If a Member LAFCO that requested an electronic ballot is subsequently able to send its designated Voting Delegate to the Regional Caucus Election, the Member LAFCO may discard its electronic ballot and vote in person during the Regional Caucus Election in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.

3. Determining Election Results

Election results are determined in accordance with the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures as follows:

- A candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected.
- If no candidate receives the required majority, one or more run-off elections may be conducted in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.
- If a tie remains after the final run-off election, the tie is resolved by a draw of lots in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.
- Following certification by the Election Committee, election results are announced during the Annual Business Meeting.
- Directors elected during the Regional Caucus Elections begin their terms on December 1, 2026, in accordance with the CALAFCO Bylaws.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

WHO MAY SERVE AS A VOTING DELEGATE OR AN ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE?

The Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate must be an **Officer of the Member LAFCO** designated in writing by the Member LAFCO. Under the CALAFCO Bylaws, an Officer of a Member LAFCO includes a regular Commissioner, alternate Commissioner, Executive Officer, Deputy Executive Officer, Legal Counsel, or Deputy Legal Counsel.

CAN A MEMBER LAFCO CHANGE ITS VOTING DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE AFTER SUBMITTING THE VOTING DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM?

Yes. A Member LAFCO may change its Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate at any time before the submission deadline identified in Attachment 3 - Election Timeline. After the deadline, no changes may be made.

MAY NOMINATIONS BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR DURING THE REGIONAL CAUCUS ELECTION?

Yes. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by a Member LAFCO in good standing in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY MEMBER LAFCO IS UNABLE TO SEND A VOTING DELEGATE TO THE REGIONAL CAUCUS ELECTION?

A Member LAFCO may request an electronic ballot in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures. Electronic ballots include only the candidates listed in the Election Committee Report and may not be used in any run-off election.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ELECTION PROCESS?

Questions regarding the election process may be directed to the CALAFCO Executive Director or the Election Committee.

2026 CALAFCO VOTING DELEGATE

Authorization Form

Each CALAFCO Member LAFCO is responsible for designating one Voting Delegate and may also designate an Alternate Voting Delegate to represent the Member LAFCO in the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election.

To participate in the **2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election**, each **Member LAFCO** must submit a **Voting Delegate Authorization Form**, regardless of whether it is submitting a candidate nomination.

The Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate must be an Officer of the Member LAFCO, as designated in writing by the Member LAFCO. Under the CALAFCO Bylaws, an Officer of a Member LAFCO includes a regular Commissioner, alternate Commissioner, Executive Officer, Deputy Executive Officer, Legal Counsel, or Deputy Legal Counsel.

DEADLINE:

This form must be received by CALAFCO no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026**. Member LAFCOs may revise their Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate designation at any time before the submission deadline. After the deadline, no changes may be made.

1 - Member LAFCO Information

Member LAFCO: _____

CALAFCO Region:

☐ Northern Region ☐ Central Region ☐ Coastal Region ☐ Southern Region

2 - Voting Delegate

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

3 - Alternate Voting Delegate

Member LAFCO: _____

Title/Position: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

4 - Electronic Ballot Request

- ☐ **Our Member LAFCO requests an electronic ballot because it is unable to send its designated Voting Delegate to the Regional Caucus Election.**

Member LAFCOs requesting an electronic ballot are subject to the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures governing electronic voting. Additional information is available in **Attachment 4 - Guide to the CALAFCO Board of Directors Election Process**.

5 - Authorization

The Member LAFCO identified above hereby authorizes the individuals listed on this form to serve as its Voting Delegate and, if applicable, its Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2026 CALAFCO Board of Directors election.

Only the designated Voting Delegate or the designated Alternate Voting Delegate, acting in place of the Voting Delegate, may cast the Member LAFCO's ballot during the Regional Caucus Election.

Proxy voting is not permitted. Only the designated Voting Delegate or the designated Alternate Voting Delegate, acting in place of the Voting Delegate, may cast the Member LAFCO's ballot during the Regional Caucus Election.

Authorized by the Member LAFCO

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

6 - Submission Instructions

This form must be received by CALAFCO **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026**.
Submit completed forms electronically to: **mmcintyre@calafco.org**

OR

Mail completed forms to:

CALAFCO

1451 River Park Drive, Suite 185

Sacramento, CA 95815

Questions regarding the election process may be directed to the CALAFCO Executive Director or members of the Election Committee.

2027 CALAFCO Board Meeting Schedule

The following schedule reflects the 2027 CALAFCO Board meeting schedule approved by the Board of Directors and is provided to assist prospective candidates in understanding the anticipated meeting schedule for Board service. Meeting dates are subject to change by action of the Board of Directors.

Date	Meeting	Format
Friday, January 22, 2027	Regular Board Meeting	Hybrid
Thursday, February 25, 2027	Strategic Planning Workshop	In Person
Friday, February 26, 2027	Regular Board Meeting	Hybrid
Friday, May 14, 2027	Regular Board Meeting	Hybrid
Friday, August 27, 2027	Regular Board Meeting	Hybrid
Friday, October 22, 2027	Regular Board Meeting (Annual Conference)	In Person

Additional Information

- The Strategic Planning Workshop is held immediately before the February Regular Board Meeting.
- The October Regular Board Meeting is held in conjunction with the CALAFCO Annual Conference.
- Board members are also expected to participate in committee meetings and other Board activities throughout the year, as applicable to their committee assignments.
- Additional Board meetings or special meetings may be scheduled as necessary in accordance with the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.

Roles and Responsibilities of a CALAFCO Board Member

Introduction

Serving on the CALAFCO Board of Directors is an opportunity to help guide the Association's leadership, legislative advocacy, educational programs, and long-term direction on behalf of LAFCOs throughout California.

Board members serve the interests of **CALAFCO and the statewide LAFCO community** and are expected to actively participate in Board meetings, committee assignments, and Association activities.

The following summary highlights the principal responsibilities and expectations of Board service. It is intended as a general overview and does not replace the CALAFCO Bylaws or Policies & Procedures. In the event of any conflict between this document and the CALAFCO Bylaws or Policies & Procedures, the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures shall govern.

General Participation

Board members are expected to support CALAFCO's mission and core values, serve as part of a unified governing body, and make decisions in the best interests of CALAFCO and the statewide LAFCO community.

Board members are expected to:

- Regularly attend and prepare for Board meetings.
- Participate actively in Board discussions and decision-making.
- Participate in establishing CALAFCO's strategic direction and organizational priorities.
- Serve on at least one CALAFCO Board committee.
- Attend the CALAFCO Annual Conference and participate in other Board meetings and Association activities, as appropriate.

Governance

Board members are expected to:

- Attend Board Member orientation provided by CALAFCO.
- Consider statewide interests and impacts when making Board decisions.
- Adhere to the CALAFCO Board Code of Ethics.
- Read, understand, and operate within the CALAFCO Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.

Communication

Board members are expected to:

- Communicate respectfully.
- Support consistent and accurate communication with CALAFCO membership.

Association Programs

Board members are expected to:

- Understand and encourage participation in CALAFCO programs and services, including the Associate Member Program.

Performance Evaluations

- Participate in the annual Board performance evaluation process.
- Participate in the annual evaluation of the Executive Director and Regional Officers, in accordance with the CALAFCO Policies & Procedures.
- Participate in the Board's annual review of CALAFCO's Strategic Plan.

Advocacy, Recruitment and Retention

Board members are expected to:

- Support CALAFCO's legislative advocacy efforts.
- Promote CALAFCO and encourage participation in Association programs and activities.
- Help strengthen awareness and understanding of CALAFCO and LAFCOs throughout California.

Finance

Board members are expected to:

- Review and understand CALAFCO's financial information and assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities.

Board Committees

Board members are expected to serve on at least one Board committee. Committee assignments are made annually by the Board.

Standing committees currently include:

- Awards Committee
- Conference Committee
- Elections Committee
- Legislative Committee

Committee responsibilities and meeting schedules vary depending on the committee assignment.

Time Commitment

Board service includes regular participation in:

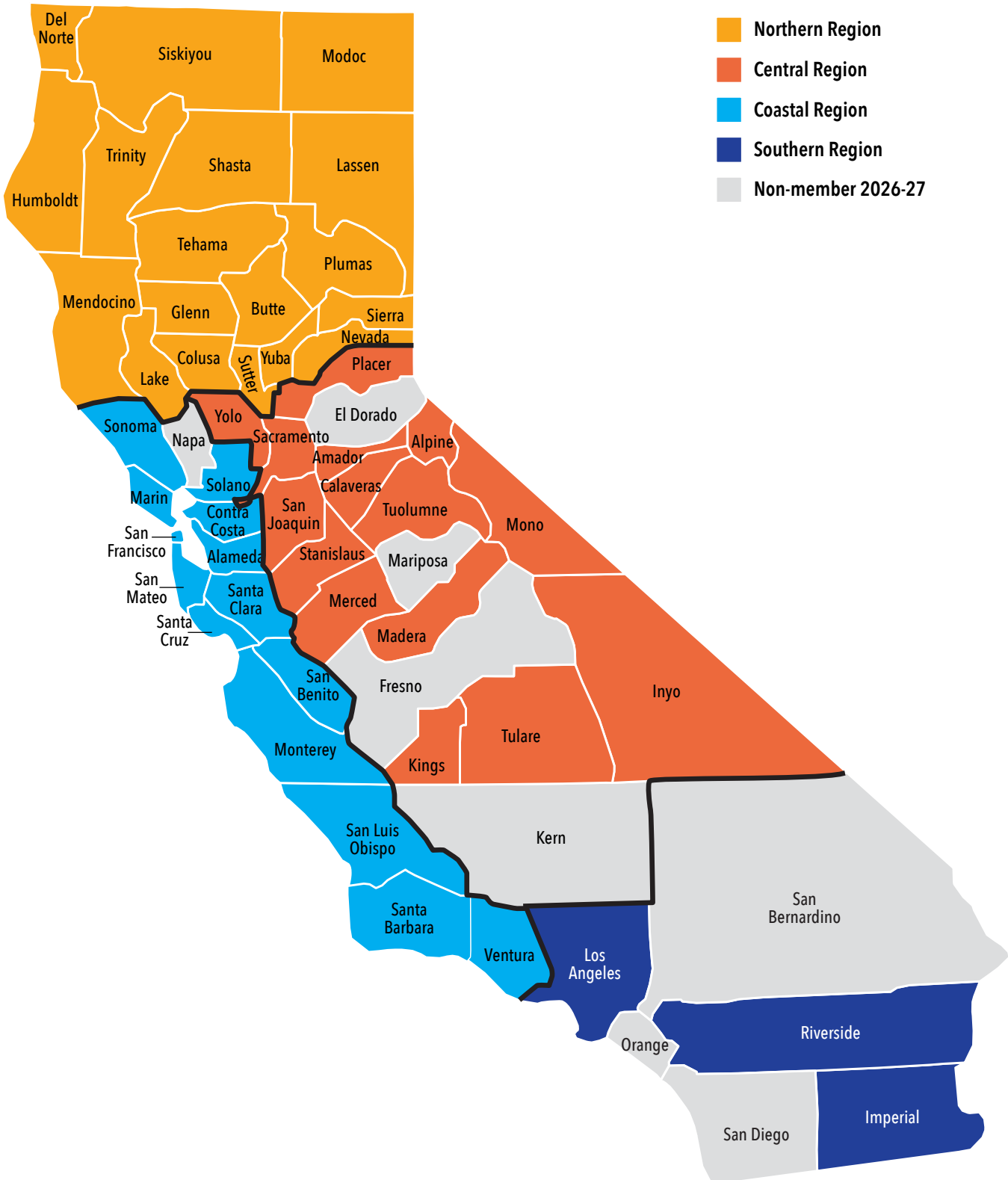
- Board meetings
- Committee meetings
- The CALAFCO Annual Conference
- Board Member orientation
- Other Board meetings and activities, as appropriate

The anticipated Board meeting schedule is included as **Attachment 7**.

Board Service

Serving on the CALAFCO Board of Directors is an opportunity to contribute to the continued success of CALAFCO and to the advancement of the statewide LAFCO community. Board members are expected to approach their responsibilities collaboratively and ethically, with a commitment to serving the best interests of CALAFCO and its membership.

FOUR REGIONS



DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: CALAFCO Members, LAFCO Commissioners and Staff,
Other Interested Organizations

FROM: Michelle McIntyre - CALAFCO Executive Director,
CALAFCO Achievement Awards Committee, CALAFCO Board of Directors

SUBJECT: 2026 CALAFCO Achievement Award Nominations Period Open

DEADLINE: Friday, August 28, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Qualifying Period: August 16, 2025 through August 15, 2026

On behalf of the Association, I am pleased to announce that the nomination period for the 2026 CALAFCO Achievement Awards is now open.

Each year, CALAFCO recognizes individuals and organizations from across the state for their work advancing the mission and responsibilities of LAFCOs. This year's program retains its established structure with targeted updates to better reflect the breadth of work being done across the LAFCO community, including emerging leadership, partnerships, project-based accomplishments, community impact, and discretionary recognition of exceptional efforts that may not fit neatly into existing categories.

We encourage you to nominate individuals and organizations whose work reflects strong performance, meaningful collaboration, and measurable results. Early submittal is encouraged.

*Before submitting a nomination, please carefully review the nomination instructions and the criteria for each category. **Incomplete nominations, or those that do not follow the submission guidelines, will not be considered.***

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS NOMINATION PROCEDURE

1. Most nominations may be made by an individual, a LAFCO, a CALAFCO Associate Member, or any other organization.
2. Each nomination must meet the specific award category criteria for consideration.
3. With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award, all nominated projects or acts of service must have occurred or been completed during the qualifying period of August 16, 2025, through August 15, 2026.

4. Nominations must be submitted with a completed nomination form. A separate form is required for each nomination.
5. Nomination Executive Summaries must be limited to no more than 250 words. Nomination Summaries must be limited to no more than 1,000 words or two (2) pages.
6. All supporting information (e.g., reports, articles) must be submitted with the nomination. Total supporting documentation, including any letters of support or endorsement, is limited to no more than three (3) pages.
7. Support or Endorsement Letters: Nominations may optionally include letters of support or endorsement from individuals or organizations familiar with the nominee's work. Letters should provide specific examples of contributions and impact. A maximum of two (2) letters may be submitted, each not to exceed one (1) page. Letters must be included at the time of submittal and count toward the three-page supporting documentation limit. The quality and relevance of the nomination will be given greater weight than the number of letters submitted.
8. All materials must be submitted at one time. No late nominations will be accepted — no exceptions.
9. Electronic submittals are required and must be submitted as a single PDF document.
10. Nominations and all supporting materials must be received no later than Friday, August 28, 2026.

Submit nominations electronically as a single PDF to:

Michelle McIntyre, CALAFCO Executive Director
mmcintyre@calafco.org | (916) 442-6536

AWARDS COMMITTEE FLEXIBILITY

Number of Awards: The Awards Committee may, at its discretion, select more than one recipient in a category when multiple nominations are deemed equally deserving.

Category Assignment: The Awards Committee may reassign a nomination to a different award category if it determines the nomination better aligns with the criteria of that category. The Committee's determination is final.

General: Submission of a nomination does not guarantee that an award will be given in that category. Not all categories are required to be awarded each year.

CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CATEGORIES

Nomination & Selection Criteria



Every year, CALAFCO recognizes excellence within the LAFCO community by presenting Achievement Awards at the Annual Conference. Nominations are accepted until Friday, August 28, 2026, in the following categories:

EXISTING CATEGORIES

OUTSTANDING CALAFCO VOLUNTEER

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes a CALAFCO volunteer who has provided exemplary service during the year. Exemplary service clearly goes above and beyond what is asked or expected in the charge of their responsibilities. This category may include a CALAFCO Board member, regional officer, program volunteer, or any other requested volunteer.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee must have volunteered for the Association during the year in which the nomination is being made.
- Nominee does not have to be a CALAFCO member.
- Volunteer efforts must demonstrate going above and beyond what was asked or expected, with positive and effective results.
- Nominee can be a CALAFCO Board member, regional officer, program volunteer, or any other volunteer.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria requirements for consideration.
- Equal consideration shall be given to each nominee, regardless of position or role. Only contributions and outcomes shall be considered.
- The extent of volunteerism and overall impact on the statewide Association and membership shall be considered.
- Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award and meet all required criteria.

OUTSTANDING CALAFCO ASSOCIATE MEMBER

AWARD SUMMARY:

Presented to an active CALAFCO Associate Member (person or agency) that has advanced or promoted the cause of LAFCOs by consistently producing distinguished work that upholds the mission and goals of LAFCOs, has helped elevate the role and mission of LAFCOs through its work, and demonstrates a collaborative approach to LAFCO stakeholder engagement.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee must be a CALAFCO Associate Member in good standing.
- Nominee shall have been an Associate Member for the full year in which the nomination is being made, and for at least one year prior.
- The nominee may be an individual within an Associate Member firm or agency.
- Nominee shall demonstrate that through their work, the role and mission of LAFCO have been upheld and furthered.
- Nominee must have demonstrated cooperative and collaborative approaches to situations affecting LAFCOs state wide.
- Proven commitment to the Association's membership through volunteering time and resources during the year in which the nomination is made.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees meeting the nominating criteria.
- The level of volunteering time and resources to the Association shall be a consideration.

OUTSTANDING COMMISSIONER

AWARD SUMMARY:

Presented to an individual Commissioner for extraordinary service to their Commission. Extraordinary service is considered actions above and beyond those required to fulfill statutory responsibilities as a Commissioner, including consistently demonstrating independent judgment on behalf of the entire county, developing innovative and collaborative solutions to local issues, and leading the commission and community by example.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee must be a Commissioner of a LAFCO in good standing with the Association.
- Nominee shall be a Commissioner for the full year in which the nomination is being made.
- Proven demonstration of consistently exercising independent judgment for the greater good of the County is required.
- Proven leadership through collaborative, innovative, and creative solutions to local issues is required.
- Proven effective results and outcomes shall be demonstrated in the nomination.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees meeting the nominating criteria. Representation type and LAFCO size shall not be a consideration.
- The overall impact of the Commissioner's leadership shall be considered.
- Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award and meet all required criteria.

OUTSTANDING LAFCO PROFESSIONAL

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes an Executive Officer, Staff Analyst, Clerk, Legal Counsel, or any other LAFCO staff person for exemplary service during the past year. Exemplary service is considered actions that clearly go above and beyond what is asked, expected, or required in the charge of their LAFCO responsibilities.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee must be a staff person of a LAFCO in good standing with the Association.
- Nominee shall be a staff person for the full year in which the nomination is being made.
- Nominee can be either an employee of the LAFCO or a contractor providing employee-type services.
- Efforts must be demonstrated showing the individual has consistently gone above and beyond their role, with proven results that otherwise would not have occurred.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Equal consideration shall be given to all nominees. Position within a LAFCO and the size or geographic area of the LAFCO shall not be considerations.
- The overall impact of the LAFCO professional on their LAFCO and the greater community shall be considered.
- Preference may be given to individuals who have not previously received this award.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes any individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the statewide LAFCO community in terms of longevity of service, exemplary advocacy of LAFCO-related legislation, proven leadership, and demonstrated support in developing and implementing innovative and creative ways to support the goals of LAFCOs throughout California. The nominee should have a substantial and sustained record of involvement with the LAFCO community

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nomination must be received from a member of LAFCO or an Associate Member in good standing.
- The nominee should have a long record of involvement with the LAFCO community.
- During that time, the nominee shall have a proven positive impact and effect on the support and evolution of LAFCOs statewide.
- Includes advocacy through legislation, developing creative and innovative solutions serving beyond their LAFCO, collaborative stakeholder approaches, and support for fellow members of the LAFCO community.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Preference may be given to nominees who have also proven experience volunteering for CALAFCO through regional officer roles, committees, or the CALAFCO Board.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

AWARD SUMMARY:

Presented to a member of the California State Senate or Assembly in recognition of leadership and valued contributions in support of LAFCO goals that have a statewide effect. The recipient shall have demonstrated clear support and effort to further the cause and ability of LAFCOs to fulfill their statutory mission and selected by the CALAFCO Board by a super majority.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee shall be a California State legislator during the full year in which the nomination is made.
- Nominee must have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the Legislature on behalf of LAFCOs statewide, with efforts resulting in a positive impact for all LAFCOs.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- The Achievement Awards Committee shall forward all nominations to the Board for consideration.
- Selection requires a supermajority approval of the Board present at the time of the vote.

MIKE GOTCH EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

AWARD SUMMARY:

Awarded to an individual, group, or agency for actions that rise above expected or common functions; reduce or eliminate common institutional roadblocks; and result in a truly extraordinary public service outcome. Individuals, a LAFCO, or collaborative efforts among multiple LAFCOs or a LAFCO with other entities are eligible. This award has two distinct categories:

1. Protection of agricultural and open space lands and prevention of sprawl
2. Innovation, collaboration, outreach, and effective support of the evolution and viability of local agencies and promotion of efficient and effective delivery of municipal services

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Clear demonstration that the actions rise above expected or common functions.
- The actions reduced or eliminated common institutional roadblocks.
- The actions clearly prove a truly extraordinary public service outcome that is systemic and sustainable.
- Identified unique circumstances and factors leading to the solution or project.
- The innovative steps taken to solve the problem or take action.
- Clear description of the results and outcomes, including short- and long-term effects.

- How this work can be promoted as a LAFCO best practice.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Equal consideration shall be given to each nominee within each category. LAFCO size or geographic area shall not be a consideration.
- The overall impact of the actions and outcomes on the greater community shall be considered.

NEW CATEGORIES 2026

EMERGING LEADER – COMMISSIONER

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes a LAFCO Commissioner who, early in their service, has demonstrated strong engagement, sound judgment, and a clear commitment to the work of the Commission. This award acknowledges the value of fresh perspectives and early leadership in shaping effective governance.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Must be a Commissioner of a LAFCO in good standing with the Association.
- Must have served generally no more than five (5) years as a LAFCO Commissioner.
- Demonstrates active, engaged participation in Commission work during the qualifying period.
- Shows initiative and sound judgment in Commission proceedings.
- Demonstrates early leadership through meaningful contributions to Commission outcomes.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Level of engagement and initiative demonstrated during the qualifying period.
- Quality and impact of contributions to Commission work.
- Potential for continued leadership and growth within the LAFCO community.

EMERGING LEADER – STAFF

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes a LAFCO staff member who has demonstrated initiative, reliability, and meaningful contributions early in their career. This award celebrates the next generation of LAFCO professionals who are building the foundation for sustained excellence in local agency governance.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Must be LAFCO staff (employee or contractor providing employee-type services) of a LAFCO in good standing.
- Must have served generally no more than five (5) years in a LAFCO staff capacity.
- Demonstrates initiative and reliability in their work during the qualifying period.

- Contributes meaningfully to LAFCO projects or operations beyond what is minimally expected.
- Shows willingness to take on additional responsibilities and learn.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Level of initiative and professionalism demonstrated.
- Impact of contributions relative to experience and role.
- Potential for continued growth and contribution to the LAFCO profession.

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes a LAFCO-led or LAFCO-supported project or initiative that demonstrates strong execution, clear purpose, and measurable results. This award highlights the importance of project-based work in delivering on LAFCO's statutory mission.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- May be submitted by a single LAFCO or as a collaborative effort among multiple entities.
- Must have been completed or reached a significant milestone during the qualifying period.
- Clearly defines the issue or need addressed by the project.
- Describes the approach, steps taken, and resources involved.
- Demonstrates measurable and verifiable results.
- Advances LAFCO responsibilities and objectives in a meaningful way.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Effectiveness and quality of execution.
- Significance and sustainability of outcomes.
- Value as a model or best practice for other LAFCOs.
- Overall impact on the community or communities served.

GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY, OR PUBLIC PARTNER AWARD

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes a public agency, community association, stakeholder group, nonprofit, or other entity that has worked effectively with a LAFCO and contributed to a successful outcome. This award acknowledges that strong LAFCO work often depends on genuine partnerships beyond the Commission itself.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- Nominee must not be a LAFCO.

- Must have worked collaboratively with a LAFCO during the qualifying period.
- Demonstrates a constructive, solution-oriented approach to the partnership.
- Made a clear and demonstrable contribution to a LAFCO process or outcome.
- Demonstrates clear and tangible results from the partnership or engagement.
- May include cities, counties, special districts, associations, chambers of commerce, nonprofits, or other stakeholder groups.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Strength, quality, and depth of the partnership or engagement.
- Impact on governance, service delivery, or community outcomes.
- Value as a model for collaborative LAFCO engagement.

EQUITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

AWARD SUMMARY:

Recognizes efforts that improve access to services, address identified service gaps, or advance equitable outcomes through LAFCO-related work. This award reflects CALAFCO's commitment to ensuring that LAFCO's mission serves all communities, particularly those that have historically faced barriers to adequate services.

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

- May be a LAFCO, individual, collaborative effort, or other entity as appropriate.
- The work must have occurred during the qualifying period.
- Clearly identifies a service need, gap, or equity concern.
- Describes the specific actions taken to address the identified need.
- Demonstrates measurable or clearly defined outcomes.
- Aligns with LAFCO responsibilities and statutory mission.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Must meet all nomination criteria for consideration.
- Level and breadth of community impact.
- Effectiveness and appropriateness of the approach taken.
- Sustainability and durability of results.
- Clarity and verifiability of outcomes.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD (DISCRETIONARY)

AWARD SUMMARY:

The President's Award is a discretionary award that allows CALAFCO to recognize an exceptional effort, contribution, achievement, or individual who does not fit neatly within the existing award categories. This award exists to ensure that truly remarkable accomplishments are not overlooked simply because they fall outside predefined boundaries. The award is discretionary and is not expected to be presented annually. Its use should reflect a genuine exception rather than routine recognition.

CRITERIA:

- May be awarded to an individual, organization, collaborative effort, or other nominee determined appropriate by the Board Chair.
- The contribution, achievement, or effort must be clearly exceptional in nature.
- The nominee should represent circumstances, accomplishments, or contributions that are not adequately recognized through an existing CALAFCO award category.
- Any Board member may submit a nomination to the Board Chair for consideration.

SELECTION:

- The Board Chair, in consultation with the Executive Director, determines whether to advance a nomination to the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee shall ratify the recipient by a supermajority vote.
- The recommendation presented to the Executive Committee shall include a clear explanation of why the nominee does not fit within an existing award category and why the recognition merits special consideration.

Note on the President's Award

Because this award is discretionary, a standard nomination form is not required. However, any nomination or recommendation for this award should include a written explanation of the exceptional contribution and a clear statement of why it falls outside existing categories.

QUALIFYING PERIOD

Except for the Lifetime Achievement Award, all nominated projects or acts of service must have occurred or been completed between August 16, 2025, and August 15, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2026 Achievement Awards Nomination Form
- B. Listing of Prior Achievement Award Recipients

2026 CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Nomination Form

DEADLINE: Friday, August 28, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Qualifying Period: August 16, 2025 through August 15, 2026

Submit all materials as a single PDF to: mmcintyre@calafco.org

Step 1: Select Award Category

Select the award category for this nomination (one category per form):

EXISTING CATEGORIES:

- ☐ Outstanding CALAFCO Volunteer
- ☐ Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member
- ☐ Outstanding Commissioner
- ☐ Outstanding LAFCO Professional
- ☐ Lifetime Achievement Award
- ☐ Legislator of the Year
- ☐ Mike Gotch Excellence in Public Service Award – Agricultural / Open Space Protection
- ☐ Mike Gotch Excellence in Public Service Award – Innovation, Collaboration & Outreach

NEW CATEGORIES 2026:

- ☐ Emerging Leader – Commissioner ► NEW
- ☐ Emerging Leader – Staff ► NEW
- ☐ Project or Initiative of the Year ► NEW
- ☐ Government, Community, or Public Partner Award ► NEW
- ☐ Equity and Community Impact Award ► NEW
- ☐ President's Award (Discretionary) – Board recommendation/super majority vote required ► NEW

With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award, all nominated projects or acts of service must have occurred or been completed between August 16, 2025, and August 15, 2026. The Awards Committee may, at its discretion, reassign a nomination to a more appropriate category if warranted.

Step 2: Nominee Information

Name of Nominee:

Title (if applicable):

Organization / LAFCO:

Mailing Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone:

Email:

Step 3: Nominator Information

Name of Nominator:

Title / Organization:

Phone:

Email:

Step 4: Executive Summary (Required – 250 words maximum)

Provide a concise overview of the nomination. This summary should capture the most important reasons this nominee deserves recognition.

Step 5: Nomination Summary (Required – 1,000 words or 2 pages maximum)

Provide a full description of the nominee's contributions. Address each of the following elements:

- The issue, need, or context that prompted or shaped the nominee's contributions
- The specific actions taken
- Results or outcomes achieved
- Overall impact on the community, agency, or LAFCO mission
- How this nomination aligns with the specific award criteria

(Attach additional pages as needed, up to the two-page maximum, clearly labeled with the nominee's name and award category)

Step 6: Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Page Limits for Supporting Materials:

- Total supporting documentation (including letters): 3 pages maximum
- Optional letters of support or endorsement: maximum 2 letters, 1 page each
- Letters count toward the 3-page limit and must be submitted at time of initial submittal
- **Nominations exceeding these limits will not be considered**

Description of supporting documentation included with this nomination:

Step 7: CERTIFICATION AND SUBMITTAL

Certification:

By submitting this nomination, I confirm that:

- The information provided in this nomination is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- All required materials are included and meet the specified format and page limit requirements.
- This nomination is submitted as a complete, single PDF package.
- I understand that incomplete or late nominations will not be considered.

Nominator Signature:

Printed Name:

Title / Organization:

Date Submitted:

Submittal Instructions:

- Submit one complete nomination packet per nominee.
- Combine all materials (form, executive summary, nomination summary, supporting documents) into a single PDF.
- Nominations must be received by **Friday, August 28, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.** No late nominations accepted.
- Submit to: Michelle McIntyre, CALAFCO Executive Director | mmcintyre@calafco.org
(916) 442-6536

Selection Process:

Following the nomination deadline, all eligible nominations will be reviewed by the CALAFCO Achievement Awards Committee in accordance with the published award criteria and Association policies. The Committee may, at its discretion, reassign a nomination to a more appropriate award category, recognize more than one recipient in a category, or determine that no award will be presented in a category. To preserve the tradition of the CALAFCO Achievement Awards, award recipients are generally not notified in advance and are announced during the Achievement Awards presentation at the CALAFCO Annual Conference.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize the outstanding individuals, projects, and organizations that strengthen California's LAFCO community. Your nominations help CALAFCO celebrate excellence, innovation, leadership, and service throughout the state.



PREVIOUS CALAFCO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

2025

Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Kai Luoma, Ventura LAFCO
Associate Member of the Year	Best Best & Krieger LLP
Outstanding LAFCO Commissioner	Anthony Tyrrell, Calaveras LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Volunteer	José C. Henríquez, Sacramento LAFCO
Mike Gotch Award - <i>Innovation, Collaboration, Outreach, and Effective Support of Local Agency Evolution</i>	Placer LAFCO
Lifetime Achievement Award	SR Jones, Nevada LAFCO

2024

Legislator of the Year Award:	Senator Dave Cortese
Lifetime Achievement Award:	Stephen Lucas, Butte LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner:	Bill Connelly, Butte LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	J.D. Hightower, San Joaquin LAFCO
Mike Gotch Award - Agriculture Innovation	Monterey LAFCO Two-Way Tie: Santa Cruz LAFCO Riverside LAFCO & Imperial LAFCO

2023

Lifetime Achievement Award:	Dawn Mittleman Longoria, Napa LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Richard Bettencourt, San Benito LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Two-Way Tie: José C. Henríquez, Sacramento LAFCO Andrea Ozdy, Ventura LAFCO
Outstanding Associate Member	Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley
Outstanding Volunteer	Anita Paque, Calaveras LAFCO
Mike Gotch Award - Agriculture Innovation	Napa LAFCO Tom Cooley, Plumas LAFCO

2022

Outstanding Commissioner	Don Saylor, Yolo LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Carolyn Emery, Orange LAFCO
Mike Gotch Award - Innovation, Collaboration, And Outreach	Two-Way Tie: Cristine Crawford, Yolo LAFCO, and Erica Sanchez, El Dorado LAFCO & Amanda Ross, South Fork Consulting, LLC

2020 – 2021 (2 year period due to the pandemic)

Outstanding Associate Member	Planwest Partners
Outstanding Commissioner	Olin Woods, Yolo LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Crystal Craig, Riverside LAFCO
Mike Gotch Protection of Ag and Open Space Lands & Prevention of Urban Sprawl	Napa LAFCO
Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	Yolo LAFCO
Lifetime Achievement Award	Jerry Glabach, Los Angeles LAFCO

2019

Distinguished Service Award	Charley Wilson, Orange LAFCO
Most Effective Commission	Contra Costa LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Jim DeMartini, Stanislaus LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	David Church, San Luis Obispo LAFCO
Project of the Year	Orange LAFCO, <i>for San Juan Capistrano Utilities MSR</i>
Government Leadership Award	CA State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles County and Los Angeles LAFCo, <i>for Sativa Water District</i> Butte LAFCO
Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	
Legislator of the Year	Assembly Member Mike Gipson
Lifetime Achievement Award	John Benoit, various LAFCOs, Jurg Heuberger, Imperial LAFCO

2018

Distinguished Service Award	John Withers, Orange LAFCO
Most Effective Commission	Santa Clara LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Margie Mohler, Napa LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	George Williamson, Del Norte LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Elizabeth Valdez, Riverside LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member	Best Best & Krieger
Project of the Year	Lake LAFCo, water services consolidation
Government Leadership Award	City of Porterville, County of Tulare, Dept. of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Self Help Enterprises, Community Water Center for East Porterville water supply project
Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	Mike Ott, San Diego LAFCO
Legislator of the Year	Assembly Member Anna Caballero
Lifetime Achievement Award	Pat McCormick, Santa Cruz LAFCO, George Spiliotis, Riverside LAFCO

2017

Most Effective Commission	Los Angeles LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Sblend Sblendorio, Alameda LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	John Marchand, Alameda LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Paul Novak, Los Angeles LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Richelle Beltran, Ventura LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Associate Member	Policy Consulting Associates
Project of the Year	County Services MSR, Butte LAFCO, and Santa Rosa Annexation, Sonoma LAFCO
Government Leadership Award	San Luis Obispo County Public Works Dept.
Lifetime Achievement Award	Kathy Rollings McDonald (San Bernardino)

2016

Distinguished Service Award	Peter Brundage, Sacramento LAFCO
Most Effective Commission	San Luis Obispo LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Member	John Leopold, Santa Cruz LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Don Tatzin, Contra Costa LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Steve Lucas, Butte LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Orange LAFCO
Project of the Year	Countywide Water Study, (Marin LAFCO)
Government Leadership Award	Southern Region of CALAFCO
Lifetime Achievement Award	Bob Braitman (retired Executive Officer)

2015

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in Local Government Leadership Award	Yuba County Water Agency
Distinguished Service Award	Mary Jane Griego, Yuba LAFCO
Most Effective Commission	Butte LAFCO
Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Marjorie Blom, formerly of Stanislaus LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Matthew Beekman, formerly of Stanislaus LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Sam Martinez, San Bernardino LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Terri Tuck, Yolo LAFCO
Project of the Year	Formation of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 38 (Ventura LAFCO) and 2015 San Diego County Health Care Services five-year sphere of influence and service review report (San Diego LAFCO)
Government Leadership Award	The Cities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and San Ramon, the Dublin San Ramon Services District and the Zone 7 Water Agency
CALAFCO Associate Member of the Year	Michael Colantuono of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley
Legislators of the Year Award	Assembly member Chad Mayes
Lifetime Achievement Award	Jim Chapman (Lassen LAFCO) and Chris Tooker (formerly of Sacramento LAFCO)

2014

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award
Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member
Outstanding Commissioner
Outstanding LAFCO Professional
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year

Government Leadership Award

Legislators of the Year Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

David Church, San Luis Obispo LAFCO

Kate McKenna, Monterey LAFCO

Santa Clara LAFCO

Stephen Lucas, Butte LAFCO

Paul Norsell, Nevada LAFCO

Kate McKenna, Monterey LAFCO

Paige Hensley, Yuba LAFCO

LAFCO Procedures Guide: 50th Year Special Edition,
San Diego LAFCO

Orange County Water District, City of Anaheim, Irvine Ranch
Water District, and Yorba Linda Water District

Assembly member Katcho Achadjian

Susan Wilson, Orange LAFCO

2013

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award
Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member
Outstanding Commissioner
Outstanding LAFCO Professional
LAFCO Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year
Government Leadership Award

Legislators of the Year Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Simón Salinas, Commissioner, Monterey LAFCO

Roseanne Chamberlain, Amador LAFCO

Stanislaus LAFCO

Harry Ehrlich, San Diego LAFCO

Jerry Gladbach, Los Angeles LAFCO

Lou Ann Texeira, Contra Costa

Kate Sibley, Contra Costa LAFCO

Plan for Agricultural Preservation, Stanislaus LAFCO

Orange County LAFCO Community Islands Taskforce,
Orange LAFCO

Senators Bill Emmerson and Richard Roth

H. Peter Faye, Yolo LAFCO; Henry Pellissier, Los Angeles
LAFCO; Carl Leverenz, Butte LAFCO; Susan Vicklund-Wilson,
Santa Clara LAFCO.

2012

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award
Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member

Outstanding Commissioner
LAFCO Outstanding LAFCO Professional
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year

Government Leadership Award

Lifetime Achievement Award

Bill Chiat, CALAFCO Executive Director

Marty McClelland, Commissioner, Humboldt LAFCO
Sonoma LAFCO

Stephen A. Souza, Commissioner, Yolo LAFCO and
CALAFCO Board of Directors

Sherwood Darington, Monterey

Carole Cooper, Sonoma LAFCO

Gwenna MacDonald, Lassen LAFCO

Countywide Service Review & SOI Update, Santa Clara
LAFCO

North Orange County Coalition of Cities, Orange LAFCO

P. Scott Browne, Legal Counsel LAFCOs

2011

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award
LAFCo Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member
Outstanding Commissioner
Outstanding LAFCO Professional
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year

Government Leadership Award

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director for Planning, Caltrans
Mike McKeever, Executive Director, SACOG
Carl Leverenz, Commissioner and Chair, Butte
San Bernardino LAFCO
Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, Napa LAFCO
Louis R. Calcagno, Monterey LAFCO
June Savala, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles LAFCO
Debbie Shubert, Ventura LAFCO
Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Definitions Revision
Bob Braitman, Scott Browne, Clark Alsop, Carole Cooper,
and George Spiliotis
Contra Costa Sanitary District
Elsinore Water District and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water
District

2010

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award

Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member
Outstanding Commissioner
Outstanding LAFCO Professional
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year

Government Leadership Award

Special Achievement

Helen Thompson, Commissioner, Yolo LAFCO

Kathleen Rollings-McDonald, Executive Officer, San
Bernardino LAFCO
Bob Braitman, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara LAFCO
Tulare LAFCO
Roger Anderson, Ph.D., CALAFCO Chair, Santa Cruz LAFCO
George Lange, Ventura LAFCO
Harry Ehrlich, Government Consultant, San Diego LAFCO
Candie Fleming, Fresno LAFCO

Butte LAFCO
Sewer Commission - Oroville Region Municipal Service
Review
Nipomo Community Services District and the County of San
Luis Obispo
Chris Tooker, Sacramento LAFCO and CALAFCO Board of
Directors

2009

Mike Gotch Courage & Innovation in
Local Government Leadership Award
Distinguished Service Award
Most Effective Commission
Outstanding CALAFCO Member

Outstanding Commissioner
Outstanding LAFCO Professional
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk
Project of the Year
Government Leadership Award

Legislator of the Year Award

Paul Hood, Executive Officer, San Luis Obispo LAFCO

William Zumwalt, Executive Officer, Kings LAFCO
Napa LAFCO
Susan Vicklund Wilson, CALAFCO Vice Chair
Jerry Gladbach, CALAFCO Treasurer
Larry M. Fortune, Fresno LAFCO
Pat McCormick, Santa Cruz LAFCO Executive Officer
Emmanuel Abello, Santa Clara LAFCO
Orange LAFCO Boundary Report
Cities of Amador City, Jackson, Lone, Plymouth & Sutter
Creek; Amador County; Amador Water Agency; Pine
Grove CSD – Countywide MSR Project
Assembly Member Jim Silva

2008

Distinguished Service Award	Peter M. Detwiler, Senate Local Government Committee Chief Consultant
Most Effective Commission	Yuba LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Dennis Hansberger, San Bernardino LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Michael Ott, San Diego LAFCO Executive Officer Martha Poyatos, San Mateo Executive Officer
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Wilda Turner, Los Angeles LAFCO
Project of the Year	Kings LAFCO City and Community District MSR and SOI Update
Government Leadership Award	San Bernardino Board of Supervisors
Legislator of the Year Award	Assembly Member Anna M. Caballero

2007

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Kathy Long, Board Chair, Ventura LAFCo
Distinguished Service Award	William D. Smith, San Diego Legal
Counsel Most Effective Commission	Santa Clara LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Gayle Uilkema, Contra Costa LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional	Joyce Crosthwaite, Orange LAFCO Executive Officer
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk	Debby Chamberlin, San Bernardino LAFCO
Project of the Year	San Bernardino LAFCo and City of Fontana Islands Annexation Program
Government Leadership Award	City of Fontana - Islands Annexation Program
Lifetime Achievement	John T. "Jack" Knox

2006

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Everett Millais, CALAFCO Executive Officer and Executive Officer of Ventura LAFCO
Distinguished Service Award	Clark Alsop, CALAFCO Legal Counsel
Most Effective Commission Award	Alameda LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner Award	Ted Grandsen, Ventura LAFCO Chris Tooker, Sacramento LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Larry Calemine, Los Angeles LAFCO Executive Officer
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk Award	Janice Bryson, San Diego LAFCO Marilyn Flemmer, Sacramento LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	Sacramento Municipal Utility District Sphere of Influence Amendment and Annexation; Sacramento LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Cities of Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia and Tulare LAFCO Island Annexation Program
Legislator of the Year Award	Senator Christine Kehoe

2005

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Peter Herzog, CALAFCO Board, Orange LAFCO
Distinguished Service Award	Elizabeth Castro Kemper, Yolo LAFCO
Most Effective Commission Award	Ventura LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner Award	Art Aseltine, Yuba LAFCO
	Henri Pellissier, Los Angeles LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Bruce Baracco, San Joaquin LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk Award	Danielle Ball, Orange LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	San Diego LAFCO
	MSR of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

2004

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Scott Harvey, CALAFCO Executive Director
Distinguished Service Award	Julie Howard, Shasta LAFCO
Most Effective Commission Award	San Diego LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner Award	Edith Johnsen, Monterey LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	David Kindig, Santa Cruz LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	San Luis Obispo LAFCO
	Nipomo CSD SOI Update, MSR, and EIR

2003

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Michael P. Ryan, CALAFCO Board Member
Distinguished Service Award	Henri F. Pellissier, Los Angeles LAFCO
Most Effective Commission Award	San Luis Obispo LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner Award	Bob Salazar, El Dorado LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Shirley Anderson, San Diego LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk Award	Lori Fleck, Siskiyou LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	Napa LAFCo
	Comprehensive Water Service Study
Special Achievement Award	James M. Roddy

2002

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Ken Lee, CALAFCO Legislative Committee Chair
Most Effective Commission Award	San Diego LAFCO Outstanding
Commissioner Award	Ed Snively, Imperial LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Paul Hood, San Luis Obispo LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk Award	Danielle Ball, Orange LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	San Luis Obispo LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Napa LAFCo, Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa Valley
	Vintners Association, Napa Valley Housing Authority, Napa
	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Napa County
	Counsel Office, and Assembly Member Patricia Wiggins

2001

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	SR Jones, CALAFCO Executive Officer
Distinguished Service Award	David Martin, Tax Area Services Section, State Board of Equalization
Outstanding Commissioner Award	H. Peter Faye, Yolo LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Ingrid Hansen, San Diego LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	Santa Barbara LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Livermore City Council, Pleasanton City Council
Legislator of the Year Award	Senator Jack O'Connell

2000

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Ron Wootton, CALAFCO Board Chair
Distinguished Service Award	Ben Williams, Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century
Most Effective Commission Award	Yolo LAFCO
Outstanding Commissioner	Rich Gordon, San Mateo LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award	Annamaria Perrella, Contra Costa LAFCO
Outstanding LAFCO Clerk Award	Susan Stahmann, El Dorado LAFCO
Project of the Year Award	San Diego LAFCO
Legislator of the Year Award	Robert Hertzberg, Assembly Member

1999

Distinguished Service Award	Marilyn Ann Flemmer-Rodgers, Sacramento LAFCO
Most Effective Commission Award	Orange LAFCO
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Most Creative Solution to a Multi-Jurisdictional Problem	San Diego LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Assembly Member John Longville
Legislator of the Year Award	Assembly Member Robert Hertzberg

1998

Outstanding CALAFCO Member	Dana Smith, Orange LAFCO
Distinguished Service Award	Marvin Panter, Fresno LAFCO
Most Effective Commission Award	San Diego LAFCO
Outstanding Executive Officer Award	George Spiliotis, Riverside LAFCO
Outstanding Staff Analysis	Joe Convery, San Diego LAFCO
	Joyce Crosthwaite, Orange LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	Santa Clara County Planning Department

1997

Most Effective Commission Award	Orange LAFCO
Outstanding Executive Officer Award	George Finney, Tulare LAFCO
Outstanding Staff Analysis	Annamaria Perrella, Contra Costa LAFCO
Outstanding Government Leadership Award	South County Issues Discussion Group
Most Creative Solution to a Multi-Jurisdictional Problem	Alameda LAFCO and Contra Costa LAFCO
Legislator of the Year Award	Assembly Member Tom Torlakson



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BOOK BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

IN THE NEWS

Newspaper Articles

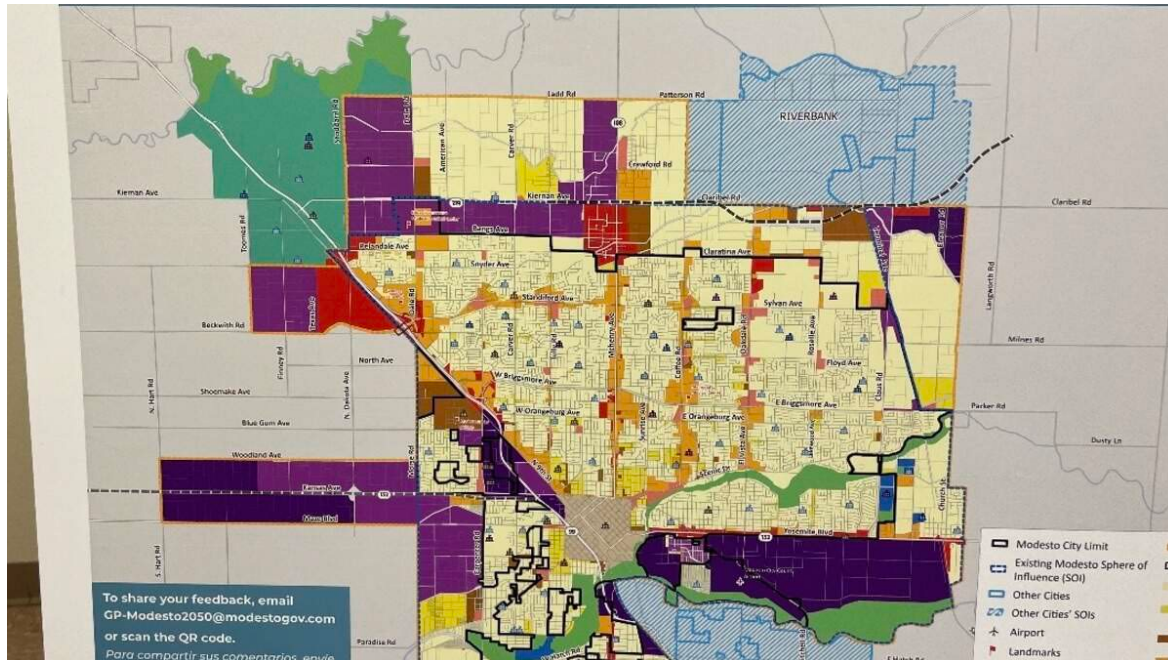
- Modesto Bee, June 29, 2026, “Modesto EIR will study impacts of adding 104,000 residents to city in next 24 years”
- Westside Connect, July 5, 2026, “WSCHD Board of Directors approves to levy charges and assessments for ambulances services.”
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- Westside Connect, August 7, 2026, “WSCHD Board of Directors approves staff change.”
- The Oakdale Leader, August 11, 2026, “Riverbank Planning Commission votes against River Walk.”
- Modesto Bee, August 20, 2026, “Riverbank schedules crucial City Council hearing on disputed River Walk development.”

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IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, June 29, 2026

Modesto EIR will study impacts of adding 104,000 residents to city in next 24 years

By Ken Carlson



The city of Modesto will conduct an environmental study on the impact of proposed development and population growth in the 2050 general plan update.

The City Council in April adopted a land use option to add thousands of acres to Modesto and possibly boost the city's population from 220,000 to 324,000 in the next 24 years.

The city could add 38,500 housing units and potentially 57,300 jobs if the development occurs.

According to a notice of preparation, the urban growth probably will impact one or more topic areas, such as aesthetics, agriculture, air quality, biological species, cultural resources, energy, noise and public services.

To comply with state law, the general plan sets the vision for the community and must include elements for land use, circulation, housing, open space, noise, safety, conversation and environmental justice. A housing element update is not part of this effort.

The general plan update will have policies serving to reduce some of the impacts through mitigation measures. The city can issue a "statement of overriding considerations" for unavoidable environmental impacts that remain significant. The overriding considerations may include economic and social benefits perceived to outweigh impacts on the environment.

The city will hold a July 15 public meeting online to receive comments on the scope of the EIR, or what issues the study should examine. The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m.

IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, June 29, 2026 - Continued

Public agencies, organizations and individuals may also submit written comments until July 27. Send comments with the subject line “Modesto 2050 General Plan EIR” to Principal Planner Michael Hren, city Planning Division, 1010 10th St., Suite 3100, Modesto, 95354, or GP-Modesto2050@modestogov.com.

IN THE NEWS – Westside Connect, July 5, 2026

WSCHD Board of Directors approves to levy charges and assessments for ambulances services

By Navtej Hundal

The West Side Community Healthcare District Board of Directors voted 5-0 to order the levy and collection of charges within the district for fiscal year 2026-27 last Monday. The decision of the special assessment was made for the purpose of providing ambulance services and is expected to bring \$382,963 in revenue, according to the agenda item's documents.

In November 1984, voters of the then-West Side Community District voted for Measure A, an initiative measure that gave the district the right to levy a special tax. In addition, the board also voted to levy the rate of tax of properties within WSCHD. \$40 per residential unit, \$95 per parcel on commercial property, \$250 per parcel on industrial property and \$40 per residential unit including 10 cents per acre, according to the agenda item's document.

Roberta Casteel, the district's administrative services manager, told the Westside Connect that the assessment will be reflected in the tax rolls for Stanislaus and Merced Counties for 2026-27. She added that there will not be changes to the properties' rates.

Monday's meeting did not have a decision on whether the district will pursue a tax measure for the November mid-term elections. The district has until July 6 to submit the paperwork for the measure to appear on the ballot for both counties in November.

In the previous two elections, 2022 and 2024, WSCHD campaigned for \$69 per parcel within the district. However, it has failed to receive the required two-thirds majority in both counties.

In the May 18 meeting, three property tax measures were proposed to the board, a flat parcel tax, a rate based on building square footage and reduced rates for developed and undeveloped parcels.

The flat-rate option charges \$69.36 per parcel regardless of property size, use or development status. The square-footage option will be vary for different properties with 5.1 cents per building square feet. A 1,500-square-foot single-family house will pay an annual tax of \$76.54 through this option. The third option could cost developed lots 9.6 cents per 1,000-square-foot and undeveloped lots 1 cent per 1,000-square-foot.

Ultimately, there was not an agreement on either option with board members and attendees critical of the proposals.

IN THE NEWS – Westside Connect, July 9, 2026

Bill to bring emergency care to Patterson clears key Senate committee

By Staff

SACRAMENTO — A plan to establish a temporary emergency stabilization unit in Patterson advanced Tuesday as the California Senate Health Committee approved Assembly Bill 2282 on a 6-1 vote, moving the proposal closer to becoming law.

The bill, authored by Assemblymember Juan Alanis, R-Modesto, would authorize a publicly owned and operated hospital, in partnership with the Del Puerto Health Care District, to open a Regional Emergency Stabilization and Care Unit while the community's first hospital is planned and built. Patterson, a city of more than 25,000 on the West Side of Stanislaus County, has no emergency department, leaving residents with a 25- to 30-minute ambulance ride to the nearest hospital.

"Today's vote is a win for the people of Patterson," Alanis said in a statement. "For too long, this community has lived more than 25 minutes from the nearest emergency room. AB 2282 gives Del Puerto Health Care District the tools to change that, while they finish building a permanent hospital."

Under the bill, the stabilization unit would operate 24 hours a day and meet full hospital emergency standards, including board-certified physicians, hospital-level staffing ratios, on-site lab and radiology services, and compliance with federal EMTALA requirements. The district's long-term plan calls for a permanent hospital expected to open between 2035 and 2040.

Dr. Karin Freese, CEO of the Del Puerto Health Care District, said the committee's vote marks a major step toward improving access for West Side residents. "We have been planning for this community's health care future for years, and today's vote brings us one step closer to improving local access to emergency stabilization services," Freese said.

Local support for the bill includes health care, business, labor and education groups. Patterson Fire Chief Jeff Hakola said the distance to emergency care remains a critical challenge for first responders. "When minutes matter, having qualified emergency care close to home is the difference between a good outcome and a tragic one," he said.

AB 2282 passed the Assembly earlier this year with unanimous support and now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee for review.

Why should you care about special districts?

By Timothy Benefield

Did you know that you interact with one or more special districts every day? When you get out of bed in the morning and turn on your light, the electricity is coming from a special district called the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) which was established in 1887. The Turlock Mosquito Abatement District (TMAD) was formed in 1946 and regularly performs surveillance programs and abatement actions to combat mosquito-borne diseases in Patterson. If you find it necessary to call 911 for an ambulance, it is almost certain that the ambulance that comes to your house will be part of the Del Puerto Health Care District (DPHCD). The cemetery that is located on Highway 33 about five miles north of the city of Patterson is operated by the Patterson Cemetery District. Special districts are all around us and provide important services on a regular basis. *“Special districts are the workhorses of government in California, providing vital services ranging from fire protection to water, cemeteries to sewers.”* (California Little Hoover Commission, 2017, Report #239, Special Districts: Improving Oversight & Accountability)

There are 3,300 special districts in California alone, and 74 in Stanislaus County (stanislauslafco.org). The California Special Districts Association says, *“Special districts originated with the common purpose to provide a service that other government entities, such as cities and counties, are not providing.”* In 1887, the California State Legislature passed the Wright Act which *“empowered local leaders to source and deliver water for agriculture in the historically arid region.”* As irrigation districts began forming across the state, the central valley grew to become one of the largest sources of food throughout America and the world. The success of these irrigation districts would cause communities throughout California to turn to special districts to address other growing needs such as healthcare, water and waste water, and fire protection.

Some special districts are funded by a small portion of property taxes. Others provide their services by charging customers. Still others may raise funds by voter approved bond initiatives. Depending on how they originate and the services they provide, they may operate on a combination of revenues.

Special districts may identify as “independent” or “dependent.” A dependent district will be heavily tied to some other governmental body. For example, the governing members of a dependent district may come from the city council members of the city that formed the district. However, an independent district will usually have a governing board that makes decisions independent of any other government agency. Their authority comes from local citizens who elect them to represent them in the specific function of that special district.

So, why should you care about special districts? First, special districts regularly conduct meetings and make decisions that can affect your daily life. You may want to be aware of which special districts you live in and what decisions they are making on your behalf. You can even attend their meetings and make your opinions known. Second, special districts are spending money that comes from you in one way or another. Whether they are charging you for a service, spending public bond money, or spending tax dollars, their daily business is funded by you. You may want to be informed about where that money originates and how it is spent. Third, special districts provide a wonderful way for local citizens to be involved. In many cases, you can even run for election or get yourself appointed to a board of directors that oversees a special district. You can make a difference in your community. Yes, residents should definitely care about special districts, pay attention to their actions, and get involved in their decisions.

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West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District recognizes academy graduates

By Timothy Benefield

West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District (West Stan Fire) is made up of volunteer firefighters who serve about 625 square miles of the area surrounding Patterson, Newman, Crows Landing, Westley, El Solyo, and Diablo Grande. They recently added nearly 20 new graduates to their ranks of volunteer firefighters. This puts their total number of volunteers almost at 100.

Ever since the inception of West Stan Fire in 1935, they have shared a fire chief with the Patterson Fire Department. This all changed early in 2026 when the Board of Directors for West Stan voted to create a paid fire chief position. Chief Jeff Frye became the first chief hired exclusively to oversee the operations of West Stan Fire. When he first assumed the role, he told the Irrigator that his first priority was to build up his volunteers. That priority was seen first hand at the recent Graduation and Promotion ceremony for the district when a class of seventeen new recruits graduated from the West Stan Fire Academy.

The West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District Basics Academy Graduates were Giovanni Barajas, Marysol Carillo-Hernandez, Jayson Casias, Izaya Fijman, Trezegett Granados, Edgar Gonzalez, Alexander Gutierrez, Dakota Lawson, Samuel Mena, Esmeralda Prado, Alberto Sarabia, Gabriel Saenz, Raymond Uribes, Victoria Valencia, John Vega, Alexander Villasenor, and Lucas Williams.

The ceremony was historic for West Stan Fire as the recruits came together with their families and friends in one grand ceremony at the Francis J. Bettencourt Performing Arts Center on the Patterson High School campus. According to West Stan PIO Cee Cee Howell, "For most of our remembered history, West Stan Fire has celebrated our promotion and awards recipients separately, by station. Each station has historically held their own annual awards dinner and utilized that time as fellowship to come together with their families and honor their commitments to this incredible District. This year, we have renewed our focus to celebrate our milestones as a whole agency." Howell noted that, by holding a single district-wide event, they were promoting unity and morale amongst all members while bridging gaps within the agency that allowed them to focus on one vision of the future.

Another historic first for the district was the appointment of Lieutenants. Howell said that this serves as a step into the future. She said, "As we become an agency more committed to future sustainability, we have created an opportunity for members to step into leadership roles that allow them more ownership to create the agency they want to serve in."

The West Stan officers who were promoted to Lieutenant included Jazmyn Anderson of Newman, Josh Campo of Westley-El Solyo, A'lan Garcia of Patterson, Tyler

Hervey of Patterson, Bryce Pierce of Patterson, Hector Ruiz of Patterson, and Tyler Wells of Westley-El Solyo.

Four Patterson residents also celebrated the end of their probationary period with West Stan Fire. This means that they were graduates of the 2025 Basics Academy, they served one year as a Probationary Firefighter, and they are now promoted to Firefighter. These new West Stan firefighters are Jose Alcala, Travis Brown, Miguel Perez-Zuniga, and Mario Plaza-Armenta.

The district also honored several volunteers who had served for a specified period of time. Volunteers recognized were Retired Crows Landing Chief Dan Robinson (45 years), current Board Member Jerry Goubert (45 years), Bob Vargas (40 years), Brians Lopes (40 years), Paul Lara (25 years), former Board

IN THE NEWS – Patterson Irrigator, July 9, 2026 - Continued

Member Jon Maring (22 years), Rob Brooks (20 years), Don Cabral Jr. (20 years), Ed Magee (20 years), Desiree Martinez (20 years), Anthony Cordova (15 years), current Board Member John Jasper (10 years), A'lan Garcia (10 years), and Henry Bettencourt (5 years) who is a Retired Assistant Fire Chief after 27 years of service (1974-2001) and a current Board Member since 2019.

The West Stan Fire District also honored Battalion Chief Paul Lara with one of its highest honors, the Spirit of Service (SOS) Award. The SOS Award was originally established in 2025 in recognition of Division Chief Jon Schali and his longstanding commitment to serving both the fire district and the community. Schali received the award in 2025 because throughout his career he exemplified what it means to put service before self. The award was created to honor that same spirit in others.

Chief Jeff Frye told the graduates, "Graduation is only the beginning of your journey. Now the real learning begins, and I want to make sure each of you knows that you are now a member of the West Stanislaus family. Spend time with your fellow firefighters, attend trainings and meetings, and become part of the culture that makes this organization special."

Chief Frye also told the entire West Stan family, "We don't expect perfection, we simply expect a willingness to show up, contribute, and learn. Every one of us, no matter how many years we've been in the fire service, once walked into a fire station for the very first time. We all had to step outside our comfort zone, ask questions, make mistakes, and learn from those around us. That's how great firefighters are made, and that's exactly what we're here to help you do. The only way to gain experience and build confidence is to be there when the calls come in."

West Stan PIO also told the Irrigator that the Patterson Joint Unified School District played a significant role in hosting the graduation. PJUSD Superintendent Dr. Reyes Gauna said, "Our district is always ready to support and celebrate our first responders. Partnering with the West Stanislaus Fire Department to host this graduation ceremony reflects our commitment to collaborating with the organizations that serve and protect our community. It was an honor to help recognize the dedication and achievement of these our firefighters."

IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, July 23, 2026

Riverbank accused of fast-tracking approvals for River Walk before November vote

By Ken Carlson

A Riverbank Planning Commission hearing is set for Aug. 4 to consider the controversial River Walk development plan and the project's final environmental impact study.

People opposing the 1,000-acre development charged the city is trying to rush approvals before a growth-control initiative is decided by Riverbank voters in November.

"What matters is: Are they going to respect a pending ballot measure from the citizens of Riverbank," Denny Jackman of Voters for Farmland said in an email Thursday. "If not, who are they representing?"

The Voters for Farmland group gathered signatures to qualify the Measure M ballot initiative. If approved, it will require majority voter approval for City Council decisions that would allow urban development on agricultural land west of the city limits.

The River Walk Specific Plan is a long-range plan for city expansion to the west, on the south side of the Stanislaus River, east of McHenry Avenue and north of Patterson Road.

Critics of the development plan, which could include 2,400 homes, warn it will destroy productive farmland and pave over a recharge area that replenishes groundwater. It also would increase traffic congestion and air pollution and strain the understaffed city government's ability to provide services, Jackman said.

City Manager Marisela Garcia said by email that the Aug. 4 hearing was set because the specific plan and environmental documents are now ready for Planning Commission consideration. The city Planning Department and consultants have worked on the proposed development since 2021, Garcia wrote.

"The documents are now considered complete," her email said.

The Planning Commission hearing was announced on the city's website. The notice said additional meeting information, the agenda and instructions for in-person and remote participation will be posted before the hearing.

Sometime after the Planning Commission hearing, a City Council decision is necessary for local approval of River Walk. A council hearing has not been scheduled.

Jackman noted the River Walk expansion is not within Riverbank's recognized sphere of influence, which establishes the ultimate growth boundary for the city.

The 1,000-acre addition to Riverbank also requires approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission, a regional planning body.

The 6 p.m. public hearing will be held in the Riverbank Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe St., which can accommodate larger attendance.

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IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, July 27, 2026

Modesto and Riverbank debate issues raised by 663-acre Tivoli North Development Plan

By Ken Carlson

Modesto has pressed forward with an environmental study on the Tivoli North Specific Plan, a sign that property owners want to develop their land.

The 663-acre plan creates a number of conflicts with Riverbank, Modesto's neighbor to the north that also has major developments in the works.

In a recent statement, the Riverbank City Council proposed a meeting with Modesto officials to discuss broader implications of Tivoli North. The development area could produce up to 7,000 residential dwellings, add 21,000 residents and include up to 1.25 million square feet of commercial or mixed-use space.

Most of the Tivoli North area lies directly south of Riverbank and the Crossroads East shopping center, with the lower portion, north of Claratina Avenue, stretching between Coffee Road and Roselle Avenue.

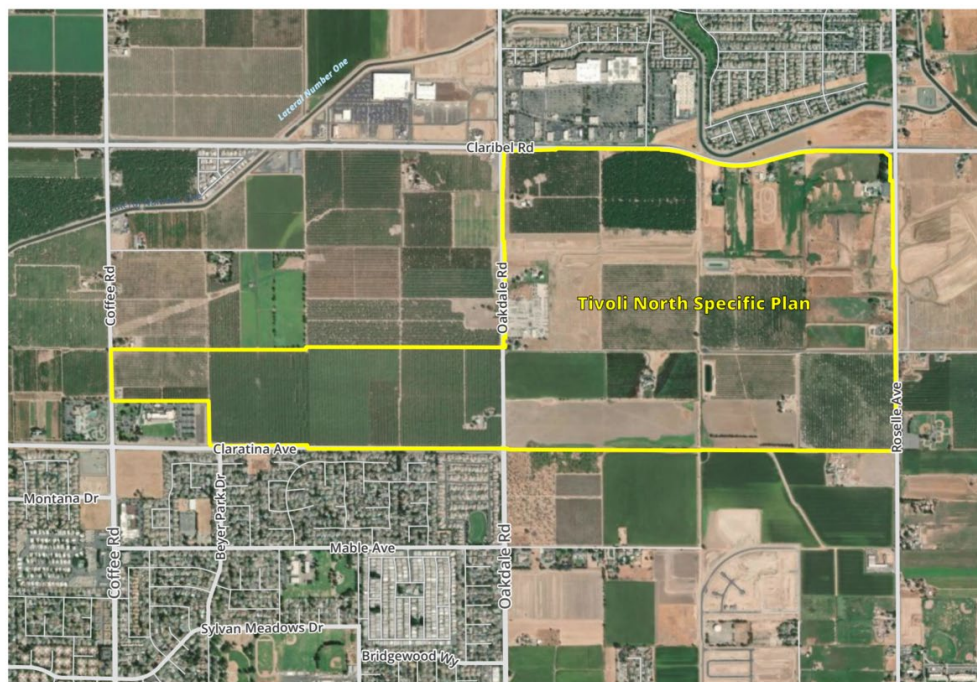


Figure 2.0-3.
Aerial View

"The proposed Tivoli North project is a significant development immediately adjacent to Riverbank's city limits and long-term planning area," the Riverbank council statement said. "Because of its size and location, it has the potential to impact transportation, infrastructure, schools, emergency services, agricultural land and future growth patterns throughout our region."

IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, July 27, 2026 - Continued

Modesto began the environmental process for Tivoli North with a notice of preparation and a 30-day comment period ending June 5.

Riverbank submitted a 10-page letter May 26 expressing a primary concern that Tivoli North's size, and its location adjacent to the city limits, inevitably will impact Riverbank's transportation network, growth boundaries, planning for infrastructure, public services and schools.

Riverbank said there shouldn't be an assumption the Tivoli North plan can rely on Riverbank's public facilities, roads, parks, emergency response and other resources unless the city agrees.

Riverbank also asked that the environmental study evaluate whether such a large annexation area is needed at this time. Both Modesto and Riverbank already have a significant number of development projects planned, approved or partially built.

Riverbank's letter pointed to the initial Tivoli plan (450 acres), as well as Modesto's 364-acre Fairview Village, 220-acre Founders Point East and 80-acre Woodglen Plan. Riverbank's 350-acre Crossroads West Specific Plan, home to a new Costco, also has 1,000 approved homes that are not built. In addition, 3,000 dwellings could be built in the River Walk Specific Plan, which is not approved yet.

The Local Agency Formation Commission said in a written comment to Modesto that state law and LAFCO policy favor development of vacant ground within a jurisdiction's boundaries before annexation of additional land.

North County expressway proposed as city boundary

Another issue for Riverbank is the North County Corridor expressway, which is under construction.

The expressway's first phase will divide the Tivoli North area into a northern and southern section, with limited north-south access for both. Not only should the environmental study analyze how motorists, pedestrians, bicycles and emergency vehicles will travel between the north and south sections, but Riverbank suggests that the North County Corridor serve as the boundary between the two cities.

The proposal would give Riverbank a claim to territory south of Claribel Road to the expressway.

In a statement, Modesto said Friday that the city appreciated the feedback from Riverbank. The city said the comments were submitted during the notice-of-preparation phase of the Tivoli North EIR and it's too early for formal replies responding to the issues.

The comments and requests will be carefully reviewed in the draft EIR analysis, the city said.

"Modesto highly values its relationship with Riverbank, and city staff look forward to maintaining open communication and meeting as technical work progresses," the statement said. "Staff has met, and will continue to meet with Riverbank to discuss any mutual projects."

According to Modesto's statement, the city is preparing the Tivoli North environmental study at the request of property owners. The statement said current housing proposals in northeast Modesto meet immediate needs, while long-range plans like Tivoli North ensure "the region is well-prepared to accommodate future housing demand in a coordinated, sustainable manner."

IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, July 27, 2026 - Continued

Community development directors are meeting

Riverbank City Manager Marisela Garcia said the city's community development director has been meeting with Modesto Community Development Director Jessica Hill to talk about projects that could affect both cities.

"I can't speak to the response Modesto had to the council's public statement, but the conversations have been informative," Garcia said by email.

LAFCO's written comment notes the Tivoli North project description identifies the city's need for regional commercial development and sales tax revenue. Modesto has lost sales tax revenue as northeast city residents drive to Riverbank's Crossroads shopping center to make purchases.

LAFCO said the Tivoli North plan talks about designating most of the annexation area for residential uses, and only 9.4 acres is strictly designated for commercial projects. The plan also includes mixed-use development, which can be residential or commercial use.

After the environmental study is completed, the city could entertain individual development projects and annexation requests.

According to the notice of preparation for Tivoli North, the area more realistically could produce 4,900 to 5,200 housing units and add around 15,500 residents. The city estimates 2,500 jobs could be created.

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IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, August 5, 2026

Riverbank commission opposes 2,400-home annexation to west. It's not the last word

By John Holland

The Riverbank Planning Commission voted 4-1 Tuesday night against a controversial annexation to the west.

It recommended that the City Council reject the River Walk project, which would stretch the city limit to McHenry Avenue.

Supporters said the development would help ease the housing shortage without burdening city services. Critics said that it would take out prime farmland and that Riverbank has enough vacant home sites within its current boundaries.

Commission Chairman Michael Halterman cast the only vote in favor. The project was opposed by members Natasha Basso, John Dinan, Joan Stewart and Taide Zamora.

None of the five explained his or her position on the dais. The vote came at the end of a nearly four-hour meeting that drew about 200 people.

The council could take up River Walk in about a month, said Joshua Mann, community development director for Riverbank. Approval would send it to the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission, which rules on annexations in a multi-month process.

River Walk was announced in June 2021 for land owned by several farmers. The opponents include other growers who want to keep the agricultural zoning. The critics also said the soil is especially suited to groundwater recharge.

The project is complicated by Measure M on the Nov. 3 city ballot. It would give voters veto power over future City Council approval of most housing west of the current Riverbank limit. This could include actions that carry out the River Walk annexation if it is approved.

IN THE NEWS – Westside Connect, August 7, 2026

WSCHD Board of Directors approves staff change

By Navtej Hundal

A staff change was made within the Westside Community Healthcare District as Michael Courtney was named its chief administrative officer following approval from the board of directors last Monday.

Courtney's promotion comes after he served an interim role in the district from October 2025. He previously held the role within WSCHD for four years, according to his LinkedIn profile. Prior to time at the district, Courtney worked at Children's National Hospital in Washington, Life Flight Network and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho, per his LinkedIn profile.

Now in the new role, Courtney said finding more financial stability and a full-time staff for the district's ambulance operation are some of his goals.

"Our primary goals are really to become more financially stable, which is looking for other revenue streams, whether the taxes or some other thing to make sure the ambulance can stay financially physically stable," he said. "We haven't been fully staffed for quite some time, so we're trying to get fully staffed."

Courtney will have to look for another source of revenue without a bond measure as the district previously missed the deadline for it to appear on the November ballot. Throughout this year, the board held multiple discussions on whether to pursue a parcel tax measure.

In a May 18 meeting, a \$69 per parcel tax bill was proposed, the exact same amount that WSCHD had campaigned for in the previous two elections. However, like the previous attempts, the district failed to garner support for the bill as it did not secure the required two-thirds votes through Stanislaus and Merced counties.

As for staffing, competitive pay remains a long-going issue. In October 2025, The district sent out a two-page letter to local agencies, including the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and Merced County Board of Supervisors, that mentioned WSCHD's need for financial assistance, its ambulance services, the difficulties of offering a competitive salary to maintain employees and the need to purchase equipment.

Riverbank Planning Commission votes against River Walk

By Kristi Mayfield

As a large crowd packed the Riverbank Community Center on the evening of Aug. 4, members of the city's Planning Commission along with representatives working on the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed River Walk [Project](#) met to share their findings with residents. The River Walk Project is a master planned development that would annex unincorporated farmland near the Stanislaus River to build more than 2,000 homes. With a community built around a series of parks and pathways that run alongside the river, including multiple homes built for adults that are 55 and older, with single family homes, townhomes and ADUs, the development would extend from the intersection of Patterson and Coffee Roads in Riverbank to the North where McHenry Avenue and River Road meet.

Multiple residents raised concerns with the project ranging from issues related to wastewater treatment, well water capacity, traffic congestion and loss of farmland. The Higby family, including Roger Higby, a farmer and former Riverbank Chief of Police, along with his wife, Cindy Higby and daughter, Danielle Higby-LeBeouf, all took turns at the podium, sharing their fears and concerns with the plan.

Danielle Higby-LeBeouf expressed her frustration regarding the project, "This project would take my family's farm which is a place that represents decades of hard work, history and commitment to this community."

Higby-LeBeouf went on to share that although some of the advocates for this project had previously stated that the farmland in question is no longer usable and therefore ideal for development, she and her family continue to work their land every day.

Her father, Roger Higby continued on, "We have grown peaches, walnuts and almonds for almost 50 years and we continue to grow almonds for Blue Diamond almonds. If this project moves forward, each acre that is paved over is an acre that can never be reclaimed."

Though there were many residents that spoke out against the River Walk Project, there were some individuals that spoke in favor of the project including former Riverbank Mayor Richard O' Brien and former State Assemblyman William (Bill) Berryhill. Both O'Brien and Berryhill highlighted some of the positive outcomes that would come with this project including additional housing for aging residents that would provide an inclusive community with Berryhill sharing that the walking pathways along the river would be one of the main attractions and would provide outlets for exercise and a continued connection to the beauty of the Stanislaus River and its natural habitat.

For almost four hours, folks expressed their concerns to the Planning Commission, with many residents asking the commission to weigh the pros and cons, including infrastructure, access to emergency services, water accessibility, wastewater containment, higher water and sewer rates and loss of farmland.

At the end of the lengthy meeting, the Riverbank Planning Commission voted against moving forward with the project by a 4-1 decision. That recommendation to deny the project moves on to the full Riverbank City Council for consideration. Voting against the project were commissioners Natasha Basso, John Dinan, Joan Stewart and Taide Zamora, with commission chair Michael Halterman voting to recommend approval of the River Walk annexation to the council.

Planners reminded the community members attending the meeting that ultimately the Riverbank City Council has the final word regarding whether or not the project will move forward.

The next city council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 6707 Third St., in Riverbank.

For more information about the River Walk Project, stop by the office at 6707 Third or visit: riverbank.org

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IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, August 20, 2026

Riverbank schedules crucial City Council hearing on disputed River Walk development

By Ken Carlson

The Riverbank City Council will consider the River Walk Specific Plan and environmental study on Sept. 22, in what could be a major land use decision.

The public hearing is set for 6 p.m. in the Riverbank Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe Ave., which can accommodate a larger audience. About 200 people attended a Planning Commission hearing Aug. 4 on the 1,000-acre development. Commissioners voted 4-1 to recommend denial of the project, without explaining their positions.

The specific plan proposes 2,400 homes west of the city, north of Patterson Road and east of McHenry Avenue.

Groups opposing the development qualified a measure for the Nov. 3 election that, if approved, would enable a public vote to veto most housing west of the city boundary. The opponents charge that River Walk would increase traffic congestion, contribute to air pollution and destroy productive farmland that assists with recharge of groundwater.

Opponents also maintain that land within the current city limits can be developed for housing. The Planning Commission decision earlier this month was only a recommendation.

Denny Jackman, president of Voters for Farmland, said by email Wednesday that Measure M, once approved, will apply to any and all development attempts west of the city.

Jackman has accused Riverbank officials of suddenly rushing the River Walk development through the approval process before residents can vote on Measure M.

"It is interesting to think that the Riverbank City Council would make an attempt to circumvent a citizens initiative before the public exercises rights given to them under California law," Jackman wrote.

Joshua Mann, community development director for Riverbank, echoed the city's position that the timing of the recent hearings on River Walk is coincidental. The city received the initial application in 2020 and the COVID pandemic slowed the review process, he said.

Mann said the draft environmental impact report had just been released when he began working for the city in 2024. It was time-consuming to address the nearly 100 comment letters on the EIR, he said.

Mann said it's hard to say whether Measure M would be applicable to River Walk if the project receives City Council approval before people vote on the measure. "There are a lot of unknowns," he said, adding it may be an issue for legal experts or the courts.

According to the wording, the measure would "require that a majority of city voters approve at an election any decision of the Riverbank City Council that would authorize or facilitate development of urban uses on agricultural or open space lands" west of the city limits.

Mann said the City Council, if it approves the development plan, would be responsible for authorizing the next step of taking River Walk to the Local Agency Formation Commission, a regional planning body that decides on annexations.

Jackman said anything from Riverbank advanced to LAFCo would not have to be heard by the commission before the Nov. 3 election. "If I were a LAFCo commissioner, I would consider that," Jackman said.

IN THE NEWS – Modesto Bee, August 20, 2026 - Continued

Project Engineer Dave Romano said at the Aug. 4 meeting the development site has been in Riverbank's long-term expansion plan for 20 years. He said the community has a need for new housing, and it needs to be planned in a sensible and thoughtful way.



STANISLAUS LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 24, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Zwahlen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. Vice Chair Zwahlen led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
- B. Introduction of Commissioners and Staff. Vice Chair Zwahlen led in the introduction of the Commissioners and Staff.

Commissioners Present: Sue Zwahlen, Vice Chair, City Member
Bill O'Brien, Public Member
Vito Chiesa, County Member
Amy Bublak, Chair, City Member
Jami Aggers, Alternate Public Member

Commissioners Absent: Terry Withrow, Chair, County Member
Charlie Goeken, Alternate City Member
Mani Grewal, Alternate County Member

Staff Present: Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer
Jennifer Vieira, Commission Clerk
Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer
Shaun Wahid, LAFCO Counsel

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Milt Trieweller spoke regarding the importance of farmland protection.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Specific Correspondence.
 - 1. Newspaper article from the Ceres Courier, on June 24, 2026, 'Small rural fire district merger with Stanislaus Consolidated lone option', regarding Agenda Item 6-A
- B. Informational Correspondence.
 - 1. Response Letter to the City of Modesto's Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – Tivoli North Specific Plan dated May 29, 2026.

2. CALAFCO Member Update, May 2026.

C. In the News

4. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS**

None.

5. **CONSENT ITEM**

A. **MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2026, LAFCO MEETING**
(Staff Recommendation: Accept the Minutes.)

Motion by Commissioner Bublak, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, and carried with a 4-0 vote to approve the consent items, by the following vote:

<i>Ayes:</i>	<i>Commissioners: Bublak, Chiesa, O'Brien and Zwahlen</i>
<i>Noes:</i>	<i>Commissioners: None</i>
<i>Ineligible:</i>	<i>Commissioners: Aggers</i>
<i>Absent:</i>	<i>Commissioners: Goeken, Grewal and Withrow</i>
<i>Abstention:</i>	<i>Commissioners: None</i>

6. **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. **LAFCO APPLICATION NO. 2026-04 – CERES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REORGANIZATION TO THE STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:** Request to annex the Ceres Fire Protection District territory, which is comprised of approximately 2,444 acres, and simultaneously dissolve the Ceres Fire Protection District. The reorganization will also include a Sphere of Influence amendment for the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District. The Ceres Fire Protection District area is located south of the City of Ceres between the Union Pacific Railroad and Faith Home Road. The proposal is considered exempt for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to §15320 and §15061(b)(3). Section 15320 categorically exempts changes of organization or reorganization of local governmental agencies where the proposal does not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised. Section 15061(b)(3) exempts the project though the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment; the activity is not subject to CEQA. (Staff Recommendation: Approve the proposal and adopt Resolution No. 2026-13.)

Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer, presented the item with a recommendation to approve the proposal.

Vice Chair Zwahlen opened the Public Hearing at 6:19 p.m.

Milt Trieweller, resident and Raj Singh, Chief of Keyes Fire Protection District spoke of their concerns.

Vice Chair Zwahlen closed the Public Hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Chiesa, seconded by Commissioner Zwahlen, and failed with a 2-2 vote to approve the proposal and adopt Resolution No. 2026-13, by the following vote:

*Ayes: Commissioners: Chiesa and Zwahlen
Noes: Commissioners: Bublak and O'Brien
Ineligible: Commissioners: Aggers
Absent: Commissioners: Goeken, Grewal and Withrow
Abstention: Commissioners: None*

Motion by Commissioner Chiesa, seconded by Commissioner Bublak, and carried with a 3-1 vote to direct the Executive Officer to give notice to the subject agencies that the Commission is considering making a change to include a contract with the City of Ceres for direct services and continue the item to August 26, 2026, by the following vote:

*Ayes: Commissioners: Bublak, Chiesa, and O'Brien
Noes: Commissioners: Zwahlen
Ineligible: Commissioners: Aggers
Absent: Commissioners: Goeken, Grewal and Withrow
Abstention: Commissioners: None*

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

9. ADDITIONAL MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Zwahlen stated that she attended the LAFCO 201.

10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Executive Officer informed the Commission of the following:

- Staff recommend canceling the July meeting. The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2026.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Vice Chair Zwahlen adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

DRAFT

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S AGENDA REPORT
AUGUST 26, 2026**

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: MSR No. 2026-02 & SOI No. 2026-06: Draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts

INTRODUCTION

This proposal was initiated by the Local Agency Formation Commission in response to State mandates, which require the Commission to conduct Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence updates for all cities and special districts at least once every five years, as needed. The current review covers six special districts that provide irrigation water to agricultural lands in the western portion of Stanislaus County. These include the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts. The previous update for these districts was adopted February 24, 2021.

Water districts are formed for purposes such as to: produce, store and distribute water for irrigation, domestic, industrial and municipal uses; drain and reclaim lands; collect, treat and dispose of sewage, waste and storm water; generate hydroelectric power; allocate water to crops and acreage; and protect groundwater from contamination.

The purposes of irrigation districts are to: furnish water for, and put water to any beneficial use; provide drainage; develop and distribute electric power; allocate water according to crops and acreage; sewage disposal (upon approval); and protect groundwater from contamination.

DISCUSSION

The Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update process provides an opportunity for each district to share accurate and current data, accomplishments and information regarding the services they provide. LAFCO Staff sent the previously approved Service Review and Sphere of Influence document to each of the districts for their comments, revisions and updated information. Once this data was collected, a revised Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update document was drafted.

The proposed Service Review and Sphere of Influence document is attached to this report as Exhibit 1. The relevant factors and determinations as put forth by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act are discussed for each District. No changes are being proposed for the districts' Spheres of Influence.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The California Environmental Quality Act requires that an environmental review be undertaken and completed for the Sphere of Influence study. The Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates qualify for a General Exemption from further CEQA review based upon CEQA Regulation §15061(b)(3), which states:

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be

seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

Since there are no land use changes or environmental impacts, as no suggested boundary changes are associated with this document, a Notice of Exemption is the appropriate environmental document.

ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

After consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider choosing one of the following options:

- Option 1:** APPROVE the Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts.
- Option 2:** DENY one or more of the updates.
- Option 3:** If the Commission needs more information, it should CONTINUE this matter to a future meeting (maximum 70 days).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Option 1. Based on the information presented, Staff recommends approval of Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission adopt Resolution No. 2026-14 which:

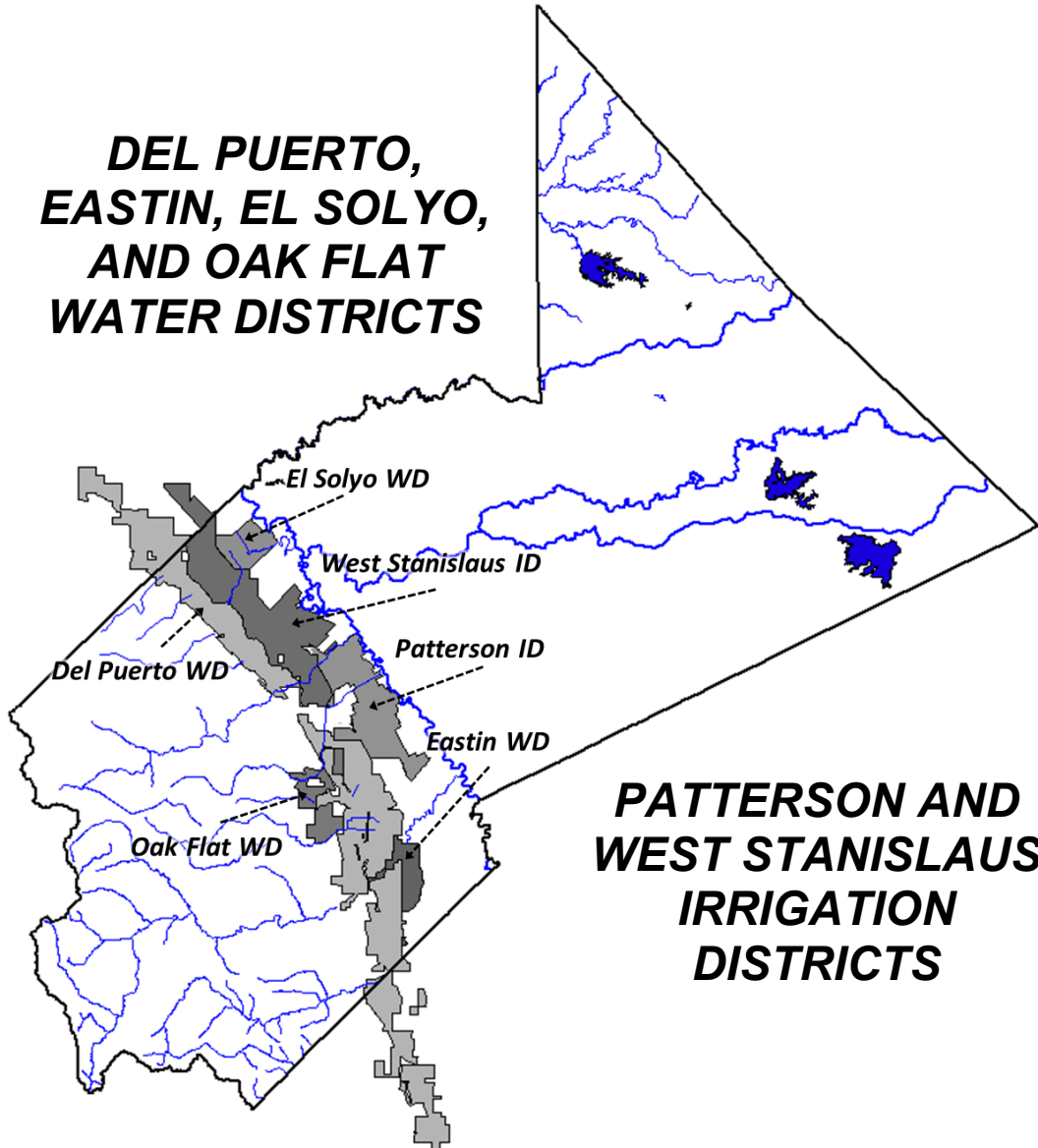
1. Determines that the Sphere of Influence Updates qualify for a General Exemption from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review based on CEQA Regulation §15061(b)(3);
2. Makes determinations as required by Government Code Section 56430; and,
3. Determines that the Spheres of Influence for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts should be affirmed as they currently exist.

Attachments: Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Updates for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts

Resolution No. 2026-14 – Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE FOR:**

**DEL PUERTO,
EASTIN, EL SOLYO,
AND OAK FLAT
WATER DISTRICTS**



**PATTERSON AND
WEST STANISLAUS
IRRIGATION
DISTRICTS**

Prepared By:

**Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission
1010 Tenth Street, Third Floor
Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: (209) 525-7660**

Adopted: _____

STANISLAUS

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Amy Bublak, City Member
Sue Zwahlen, City Member
Vito Chiesa, County Member
Terry Withrow, County Member
Bill O'Brien, Public Member
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Jami Aggers, Alternate Public Member

STAFF

Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer
Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer
Jennifer Vieira, Commission Clerk
Mobin Bhatti, Legal Counsel

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Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update For the Del Puerto, Eastin, El Solyo, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts

Introduction

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 Act (CKH Act) requires the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to update the spheres of influence (SOI) for all applicable jurisdictions in the County. A sphere of influence is defined by Government Code 56076 as "...a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission." The Act further requires that a municipal service review (MSR) be conducted prior to or, in conjunction with, the update of a sphere of influence (SOI).

Stanislaus LAFCO generally prepares municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates concurrently for efficient use of time and resources. The current review will cover six irrigation and water districts located on the west side of Stanislaus County:

Del Puerto Water District	Oak Flat Water District
Eastin Water District	Patterson Irrigation District
El Solyo Water District	West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Municipal Service Review Factors to be Addressed

The legislative authority for conducting a municipal service review is provided in Government Code Section 56430 of the CKH Act. The Act states that municipal service reviews must have written determinations that address the following factors. These factors were recently amended to include the consideration of disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence of an agency.

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area
2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence
3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities, Adequacy of Public Services, and Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Including Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence
4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services
5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities
6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies
7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

Sphere of Influence Update Process

A special district is a government agency that is required to have an adopted and updated sphere of influence. Section 56425(g) of the CKH Act calls for spheres of influence to be reviewed and updated every five years, as necessary. Stanislaus LAFCO processes municipal service reviews and sphere of influence updates concurrently to ensure efficient use of resources. For rural special districts, which do not have the typical municipal-level services to review, this document will be used to determine what type of services each district is expected to provide and the extent to which they are able to do so. For these special districts, the spheres will delineate the service capability and expansion capacity of the agency, if applicable.

The most recent update for the irrigation and water districts in this report was adopted in 2021. The current update serves to comply with Government Code Section 56425 and will reaffirm the SOIs for each district.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

In determining a sphere of influence (SOI) of each local agency, the Commission shall consider and prepare determinations with respect to each of the following factors, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
5. For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.

Background

Throughout the years, water and California have been linked. No resource is more vital to California than water. From the agricultural areas, urban centers, and industrial plants to open space and recreational areas, the distribution of water has been critical to all land uses.

In California, there are hundreds of special districts with a great diversity of purposes, governance structures, and financing mechanisms. Some districts are responsible for one type of specific duty, as in the case of the water and irrigation districts reviewed in this report, while other districts provide a wide range of public services.

Authority

This review will cover the following single-purpose water and irrigation districts, each of which are geographically located on the western portion of Stanislaus County: Eastin, El Solyo, Oak Flat and the Del Puerto Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts. The four water districts are organized under the California Water Code, Division 13, §34000-38501, while the two irrigation districts are organized under Division 11, §20500-29978 of the California Water Code.

The water districts are landowner-voter districts, as their board members are elected by landowners within the respective district's boundaries. The irrigation districts are registered voter districts with board members elected by the registered voters within the respective district's boundaries.

Purpose

Water districts are formed for purposes such as to: produce, store and distribute water for irrigation, domestic, industrial and municipal uses; drain and reclaim lands; collect, treat and dispose of sewage, waste and storm water; generate hydroelectric power; allocate water to crops and acreage; and protect groundwater from contamination.

The purposes of irrigation districts are to: furnish water for, and put water to, any beneficial use; provide drainage; develop and distribute electric power; allocate water according to crops and acreage; sewage disposal (upon approval); and protect groundwater from contamination.

Classification of Services

This service review includes a listing of services provided within each of the Districts boundaries. The water and irrigation districts are authorized to provide the functions or classes of services (e.g. irrigation water) as identified in this report. State Law requires that the Districts seek LAFCO approval in order to exercise any other latent powers not currently provided.

DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT

Formation

The Del Puerto Water District was originally formed on March 24, 1947 and included only about 3,500 acres. The District was reorganized on January 20, 1995 to include ten other local districts which held similar water service contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for their water supply. The reorganization provided an increased level of service to the properties within the new district boundaries and reduced the duplication of efforts by the participating districts.

Governance

A seven-member Board of Directors governs the District. Board Members are elected amongst landowners at large, by divisions located within District boundaries. Meetings are open to the public and held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m., at the District office, which is located at 17840 Ward Avenue, Patterson, California.

Mission Statement

The District has adopted the following mission statement: "The Del Puerto Water District is dedicated to providing its agricultural customers with an adequate, reliable and affordable water supply."

Location and Size

The District's boundary currently encompasses approximately 50,003 acres (43,675 irrigable), located on the western most edge of the San Joaquin River Basin, running parallel with Interstate 5 (I-5) and stretching approximately 50 miles in length between the City of Tracy to the north, and the Santa Nella/I-5 Interchange to the south. While the District's boundaries are within three counties (Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin), the majority of the territory is located in Stanislaus County. Therefore, Stanislaus LAFCO is considered the principal LAFCO for the processing of changes of organization involving the District.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries. No amendments to the District's boundaries or sphere of influence are being proposed with this Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update.

Personnel

There are seven full-time employees for the District.

Services

Under a contract with the United States Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the District provides agricultural water to landowners within its boundaries, and by agreement to one landowner whose lands have been detached from the District. Water is provided by way of the Delta-Mendota Canal, a feature of the Central Valley Project (CVP), and is delivered to customers canal-side through turnouts licensed to the District by the USBR. The District's

contract authorizes the delivery of up to 140,210 acre-feet of water annually. District lands have produced more than 30 different crops over the years, including almonds, tomatoes, apricots, dry beans, walnuts, alfalfa, corn, melons, citrus, cherries, broccoli, cauliflower and garlic.

The District actively engages in local, regional, and statewide efforts to secure additional water supplies or supply development programs as needed to help meet customer demand. These supplies, when available, are purchased by the District and marketed and delivered at rates intended to recoup District costs. As the cost of these supplies has risen, and their availability lessened, District landowners have relied on the fallowing of productive lands or use of groundwater where available.

Programs

The District has historically administered several programs to assist its customers in meeting agricultural conservation and drainage requirements, including the State Revolving Fund Loan Program and the Agricultural Drainage Loan Program, which provide low-interest loans for high-efficiency irrigation system improvements which also serve to reduce irrigation drainage. The District will continue to administer programs beneficial to District customers as opportunities arise.

Support Agencies

The District maintains positive and collaborative relationships with other agencies, authorities, and associations, such as neighboring irrigation districts, including Patterson, West Stanislaus, and Central California Irrigation Districts, the Oak Flat Water District, as well as the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs JPA, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority, the Central Valley Project Water Association, the Association of California Water Agencies, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

The District is part of the DM-II Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA represents Del Puerto and Oak Flat Water Districts in portions of Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties which are outside of other GSA boundaries but within county limits in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The GSA along with 23 other GSAs have adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014.

Funding Sources

The District recovers its administrative expenses through an annual acreage assessment on irrigable lands within the District, designated as a Water Availability Charge. The volumetric Water Rate charged to users is effectively a pass-through charge intended to recoup the various rates and charges the District must pay for each unit of water it delivers. The District does not collect any share of County property tax revenues.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - Del Puerto Water District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Del Puerto Water District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural, lying on the western portion of Stanislaus County and portions of San Joaquin and Merced counties. The area is designated as Agriculture on the respective county general plans and, while certain areas within the District are being considered for their development potential, the District does not expect any significant population growth during the five-year timeframe of the current service review. The District currently serves more than 200 small family farm landowners.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

There are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the boundaries or Sphere of Influence of the Del Puerto Water District. The community of Crows Landing is contiguous to the easterly boundary of the District.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Irrigation water is provided from the Delta-Mendota Canal and delivered canal-side from turnouts. Due to recent drought conditions and regulatory restrictions on pumping of water supplies through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the District no longer anticipates receipt of its full contract supply. The District received a 0% allocation of its Central Valley Project (CVP) Contract in four of the last 12 years. In recognition of long-term water supply shortages associated with the District's contracted water supplies, the District has agreed to participate in the financing of certain Statewide and regional infrastructure improvement projects including the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie project, the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project, most notably, the beneficial use of recycled water from the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program, which was put fully into service as of early 2020. The District has also initiated discussions with neighboring agencies aimed at identifying and developing integrated resource management opportunities that may exist. Some of these opportunities may require new or improved water-related infrastructure including local and regional water conveyance and delivery systems.

The District has completed an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has completed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) west of Patterson. The proposed DPCR involves the construction and operation of a reservoir on Del Puerto Creek to provide approximately 82,000 acre-feet (AF) of new off-stream storage to the Central Valley Project (CVP). Project components are the reservoir, conveyance facilities to transport water to/from the Delta-Mendota Canal, electrical facilities, relocation of Del Puerto Canyon Road, and relocation of existing and proposed utilities within the project area.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

The District is in sound financial shape and has the necessary resources to fund its current level of service for its customers under normal budgetary conditions. Rates and fees for services are developed during the District's annual budget review and adoption process and are designed to be sufficient to recover all costs. Ongoing drought and regulatory restrictions on pumping have caused water costs to increase dramatically for the District's landowners in recent years.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The District currently shares a reservoir for drainage water recapture with the Patterson Irrigation District and Central California Irrigation District (CCID), 80 acres of recharge ponds, a pump station, and pipelines for the recharge and recovery of storm water and surface supplies with CCID, and a pipeline and pump station to convey tertiary treated recycled water from the Cities of Modesto, Turlock, and Ceres. The District is also pursuing an 82,000 acre-foot (AF) off-stream surface water storage reservoir in partnership with the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

The District is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors. Board members are elected by landowners at large, through divisions within District boundaries. The Board is subject to the provision of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. Additionally, the District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, the Political Reform Act, requiring the maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members, and SB 827 requiring biennial fiscal and financial training. Though dependent upon the economic viability of its agricultural customer base, it is reasonable to conclude that the District can adequately serve the territory under its jurisdiction.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

On December 30, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board approved a long-term consolidation of State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) places of use. While this consolidation could be seen as facilitating the transfer of available water supplies between the Del Puerto Water District (a CVP contractor) and the Oak Flat Water District (a SWP contractor), other constraints continue to limit the benefits that might accrue to the District from the increased efficiency and flexibility in the source of water supplies and/or points of delivery.

Sphere of Influence Determinations – Del Puerto Water District

The following determinations for the Del Puerto Water District's Sphere of Influence update and are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy.

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The Del Puerto Water District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 50,003 acres. Territory within and outside the District boundaries consists of agricultural and rural residential land uses. These uses are not expected to change. In addition, the District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by the counties of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The need for irrigation water to agricultural lands within the District is not expected to change; however, with 80% of the District planted in high-value, permanent crops that have a fixed water demand, water users will not be able to achieve significant reductions below that fixed demand without substantial land fallowing.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District recently prepared a Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (PRDEIR) and the USBR completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir project in order to provide additional water storage for the District and CVP. The District completed construction of 80 acres of recharge ponds for the recharge and recovery of storm water from Orestimba Creek and surface supplies in excess of District need. The District has the necessary infrastructure and contract for the provision of agricultural water service to areas within its existing Sphere of Influence.

4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

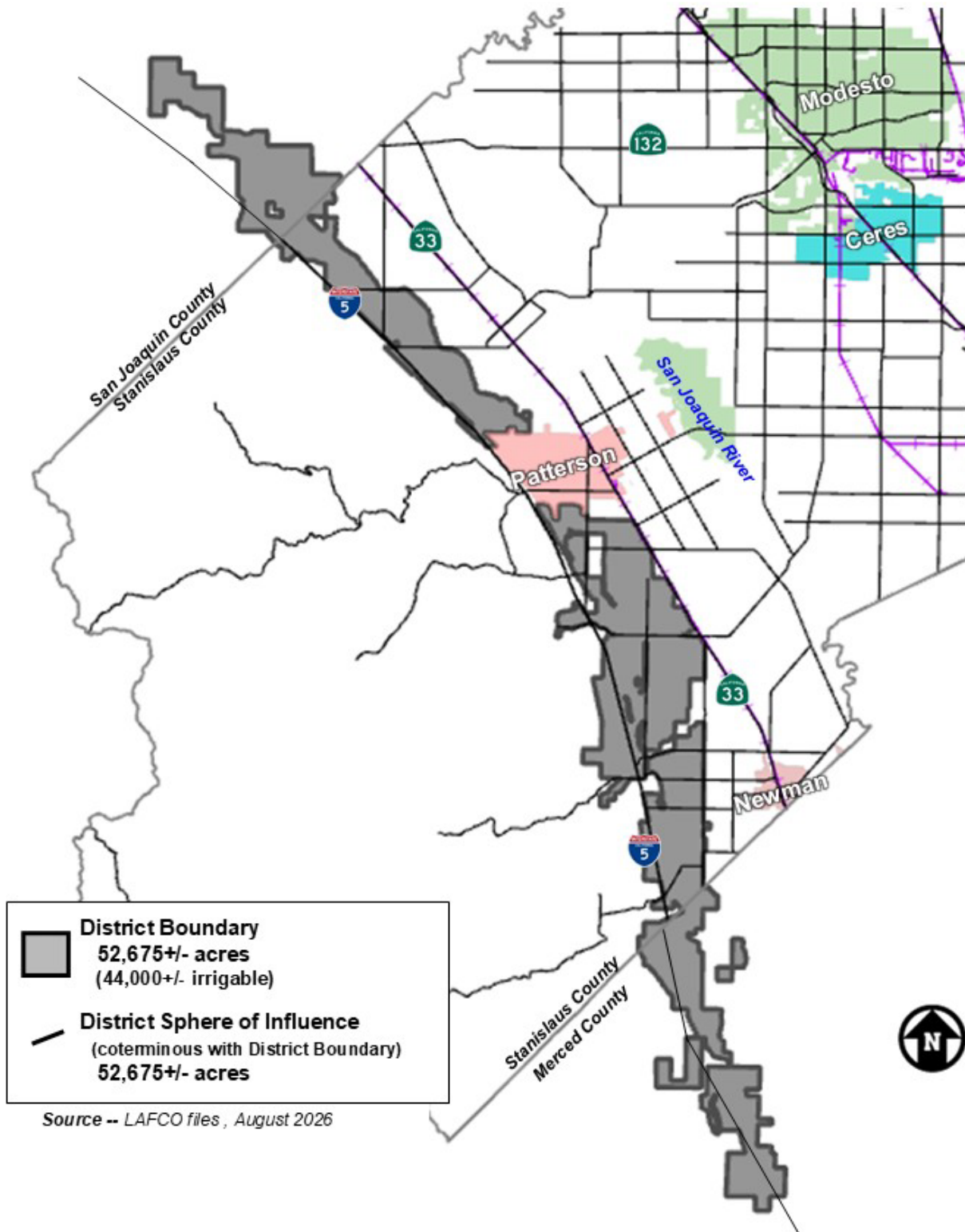
The Crows Landing Industrial Business Park is within the District's boundary. Upon submittal of specific development plans, these lands will be requested to detach from the District and the water supply previously allocated to serve these lands will revert to the District for redistribution to remaining District lands.

Additionally, there are several solar projects planned or currently implemented within the District boundary. Stanislaus County permits these projects while requiring that the land to be returned to agricultural production after completion of the project. The District intends to keep these lands within the District boundary subject to District assessments and charges as long as the requirement to return to agriculture remains.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT Boundary & Sphere of Influence



DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	Along the westernmost edge of the San Joaquin River Basin, parallel to Interstate 5 (I-5) and stretching approximately 50 miles in length between the City of Tracy to the north, and the Santa Nella (I-5) Interchange to the South.
Service Area:	Approximately 50,000 acres (43,675 irrigable)
Population*:	Approximately 650
Land Use:	Agricultural
Date of Formation:	March 24, 1947 (original formation), January 20, 1995 (consolidated with 10 other districts)
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 13, Section 34000 et. seq. (Water District Act)
Governing Body:	7 Directors (landowner election)
Administration:	7 full-time employees
District Services:	Distribution and administration of irrigation water
Total Operating Budget:	Year ending February 28, 2025: \$15,905,810
Revenue Sources:	Water charges, land based assessments, and fees

**LAFCO Staff Estimate*

EASTIN WATER DISTRICT

Formation

The Eastin Water District was formed by LAFCO on July 11, 2000.

Governance

The governing Board consists of three directors elected by the landowners within the District.

Location and Size

The District encompasses approximately 3,520 acres, and is comprised of two separate areas, generally located east of Interstate 5 and west of State Highway 33, north of the Stanislaus County line.

The District serves an area that is unincorporated and has a designation of “Agriculture” in the Stanislaus County General Plan.

Sphere of Influence

The District’s Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries. No amendments to the District’s boundaries or sphere of influence are being proposed with this Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update.

Personnel

The District does not employ any personnel at this time.

Services

The District is still in the process of establishing contracts with other water providers in order to deliver irrigation water to the agricultural landowners within the District.

Support Agencies

The District maintains positive collaborative relationship with other agencies, including the Central California Irrigation District. The District is part of the Northwestern Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA represents communities, water districts, and other entities in portions of Merced and Stanislaus Counties which are outside of other GSA boundaries but within county limits in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The GSA along with eight other GSAs have adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Subbasin in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014.

Funding Sources

Once the District has secured the water needed for its future customers, fees and/or assessments will be applied to the individual landowner, based upon the cost of delivering irrigation water. The District does not collect any share of the county property taxes.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - Eastin Water District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Eastin Water District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District is located in an unincorporated area of the County and is designated Agriculture on the County's General Plan. The City of Newman's Sphere of Influence lies along the easterly side of the District, south of Stuhr Road. The District consists of large parcels that are used for large scale farming operations. At this time, no growth is anticipated.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Upon review of available Census data, there are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District is still in the process of securing necessary contracts for surface water and has not yet begun to provide irrigation water to its customers. Landowners within the District currently rely on groundwater wells for irrigation.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

Once the District has secured the water needed for its future customers, fees and/or assessments will be applied to the individual landowner, based upon the cost of delivering irrigation water. The District does not collect any share of the county property taxes.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

Although the District is contiguous to other irrigation water providers and infrastructure, the lack of water supply has hindered the ability for the District to secure a surface water source.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

The governing Board for the District consists of three members and meets on an as-needed basis. Members of the Board stay apprised through the County's Water Advisory Committee. The District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, and the Political Reform Act, requiring adoption, maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None.

Sphere of Influence Determinations - Eastin Water District:

The following determinations for the Eastin Water District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The Eastin Water District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 3,520 acres. Territory within the District boundaries consists of agricultural and rural residential land use areas. These uses are not expected to change. In addition, the District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by the County.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

Although the District has not yet secured a contract or agreement for water supply, the existence of the District allows the ability for its landowners to participate in the Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District is still in the process of establishing contracts with other water providers in order to deliver irrigation water to the landowners within the District.

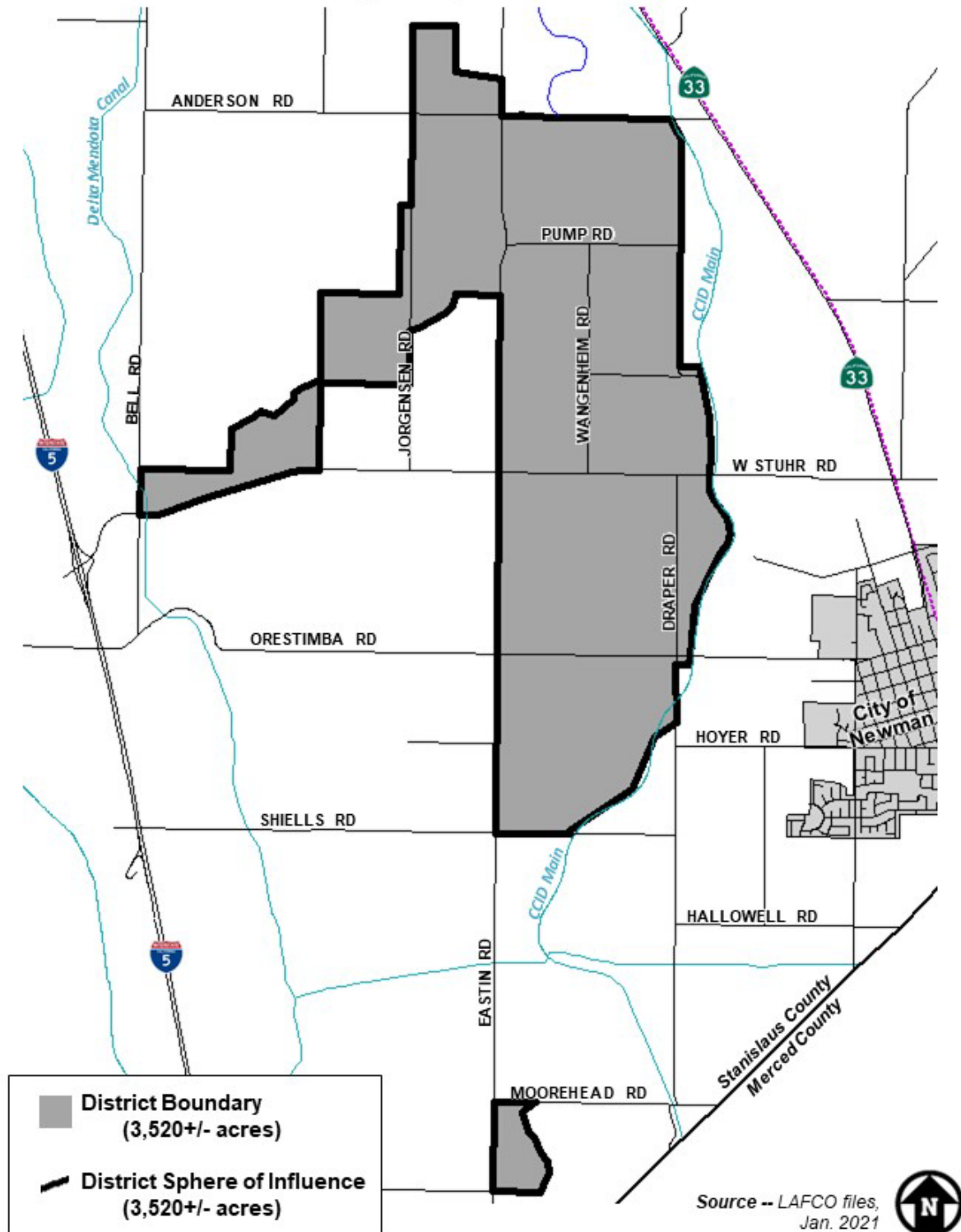
4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

There are no communities of interest within the District boundaries. The City of Newman's Sphere of Influence lies just east of the District's boundary.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

EASTIN WATER DISTRICT Boundary & Sphere of Influence



EASTIN WATER DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	Two areas, east of Interstate 5, west of State Highway 33, between Pete Miller Road and Crow Creek.
Service Area:	Approximately 3,520 acres
Population*:	125
Land Use:	Agricultural
Date of Formation:	July 11, 2000
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 13, Section 34000 et. seq. (Water District Act)
Governing Body:	3 Directors elected by the landowners within the District
Administration:	No employees
District Services:	None. The District is still in the process of securing water from other agencies. However, the District was formed to provide irrigation water to land within the District's boundaries.
Total Operating Budget:	\$0
Revenue Sources:	None

** LAFCO Staff Estimate*

EL SOLYO WATER DISTRICT

Formation

The El Solyo Water District was formed on August 17, 1959.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District and is elected by landowners within the District. Meetings are open to the public and held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., at the District office located at 542 Center Road, in Vernalis.

Location and Size

The District encompasses approximately 4,060 acres and is located south of State Highway 132, east of McCracken Road, north of Gaffery Road and west of the San Joaquin River, near the unincorporated community of Vernalis.

The District is comprised of land mostly designated Agriculture in the Stanislaus County General Plan.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries. No amendments to the District's boundaries or sphere of influence are being proposed with this Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update.

Personnel

The District employs 2 full-time persons.

Services

Under a pre-1914 water rights contract, the District distributes irrigation water to its customers via the San Joaquin River.

Support Agencies

The District is part of the Northwestern Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA represents communities, water districts, and other entities in portions of Merced and Stanislaus Counties which are outside of other GSA boundaries but within county limits in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The GSA along with eight other GSAs have adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Subbasin in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014.

Funding Sources

The District's source of revenue is based upon water rate charges, or user fees, which are collected based upon the cost of the water and its delivery to landowners within the District boundaries.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - El Solyo Water District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the El Solyo Water District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District serves a rural area in the northwesterly portion of Stanislaus County. The area is designated as agriculture on the County's General Plan and does not expect any significant population growth. The District currently serves 12 retail customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Upon review of available Census data, there are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Water supplies are pumped from the San Joaquin River and delivered through District-maintained canals and ditches. The District operates one pumping station located along the San Joaquin River and five lift stations along the District's main canal. The District has both the ability and the capacity to serve its service area and has no unmet infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

There are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence. Additional services, such as sewer, domestic water, and structural fire protection, are provided through other special districts or by way of private systems.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

According to the latest California State Controller's Office reports, the District's expenditures have been exceeding its revenues from 2022 to 2024. The last audit that District submitted to Stanislaus County was for Fiscal Years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

The District maintains its rate schedule with the intent to charge the minimum fees as possible.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

At this time, the District does not share any facilities with other agencies or Districts. There is no overlapping or duplication of services within the District boundaries.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the landowners, governs the District. The Board is subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. The District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, and the Political Reform Act, requiring adoption, maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members.

The district did not respond to requests for information from LAFCO staff.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None.

Sphere of Influence Determinations - El Solyo Water District

The following determinations for the El Solyo Water District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The El Solyo Water District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 4,060 acres. Territory within the District boundaries consists of agricultural and rural residential land use areas. These uses are not expected to change. In addition, the District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by the County.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The El Solyo Water District appears to be meeting the needs of its agricultural water customers. The future need of irrigation water to agricultural lands within the District is not expected to diminish.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District currently has the capacity to provide irrigation water services to customers within its existing Sphere of Influence.

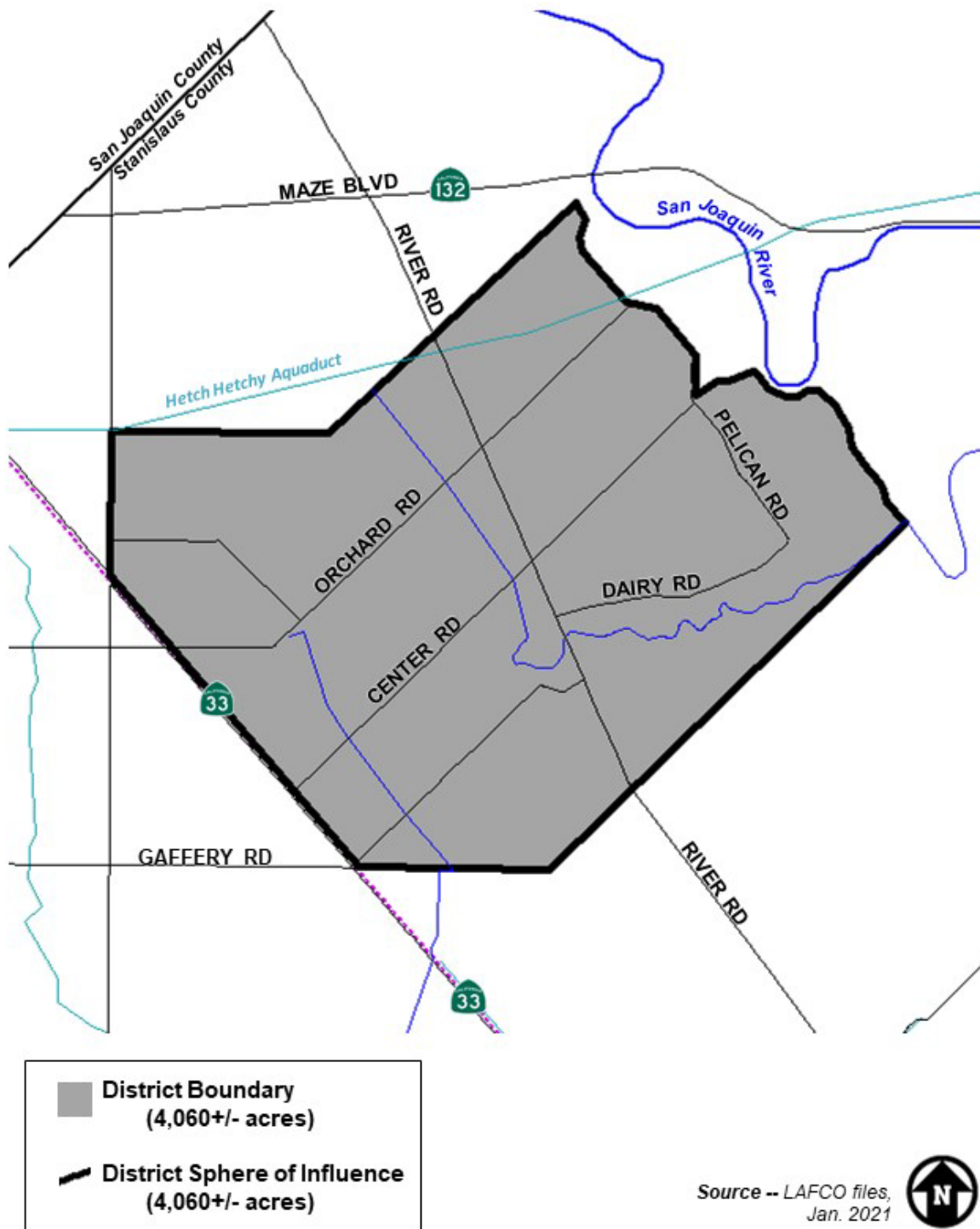
4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

There are no communities of interest affecting the District's ability to provide services to the communities within the District boundaries.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

EL SOLYO WATER DISTRICT Boundary & Sphere of Influence



EL SOLYO WATER DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	South of State Highway 132, east of McCracken Road, north of Gaffery Road, and west of the San Joaquin River, near the unincorporated community of Vernalis.
Service Area:	Approximately 4,060 acres
Population*:	129
Land Use:	Agriculture
Date of Formation:	August 17, 1959
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 13, Section 34000 et. seq. (Water District Act)
Governing Body:	5 Directors elected by the landowners within the District
Administration:	2 Full-time employees
District Services:	Distribution of irrigation water
Total Revenue & Expenditures**:	Calendar Year 2024: Revenue - \$804,875. Expenditures – \$968,782. (State Controller's Office)
Primary Revenue Source:	Water fees and services

** LAFCO Staff Estimate*

OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT

Formation

The Oak Flat Water District was formed on October 13, 1964.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Directors must be landowners within the District and are elected by landowners. Meetings are held quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m., at the Del Puerto Water District office, located at 17840 Ward Avenue, Patterson, and are open to the public.

Location and Size

The District encompasses approximately 4,537 acres (2,147 irrigable acres) and is located south of the City of Patterson and west of the former Crows Landing Naval Air Station, in the western portion of Stanislaus County.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries. No amendments to the District's boundaries or Sphere of Influence are being proposed with this Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update.

Personnel

The District contracts with an independent contractor to perform the necessary management, administrative and operational duties for the District.

Services

Under the terms of its water supply contract with the State Water Project, the District delivers up to 5,700 acre-feet of irrigation water to its agricultural customers from the California Aqueduct. The District is subject to reduced allocations based on drought conditions and pumping restrictions. For example, in the 2020 season, the Department of Water Resources stated that it would provide only a 20% contract supply allocation to the District from the State Water Project.

Support Agencies

The District maintains positive collaborative relationships with other agencies including the Del Puerto Water District, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs, the State Water Contractors Association, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Funding Sources

The District receives assessments and water rate charges for providing agricultural irrigation water to its customers.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - Oak Flat Water District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Oak Flat Water District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural on the westerly portion of Stanislaus County. The area is designated as agriculture on the County's General Plan and the District does not expect any significant population growth during the five-year timeframe of this current service review. The District currently serves six retail customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Upon review of available Census data, there are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

At the present time, the District has both the ability and the capacity to serve its service area and has no unmet infrastructure needs or deficiencies. As mentioned previously, there are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the Sphere of Influence of the District.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

At present time, the District appears to have the necessary financial resources to fund adequate levels of service within the District's boundaries. There is no overlapping or duplication of services within the District boundaries. The District sets its assessments and water rates to recover its costs.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

In 2021, the District received approval to receive a share of its State Water Project (SWP) water supplies made available by the Department of Water Resources at the Turnout on the California Aqueduct that was constructed to serve the Western Hills Water District. The sharing of this facility enables Oak Flat to efficiently deliver SWP supplies to one small parcel of land within its service area that was previously unable to receive such supplies.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the landowners, governs the District. The Board is subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. Additionally, the District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, the Political Reform Act, requiring adoption, maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members, and the recently adopted SB872, which requires biennial financial Management training for all Board Members and essential staff. It is reasonable to conclude that the District can adequately serve the areas under its jurisdiction. The District does not have a traditional management structure as they do not employ full-time personnel. They do, however, employ a Secretary/Manager on a contractual basis to perform the necessary administrative and operational duties for the District.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

On December 30, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board approved a long-term consolidation of State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) places of use. While this consolidation could be seen as facilitating the transfer of available water supplies between the Del Puerto Water District (a CVP contractor) and the Oak Flat Water District (a SWP contractor), other constraints continue to limit the benefits that might accrue to the District from the increased efficiency and flexibility in the source of water supplies and/or points of delivery.

Sphere of Influence Determinations - Oak Flat Water District

The following determinations for the Oak Flat Water District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The Oak Flat Water District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 4,537 gross acres; of that approximately 2,147 acres are irrigable lands. Territory within the District boundaries consists of agricultural and rural land use areas. In recent years, almost one-half of the District's irrigable acreage has been converted under permits to Solar Facility uses. The District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries, however these conversions have greatly affected both the District and its Landowners.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The need for irrigation water to agricultural lands within the District is not expected to change.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District currently has the necessary infrastructure and contract for the provision of agricultural water service to areas within its existing Sphere of Influence.

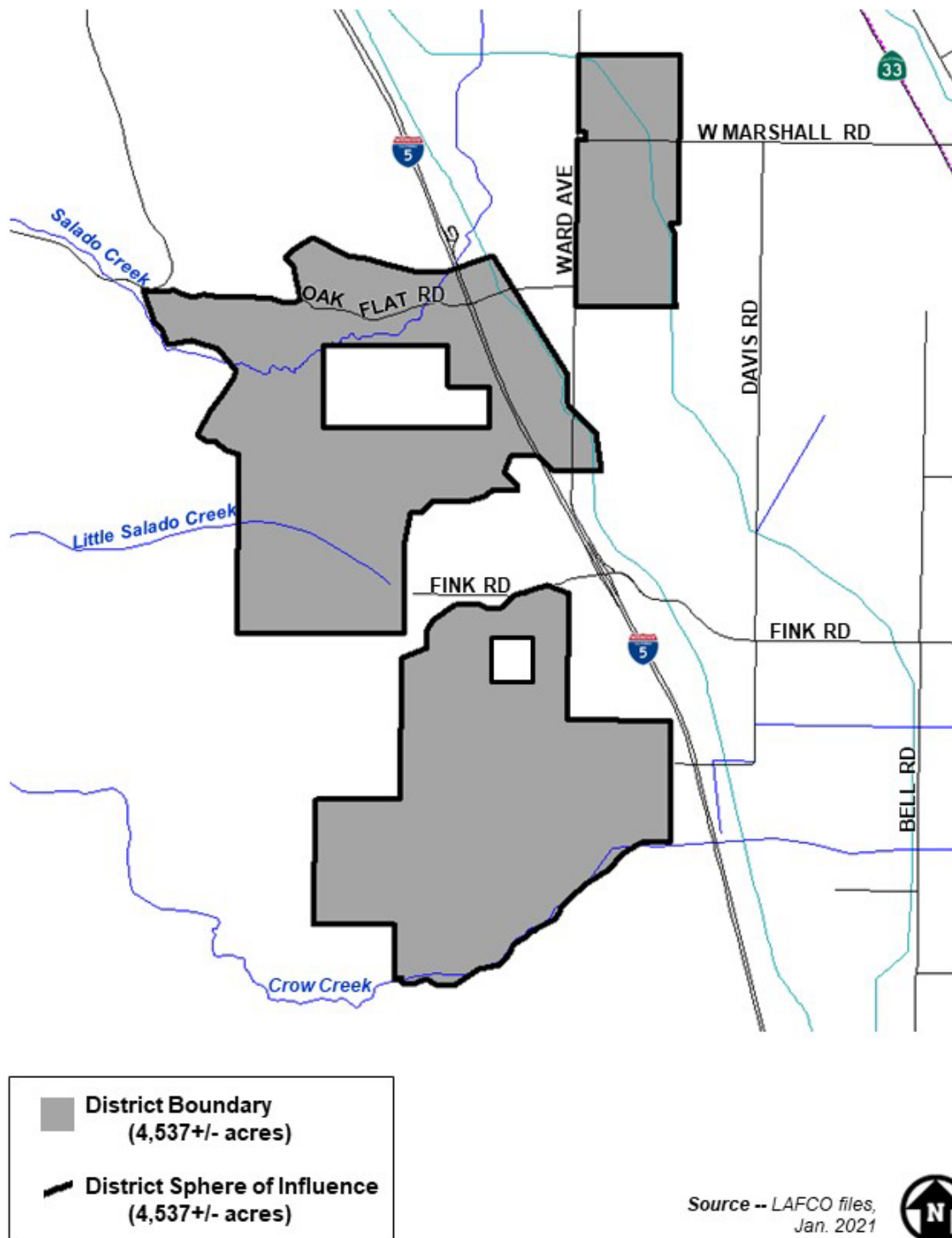
4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

The District serves a rural area comprised of large scale farming operations. There are no communities of interest affecting the District's ability to provide services to the communities within the District boundaries.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

No Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities have been identified within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence as defined in Section 56033.5 of the CKH Act. In addition, the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection. Therefore, this factor is not applicable.

OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT Boundary & Sphere of Influence



OAK FLAT WATER DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	South of the City of Patterson and west of the former Crows Landing Naval Air Station.
Service Area:	Approximately 4,537 acres (2,147 acres are irrigable lands)
Population*:	26
Land Use:	Agricultural
Date of Formation:	October 13, 1964
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 13, Section 34000 et. seq. (Water District Act)
Governing Body:	5 Directors, elected by landowners within District boundaries
Administration:	There are no employees paid by the District
District Services:	Contract and delivery of water supplies
Total Operating Budget:	Year ending December 31, 2025: \$907,967
Revenue Sources:	Water charges, fees and assessments

**Source: LAFCO Staff Estimate*

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Formation

On March 16, 1999, the Patterson Irrigation District (PID) was reorganized from the Patterson Water District for the purposes of continuing to provide agricultural irrigation water to lands within the District, and also to allow the District the ability to provide electrical power supplies both within and outside its boundaries.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters within the District boundaries, governs the District. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., at the District office, located at 948 Orange Avenue, Patterson. The Board also conforms to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings.

Location and Size

The District serves approximately 12,957 acres and is generally located east of the City of Patterson and Highway 33, south of Del Puerto Creek and west of the San Joaquin River, in the western portion of Stanislaus County. The District supplies agricultural irrigation water to users growing over 30 different crops. Crops include alfalfa, corn, almonds, walnuts, tomatoes, apricots and beans.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries, with the exception of approximately 110 acres adjacent to the northwest portion of the District. Portions of the District's Sphere of Influence are located within the City of Patterson's Sphere of Influence.

Personnel

The District employs 15 employees.

Services

The District currently provides agricultural irrigation water to its customers. The District is able to provide irrigation water supplies to its customers via several sources including the following:

- Imported water from the Delta Mendota Canal (Central Valley Project)
- Reclaimed agricultural surface drainage
- Groundwater from multiple sources
- Surface water from the San Joaquin River (Pre-1914 Water Rights Permit)

The District currently serves a few areas that were annexed by the City of Patterson, namely the Villages of Patterson area, and the Southeast Industrial Reorganization area near the corner of First Street and Orange Avenue. The District also provides water to fringe areas within Del Puerto Water District near Elfers Avenue and Ward Avenue. These out-of-district deliveries are provided under annual contract with landowners. The availability of water to serve out of district areas is made by the Board of Directors on an annual basis after a review of local and statewide hydrologic conditions.

Programs

The Patterson Irrigation District (PID) operates the following programs:

- PID offers programs to assist water users with water and energy conservation and management including pump testing, irrigation system evaluations, irrigation scheduling and cost sharing on water conserving pipeline projects.
- PID is in the process of implementing and constructing Phases 1 and 2 of the East West Conveyance Project. The project was conceptualized in 2013 and now the District has the funding to complete the project. Phase 1 addresses rehabilitation of the Main Canal and expands the existing conveyance capacity of PID's Main Canal to 195 cubic-foot per second (cfs). Phase 2 consists of constructing a 160 cfs pump station and pipeline to the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) to match PID's diversion capacity from the San Joaquin River to the DMC. This project will act as a conveyance facility in the shoulder months to wheel water into the DMC to help augment water supplies on the west side.
- PID adopted its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in 2019 and is progressively addressing the projects and programs identified in the plan.
- PID is in the process of developing a recharge and recovery project on the north side of the District. The goal of the project is to support sustainable groundwater extractions and to help provide water supply to PID's north side in times of drought when supplies are limited.

Support Agencies

The District maintains positive and collaborative relationships with other agencies, such as the: Central California Irrigation District (CCID), Del Puerto Water District, West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID), Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Twin Oaks Irrigation Water Company, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

The District is a member of several Joint Powers Authorities including:

- a. San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority: A JPA formed by South-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Federal Delta Mendota Canal, as well as following state and federal water issues that affect CVP contract supply.
- b. San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority: A JPA formed for grower monitoring and compliance for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Drainage Authority serves as the Third-Party Coalition administrator for the Western San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. Growers enrolled as Coalition members receive regulatory compliance for this statewide program.
- c. Delta-Mendota Canal Contractors Authority: A small group of South-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors formed for the purpose of monitoring regional drainage issues and activities originally planned by Reclamation for the western San Joaquin River. This group meets annually to review purpose and financials, but is not regularly active due to

lack of activity on that effort.

- d. Delta-Mendota GSA's Joint Powers Authority: A JPA for the implementation and management of the Delta-Mendota Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- e. Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA): JPIA is a pooled insurance program of water agencies that administers health, property, and liability insurance.
- f. Westside Power Authority: A JPA formed between Turlock Irrigation District and Patterson Irrigation District with the original purpose of expanding electrical service to the Patterson area. The Westside Power Authority meets occasionally to discuss local power issues that affect the agencies.

Funding Sources

PID currently has two methods from which it generates revenue. The District has a fixed, land-based assessment at \$60 per acre. As of 2020, an allocation of one acre-foot per acre is typically provided with this assessment. Water deliveries beyond the allocation can continue and be unrestricted as long as supplies are available to the District and at a rate of \$30 per acre-foot.

For Priority Area 1 there is a \$60 per acre contract fee, with a water rate of \$55 per acre-foot. Water deliveries are unrestricted if supplies to the in-district lands are not restricted. If in-district deliveries are restricted for any reason, out-of-district deliveries will cease.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - Patterson Irrigation District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the Patterson Irrigation District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District serves an unincorporated area near the City of Patterson that is primarily agricultural. Portions of the District's boundaries currently overlap with the City of Patterson's Sphere of Influence. As development occurs or with annexation to the City, the territory is detached from the District. The District currently serves 757 retail customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

Upon review of available Census data, there are no known disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

At the present time, the District has both the ability and the capacity to serve its service area and has no unmet infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

PID Staff has indicated that some of the District's infrastructure needs include the following:

- a) Failing existing cast-in-place pipelines.
- b) Existing laterals failing from squirrels and on-going operations and maintenance.
- c) Pipelines failing due to changing irrigation methods taxing lines designed to be gravity operated.

The District has been working on a capital improvement program for its main canal facilities which were built 40+ years ago. This is primarily a replacement effort and not due to service deficiencies. Otherwise, the District will continue to maintain and improve facilities as needed.

The District has a number of upcoming projects in order to maintain and improve its existing infrastructure. They include:

- a) East West Conveyance Project intended to expand the District's conveyance capacity to match its diversion of 200 cfs on the San Joaquin River to the Delta-Mendota Canal.
- b) Northside recharge and recovery project.
- c) 3S Bypass Project along Pear Avenue to provide relief on water demand on the southern end of the District.
- d) Piping the northern portions of the District's laterals 4N and 3N north of Magnolia Avenue.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

At present time, the District appears to be in sound financial shape and has the necessary financial resources to fund sufficient levels of service. A base budget is submitted to the Board of Directors for review and approval. The District's budgeting process is designed to screen out unnecessary costs by placing resources where they are most needed. There is no overlapping or duplication of services within the District boundaries. The District, on an annual basis, reviews its rate and fee schedule and attempts to keep the rates and fees as minimum as possible, while maintaining a high level of customer service and water supply reliability.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

When necessary, the District shares facilities, especially in times of emergency situations. The District also assists its customers with a cost-sharing program for water conservation projects. In addition, the District is part of several Joint Powers Authorities providing a variety of services within its district and to its partners.

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters within the District boundaries, govern the District. The Board is subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. Additionally, The District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, and the Political Reform Act, requiring adoption, maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members. It is reasonable to conclude that the District can adequately serve the areas under its jurisdiction. The District has the necessary resources and staffing levels to operate in a cost-efficient and professional manner.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

The District operates a variety of programs including a water conservation project, a canal improvement project, and the fish screening and pumping project.

Sphere of Influence Determinations - Patterson Irrigation District

The following determinations for the Patterson Irrigation District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The Patterson Irrigation District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 13,067 acres. Territory within the District boundaries and SOI consists of agricultural and rural residential land use areas. These uses are not expected to change, with the exception of those areas in the Sphere of Influence of the City of Patterson. In addition, the District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by the County and the City of Patterson.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The probable need for the District's ability to continue to provide public facilities and services in the area is affected by the fact that the City of Patterson's Sphere of Influence overlaps into the District. The District has a diminishing sphere, in that as territory annexes to the City of Patterson, it detaches from the District.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District currently has adequate capacity to provide irrigation water to areas within its existing Sphere of Influence in an efficient manner. The District continues to maintain its existing infrastructure through repair, replacement and/or relocation of its facilities.

4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

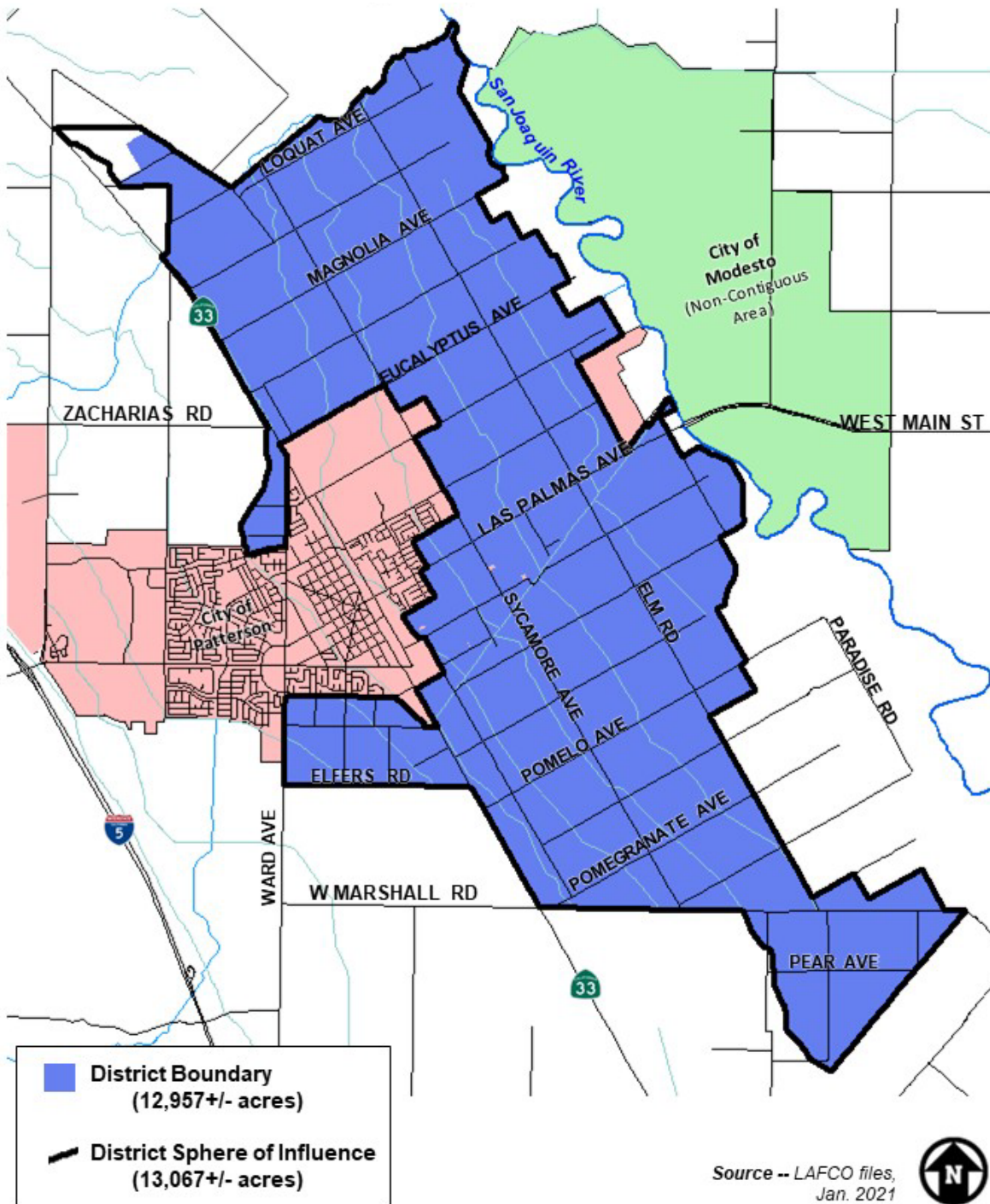
The City of Patterson is considered a community of interest as the City's Sphere of Influence overlaps into the District's boundaries. As territory is annexed into the City, it detaches from the District.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Boundary & Sphere of Influence



PATTERSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	East of the City of Patterson and Highway 33, south of Del Puerto Creek and west of the San Joaquin River.
Service Area:	Approximately 12,957 acres
Population*:	2,107
Land Use:	Agricultural
Date of Formation:	March 16, 1999 (Reorganization of the Patterson Water District)
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 11, Section 20500 et. seq. (Irrigation District Law)
Governing Body:	5 Directors, elected by registered voters within the District boundaries
Administration:	15 employees (12 full time and 1 part time)
District Services:	Distribution of irrigation water
Total Operating Expenses:	\$6,612,070 (2026)
Revenue Sources:	Water fees and assessments

**Source: LAFCO Staff Estimate*

WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Formation

The West Stanislaus Irrigation District was formed on November 29, 1920.

Governance

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters within the District boundaries, governs the District. Meetings are held on the Tuesday of the second full week of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Westley Fire House, 8598 Kern Street, in Westley. The Board is also subject to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings.

Location and Size

The District is located west of the San Joaquin River, northwest of the City of Patterson, and includes the unincorporated communities of Westley, Grayson and Vernalis. The District's boundaries encompass approximately 20,576 acres and contains approximately 19,224 acres in agricultural production. The District currently serve 78 water user accounts.

Sphere of Influence

The District's Sphere of Influence is coterminous with its current boundaries.

Personnel

There are 13 persons (full-time) employed by WSID.

Services

The District provides irrigation water for agricultural purposes to its customers. The District is able to provide irrigation water supplies to its customers via several sources including the following:

- Surface water from the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers
- Groundwater from five deep wells within the District boundaries
- Importing water from the Delta Mendota Canal, as part of the Central Valley Project

The District, under a water rights agreement, also sells irrigation water to 10 landowners, which includes approximately 2,207 irrigable acres outside its Sphere of Influence in the White Lake area (north of the unincorporated community of Grayson). This agreement was part of an original pumping rights contract from the 1920's.

In addition, since 1936, the District has operated an official weather station for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau.

Programs

The West Stanislaus Irrigation District has embarked on the following programs:

- Drainage Activities - In 1999, West Stanislaus Irrigation District joined the Westside San

Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to develop a master drainage plan for irrigated lands to address salt balance within the San Joaquin Valley. In 2015, the Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (LTILRP) requiring the Coalition to comply with best management practices and nitrogen management plans. All growers are required to comply with the LTILRP and the district participates in the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority on the grower's behalf to assist in complying with the Order. The district is invoiced on their grower's behalf and the district in turn passes the cost through to the growers.

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: - In 2014, the California Legislature passed the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA or Act). This places a requirement to assure all groundwater basins within California achieve sustainability in terms of groundwater levels, quantity, quality, groundwater-surface water interaction and land subsidence. The Act requires that Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) be developed to ensure all groundwater basins are governed under SGMA. WSID established a GSA to cover its boundaries in addition to the community of Westley and Grayson. A Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was developed for the subbasin and WSID is moving forward implementing that plan. Data within WSID GSA is collected throughout the year and is included in annual GSP updates.
- Lateral 4-North Recapture and Reuse Project: In 2022, a 25 acre parcel was purchased for the construction of a regulatory reservoir. Project operation will help conserve roughly 3,500 acre-feet of water and deliver that water to lands within the district. Without the reservoir, water would be lost resulting in district finding another water source to make up for that loss. Final design began in 2023 and was completed in 2024.

The construction contract was awarded in 2025 and will be funded utilizing existing district reserves. Construction will be completed by the end of 2026 and put into operation.

- Lateral 5-South and 6 South Recapture and Reuse Project: Similar to the Lateral 4-North Recapture and Reuse project, WSID has been investigating potential locations for a similar project. A parcel has been identified as potentially beneficial for this project. During 2025, investigations were performed to determine if there were any contaminants that would discourage the use of the parcel and to see if there is any groundwater recharge potential. There was also a feasibility study funded largely through grant funds. The feasibility study looked at ways to collect water that would otherwise be lost to spill as a result of operations of an open distribution facility. The study also looked at potential groundwater recharge basins and delivery options to water users through a closed pipe system. A cost estimate was also developed for the construction of the potential project and looked at opportunities to phase construction over a four-year period. The next step is to work out a mutually agreeable purchase contract with the landowner.
- New Administrative Office: WSID has been planning for a new administration building since 2012. The District's Board has taken action to acquire parcels design the building to keep the entire project equal to or under \$4.9M. The Board has authorized proceeding with the purchase agreements and has provided staff direction to facilitate and advance the project. It is anticipated that a building permit will be acquired in 2026 at which time a construction contract can be awarded. Existing district reserves will be used for construction.

Support Agencies

The District maintains a positive collaborative relationship with other agencies, authorities and associations, including neighboring water and irrigation districts (El Solyo Water District, Patterson Irrigation District, and Del Puerto Water District), as well as the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Power and Water Resource Pooling Authority, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority, the Association of California Water Agencies, Delta-Mendota Canal Contractors Authority, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The District is a member of several Joint Powers Authorities including:

- a. San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority: A JPA formed by South-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Federal Delta Mendota Canal, as well as following state and federal water issues that affect CVP contract supply.
- b. San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority: A JPA formed for grower monitoring and compliance for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Drainage Authority serves as the Third-Party Coalition administrator for the Western San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition. Growers enrolled as Coalition members receive regulatory compliance for this statewide program.
- c. Delta Mendota Canal Contractors Authority: A small group of South-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors formed for the purpose of monitoring regional drainage issues and activities originally planned by Reclamation for the western San Joaquin River. This group meets annually to review purpose and financials, but is not regularly active due to lack of activity on that effort.
- d. Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority: A Joint Powers Authority comprised of 9 Irrigation Districts that organized in 2004 under California State law to collectively manage individual power assets and loads.

Funding Sources

WSID receives the majority (95%) of its funding from water sales and assessments. In addition, the District also receives a small portion of its revenue from property tax collected from Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

Municipal Service Review Determinations - West Stanislaus Irrigation District

The following are determinations related to the seven factors required by Section 56430 for a Service Review for the West Stanislaus Irrigation District:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

The District serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural, located west of the San Joaquin River, northwest of the City of Patterson, and includes the unincorporated communities of Westley, Grayson and Vernalis. A small portion of the district extends into San Joaquin County. Significant population growth is not expected. The District currently serves 83 retail customers within its boundaries, and 13 customers outside its boundaries in the White Lake area, with irrigation water for agricultural purposes.

2. The Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District's boundary includes two communities meeting the income criteria to be considered disadvantaged unincorporated communities. The community of Westley and a portion of the community of Grayson are within the District's boundaries and are contiguous to the District's Sphere of Influence.

3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies Related to Sewers, Municipal Water and Industrial Water, and Structural Fire Protection in Any Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

The District currently has both the ability and the capacity to serve its service area and has no unmet infrastructure needs or deficiencies. It is reasonable to conclude that the District can adequately serve the areas under its jurisdiction.

The District is in the process of obtaining a building permit and awarding a construction contract for a new administrative building.

4. Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

At present time, the District appears to be in sound financial condition and has the necessary financial resources to fund sufficient levels of service to its customers. There is no overlapping or duplication of services within the District boundaries. The District prepares an annual budget, which includes a review of the rates and fees assessed for the delivery of irrigation water to its customers. The budget is submitted to the District Board for review and approval.

5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The District shares facilities with other agencies as necessary and continually reviews new opportunities to continue these efforts. For example, the District has offered conference room space to the neighboring West Stanislaus Fire Protection District. In addition, the District has shared its facilities and equipment with other agencies on an as-needed basis (e.g., flood emergencies).

6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

A five-member Board of Directors, elected by the registered voters within the District, governs the District. The Board conforms to the provisions of the Brown Act requiring open meetings. Additionally, the District is subject to State Law AB-1234, requiring biennial ethics training, and the Political Reform Act, requiring adoption, maintenance and biennial review of a Conflict-of-Interest Code for board members. The District has the necessary resources and staffing levels to operate in a cost-efficient and professional manner.

7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy

None.

Sphere of Influence Determinations - West Stanislaus Irrigation District

The following determinations for the West Stanislaus Irrigation District's Sphere of Influence update are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

1. Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

The West Stanislaus Irrigation District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) includes approximately 20,576 acres. Territory within and outside the District boundaries consists of agricultural and rural residential land use areas. These uses are not expected to change. In addition, the District does not have the authority to make land use decisions, nor does it have authority over present or planned land uses within its boundaries. The responsibility for land use decisions within the District boundaries is retained by Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

2. Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The District is presently meeting the needs of its agricultural water customers. The future need of irrigation water to agricultural lands within the District is not expected to change.

3. Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The District currently has adequate capacity to provide irrigation water to areas within its existing Sphere of Influence in an efficient manner.

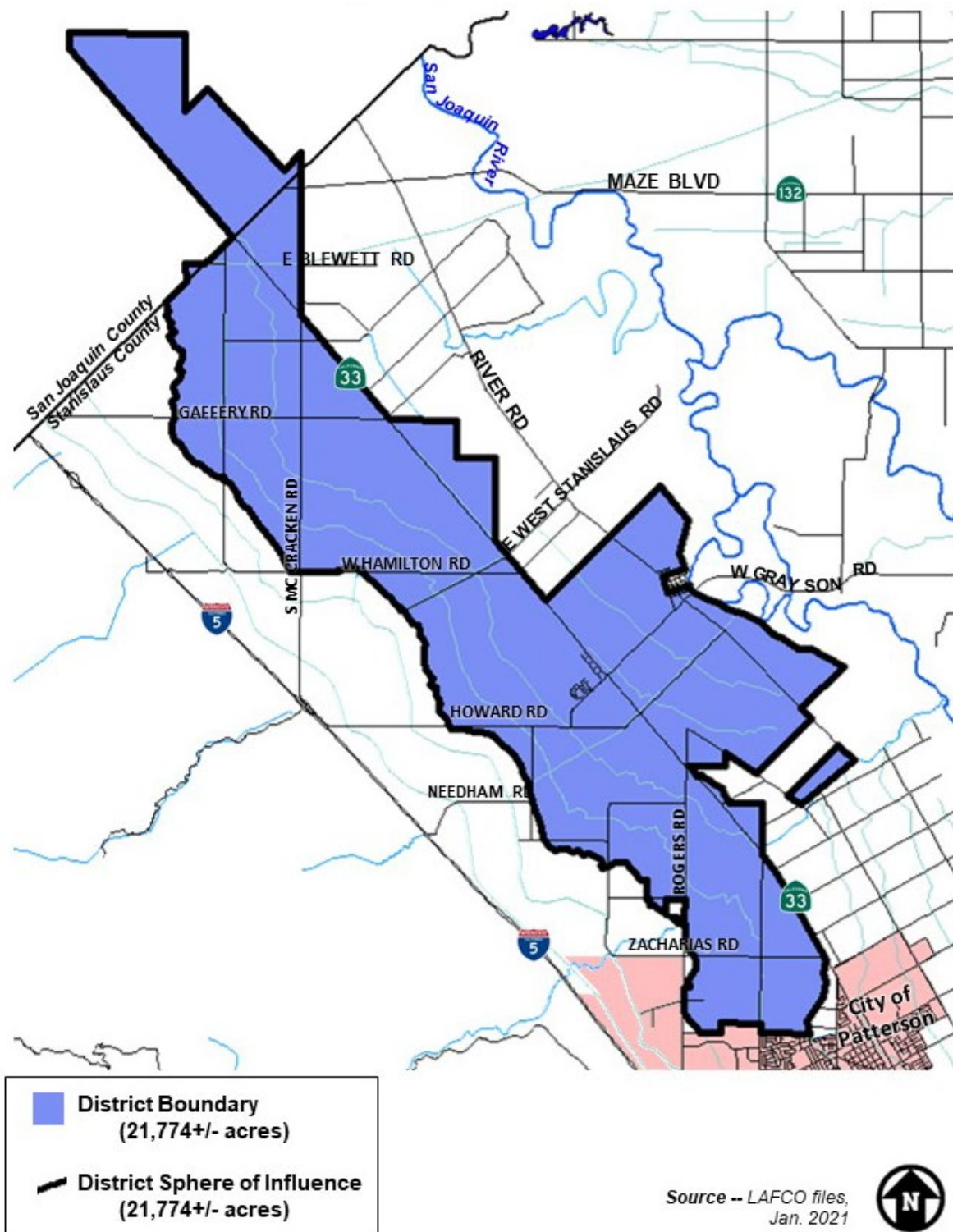
4. The Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

The City of Patterson is considered a community of interest as the City's current boundary and Sphere of Influence are adjacent to the District's boundaries. Should the City propose to expand its Sphere, it would overlap into the District's boundary. In addition, the District serves the White Lake area, located outside of its boundaries, as a result of an original pumping rights agreement dating back to the 1920s.

5. For an Update of a Sphere of Influence of a City or Special District That Provides Public Facilities or Services Related to Sewers, Municipal and Industrial Water, or Structural Fire Protection, the Present and Probable Need for Those Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

As the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water or structural fire protection, this factor is not applicable.

WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT Boundary & Sphere of Influence



WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT DISTRICT SUMMARY PROFILE

Location:	Northwest of the City of Patterson, including the unincorporated communities of Westley, Grayson, and Vernalis.
Service Area:	Approximately 20,576 acres
Population*:	1,678
Land Use:	Agriculture
Date of Formation:	May 20, 1920
Enabling Act:	California Water Code, Division 11, Section 20500 et. seq. (Irrigation District Act)
Governing Body:	5 Directors – elected by registered voters within the District boundaries
Administration:	13 employees (full-time)
District Services:	Distribution of water for irrigation purposes
Total Operating Expenditures:	Year ending December 31, 2025: \$6,936,079
Revenue Sources:	Water fees/assessments and property taxes

**LAFCO Staff estimate*

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

1. California Department of Water Resources. *Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Mapping Tool*. Website (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>). Accessed June 23, 2026.
2. California State Controller's Office. *Special Districts Financial Data*. Website (<https://districts.bythenumbers.sco.ca.gov>) Accessed August 4, 2026.
3. *Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan*. Revised June 2022.
4. Patterson Irrigation District. *Water Management Plan/Agricultural Water Management Plan 2017 Criteria*, Adopted April 16, 2025.
5. Patterson Irrigation District. *Budget*, Updated May 20, 2026.
6. Stanislaus LAFCO. *Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the Del Puerto, Eastin, El Solyo, and Oak Flat Water Districts, and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts*. February 24, 2021.
7. State of California Legislative Analyst's Office. *Water Special Districts: A Look at Governance and Public Participation*. March 2002.

INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES CONTACTS

1. Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water District & Oak Flat Water District
2. Jim Jasper, Eastin Water District
3. Vince, Lucchesi, PE, Patterson Irrigation District
4. Lisa Lea, West Stanislaus Irrigation District

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**STANISLAUS COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION

DATE: August 26, 2026

NO. 2026-14

SUBJECT: Municipal Service Review No. 2026-02 and Sphere of Influence Update No. 2026-06 for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts

On the motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and approved by the following vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners:
Noes:	Commissioners:
Absent:	Commissioners:
Ineligible:	Commissioners:

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

WHEREAS, a Service Review and a Sphere of Influence Update has been conducted for the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts, in accordance with Government Codes Sections 56425 and 56430;

WHEREAS, at the time and in the form and manner provided by law, the Executive Officer has given notice of the August 26, 2026 public hearing by this Commission on this matter;

WHEREAS, the subject document is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines;

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed all existing and available information from the Districts and has prepared a report including recommendations therein, and related information as presented to and considered by this Commission;

WHEREAS, the Commission has duly considered the draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update on the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts and the determinations contained therein;

WHEREAS, the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts were established to provide irrigation water services within their boundaries;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(i), the range of services provided by the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts are limited to those as identified in the municipal service review and such range of services shall not be changed unless approved by this Commission; and

WHEREAS, no changes to the Districts' Spheres of Influence are proposed or contemplated through this review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission:

1. Certifies that the project is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.
2. Approves the Municipal Service Review prepared in compliance with State law and update of the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts' Spheres of Influence, and written determinations prepared by the Staff and contained herein.
3. Determines that except as otherwise stated, no new or different function or class of services shall be provided by the Districts, unless approved by the Commission.
4. Determines, based on presently existing evidence, facts, and circumstances filed and considered by the Commission, that the Spheres of Influence for Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts should be affirmed as they currently exist, as more specifically described on the maps contained within the Municipal Service Review document.
5. Directs the Executive Officer to circulate this resolution depicting the adopted Sphere of Influence Update to all affected agencies, including the Eastin, El Solyo, Del Puerto, and Oak Flat Water Districts; and the Patterson and West Stanislaus Irrigation Districts.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Executive Officer

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S AGENDA REPORT
AUGUST 26, 2026**

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Javier Camarena, Assistant Executive Officer

**SUBJECT: LAFCO APPLICATION NO. 2026-04 & SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE
NO. 2026-05 – CERES FIRE PROTECTION REORGANIZATION TO THE
STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (*Continued
from June 24, 2026*)**

BACKGROUND

On June 24, 2026, the Commission held a public hearing regarding the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District's (FPD) request to annex to the Ceres Fire Protection District territory, expand its sphere of influence, and simultaneously dissolve the Ceres Fire Protection District.

Both the Ceres FPD and Stanislaus FPD approved substantially similar resolutions requesting the proposed reorganization. Pursuant to Government Code section 56853(a), when the legislative bodies of local agencies adopt substantially similar resolutions of application for a reorganization of all or any part of the districts into a single local agency, the Commission's discretion is limited and the Commission shall approve, or conditionally approve, the proposal.

During the public hearing, members of the Commission identified concerns regarding potential financial impacts to the City of Ceres as a responding agency via mutual aid to the former Ceres FPD territory. An initial motion to approve the item resulted in a tie vote (2-2). A second motion was made and approved by a 3-1 vote to give notice to the subject agencies that the Commission was considering a change to include a contract with the City of Ceres for direct services. The Commission continued the proposal to the August 26, 2026 meeting. LAFCO staff provided notice to the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD, Ceres FPD, and the City of Ceres informing the agencies of the Commission's concern regarding financial impacts and the continuation of the proposal.

DISCUSSION

On July 27, 2026, the City of Ceres discussed the proposal at its City Council meeting. The Council Agenda Report requested direction from the Ceres City Council on whether the Interim City Manager should initiate discussions with the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD concerning a future agreement for compensation associated with fire protection services provided within the former Ceres FPD area. The City's report acknowledged that the proposed reorganization is a governance change involving two independent special districts where approval authority rests solely with Stanislaus LAFCO.

At the meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager to have discussions with the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD regarding a revenue-sharing agreement to cover any services provided by the City of Ceres to the Ceres FPD area. City staff was instructed to bring updates from these discussions to the next available City Council meeting prior to LAFCO's August 26, 2026 meeting. The Council stated that if an agreement can be reached, it would be in support of the annexation of the Ceres FPD area to Stanislaus Consolidated FPD.

On August 17, 2026, the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD approved a resolution declaring the District's intent to negotiate and enter into a revenue-sharing agreement with the City of Ceres in connection with the proposed reorganization. The resolution does not yet approve a revenue sharing agreement or establish the financial terms between the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD and City of Ceres. On August 24, 2026, the Ceres City Council will consider a resolution declaring the City's similar intent to negotiate and enter into a revenue-sharing agreement with Stanislaus Consolidated FPD. The proposed resolution mirrors that of the resolution approved by Stanislaus Consolidated FPD. The outcome of the City Council's action will be provided to the Commission at the August 26, 2026 meeting.

As mentioned in the prior LAFCO Staff Report from June 24, 2026 (included with this report for reference), the Ceres FPD has historically contracted for services due to its drastically reduced boundaries as a result of annexations to the City of Ceres and associated detachments from the District. The City of Ceres currently has an application known as Copper Trails submitted to LAFCO proposing to annex approximately 681 acres, most of which includes territory within the Ceres FPD (approximately 570 acres). Early discussions with the City of Ceres regarding the Copper Trails proposal and the diminishing viability of the fire district are what prompted the Ceres FPD and Stanislaus Consolidated FPD to begin discussions on the reorganization.

As mentioned previously, Government Code Section 56853(a) requires that the Commission approve or conditionally approve the reorganization when two local agencies adopt substantially similar resolutions of application. The full text of Government Code Section 56853 is as follows:

- (a) If a majority of the members of each of the legislative bodies of two or more local agencies adopt substantially similar resolutions of application making proposals either for the consolidation of districts or for the reorganization of all or any part of the districts into a single local agency, the commission shall approve, or conditionally approve, the proposal.*
- (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), a commission may order any material change in the provisions or the terms and conditions of the consolidation or reorganization, as set forth in the proposals of the local agencies. The commission shall direct the executive officer to give each subject agency mailed notice of any change prior to ordering a change. The commission shall not, without the written consent of all subject agencies, take any further action on the consolidation or reorganization for 30 days following that mailing. Upon written demand by any subject agency, filed with the executive officer during that 30-day period, the commission shall make determinations upon the proposals only after notice and hearing on the proposals. If no written demand is filed, the commission may make those determinations without notice and hearing. The application of any provision of this subdivision may be waived by consent of all of the subject agencies.*
- (c) The commission shall not order a material change in the provisions of a consolidation or reorganization, as set forth in the proposals of the local agencies pursuant to subdivision (a), that would add or delete districts without the written consent of the applicant local agencies.*

Reconsideration Period and Protest Process

If approved by the Commission, the proposed reorganization will be subject to a 30-day reconsideration period as well as a protest hearing. The reconsideration period affords any

person or affected agency the opportunity to request that the Commission reconsider its resolution should new or different facts be presented warranting reconsideration within 30 days of the Commission's approval. The proposal, if approved, will also be subject to a protest hearing, where property owners and registered voters within the affected territory will have an opportunity to protest the reorganization (following the 30-day reconsideration period and noticing). Depending on the number of protests received, the reorganization may be confirmed, an election may be required, or the reorganization may be terminated.

ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Following consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted at the public hearing for this proposal, the Commission may take one of the following actions:

Option 1 APPROVE the proposal.

Option 2 CONTINUE this proposal to a future meeting for additional information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on discussion in this staff report, including the requirements set forth in Government Code Section 56853(a), and following any testimony or evidence presented at the meeting, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the proposal and adopt Resolution No. 2026-13 as attached which:

1. Finds the proposal to be consistent with State law and the Commission's adopted Policies and Procedures;
2. Certifies that the project is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15320 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines;
3. Determines that in accordance with Government Code Sections 56886(t) and 57330, the annexation area will be subject to all previously authorized charges, fees, assessments, and taxes of the Stanislaus Consolidated FPD.
4. Determines the effective date of the reorganization shall be the date of recordation of the Certificate of Completion;
5. Approves the reorganization, subject to the terms and conditions, including those set forth by the districts and directs the Executive Officer to initiate protest proceedings.

Attachments:

- Exhibit A: Draft LAFCO Resolution No. 2026-13
Exhibit B: Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District Resolution No. 2026-009 &
 Draft City of Ceres Council Resolution (August 24, 2026)

Provided Under Separate Cover: [June 24, 2026 LAFCO Staff Report](#)

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EXHIBIT A

Draft LAFCO Resolution No. 2026-13

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**STANISLAUS COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION

DATE: August 26, 2026

NO. 2026-13

SUBJECT: LAFCO Application No. 2026-04 & SOI Modification No. 2026-05 – Ceres Fire Protection District Reorganization to the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District

On the motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and approved by the following:

Ayes:	Commissioners:
Noes:	Commissioners:
Absent:	Commissioners:
Ineligible:	Commissioners:

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

WHEREAS, a request has been submitted to modify the Sphere of Influence and annex approximately 2,500 acres to the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, and simultaneously dissolve the Ceres Fire Protection District;

WHEREAS, there are more than 12 registered voters within the area and it is thus considered inhabited;

WHEREAS, the above-referenced proposal has been filed with the Executive Officer of the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (Section 56000 et seq. of the Government Code);

WHEREAS, the proposal was initiated by a Resolution of Application from the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District;

WHEREAS, the Ceres Fire Protection District approved a substantially similar resolution requesting the Stanislaus Consolidate Fire Protection District initiate the reorganization;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proposal is to allow the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District to provide fire protection services to the subject territory and dissolve the Ceres Fire Protection District;

WHEREAS, proceedings for adoption and amendment of a Sphere of Influence are governed by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg local Government Reorganization Act, Section 56000 et seq. of the Government Code;

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 56425 requires the Commission to prepare written determinations with respect to certain factors outlined in this section;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56430 and LAFCO Policies, the proposal is consistent with the most recent Municipal Service Review which was approved in 2024.

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District has established a special assessment that will be extended to the subject territory and will also receive funding pursuant to a tax sharing agreement with Stanislaus County from the former territory of the Ceres Fire Protection District;

WHEREAS, in the form and manner provided by law pursuant to Government Code Sections 56153 and 56157, the Executive Officer has given notice of the public hearing by the Commission on this matter;

WHEREAS, the Commission has, in evaluating the proposal, considered the report submitted by the Executive Officer, which included determinations and factors set forth in Government Code Sections 56425, 56668, and 56668.3, and any testimony and evidence presented at the meetings held on June 24, 2026 and August 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, as required by Section 57000 of the Cortese Knox Hertzberg Act, the reorganization is subject to protest proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission:

1. Finds this proposal to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections 15320 and 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.
2. Adopts the written determinations pursuant to Government Code Section 56425, as described and put forth in the staff report dated June 24, 2026 and August 26, 2026 and determines that the sphere of influence for the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District will include the territory and be coterminous with its approved boundaries.
3. Designates the proposal as the "Ceres Fire Protection District Reorganization to the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District."
4. Finds the proposal to be consistent with State law and the Commission's adopted Policies and Procedures.
5. Approves the proposal subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - (a) The Applicant shall pay the required State Board of Equalization fees and submit a map and legal description prepared to the requirements of the State Board of Equalization and accepted to form by the Executive Officer.
 - (b) The Applicant agrees to defend, hold harmless and indemnify LAFCO and/or its agents, officers and employees from any claim, action or proceeding against LAFCO and/or its agents, officers and employees to attack, set aside, void or annul the approval of LAFCO concerning this proposal or any action relating to or arising out of such approval, and provide for reimbursement or assumption of all legal costs in connection with that approval.
 - (c) The effective date of the reorganization shall be the date of recordation of the Certificate of Completion.

- (d) Upon the effective date, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (SCFPD) shall be the successor to Ceres Fire Protection District (CFPD). Upon the effective date, all rights, responsibilities, properties, contracts, assets and liabilities, and functions of the CFPD are to be transferred to the SCFPD as the successor to the CFPD. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SCFPD will not assume that certain agreement between the City of Ceres and CFPD for the provision of fire suppression and first responder emergency services dated June 25, 2001, which shall dissolve and terminate with CFPD, shall no longer be of force and effect after the effective date and shall not be binding upon SCFPD.
 - (e) Stanislaus Consolidated shall maintain the reserve accounts presently maintained by Ceres Fire Protection District
 - (f) Stanislaus Consolidated (SCFPD) and Ceres Fire Protection District (CFPD) have, together with direction and input from the County, negotiated an agreement for the transfer of CFPD property tax revenues to SCFPD which would take effect on the effective date. In accordance with Government Code Sections (56886(t) and 57330, the subject territory shall be subject to the levying and collection of all previously authorized charges, fees, impact fees, assessments, or taxes of SCFPD. Upon completion of the LAFCO proceedings and the recording of the LAFCO Certificate of Completion, SCFPD shall levy, collect, track, expend and administer all revenue, income, and previously authorized charges, fees assessments, funds and taxes currently in effect, levied or collected by CFPD, including, but not limited to, property and other taxes in accordance with the authorizing actions of such financial mechanisms.
 - (g) On the effective date, the Ceres Fire Protection District Board of Directors will be dissolved, and the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District Board of Directors will adjust the current board position held by a representative from the Empire Community to a position held by a member at large.
6. Directs the Executive Officer to initiate Protest Proceedings pursuant to Government Code Section 57000 et seq.

ATTEST:

Sara Lytle-Pinhey
Executive Officer

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EXHIBIT B

**Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District
Resolution No. 2026-009 &**

Draft City of Ceres Resolution (August 24, 2026)

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RESOLUTION 2026-009

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DECLARING ITS INTENT TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO A REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CERES FOLLOWING THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE CERES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is scheduled to consider the proposed annexation of the Ceres Fire Protection District into the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District on August 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, for more than sixty years the City of Ceres has provided fire protection services within the Ceres Fire Protection District pursuant to contractual agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ceres recognizes that the proposed annexation is intended to provide long-term governance and financial stability for fire protection services within the affected area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ceres and the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District have initiated discussions regarding a future revenue sharing agreement associated with the annexation; and

WHEREAS, representatives of both agencies have expressed a mutual desire to negotiate in good faith toward an agreement that would continue funding to the City of Ceres at a level generally equivalent to the revenues currently received by the City for providing fire protection services within the former Ceres Fire Protection District service area for a transition period, the duration and terms of which remain to be negotiated; and

WHEREAS, both agencies recognize that additional time is necessary to negotiate the specific terms, conditions, duration, and implementation of such an agreement; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this Resolution is intended to modify, supersede, or otherwise affect any allocation or exchange of property tax revenues required or approved pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 99 in connection with the proposed reorganization; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Directors to publicly express its commitment to continue those negotiations in good faith and to work cooperatively with the City of Ceres to reach a mutually beneficial agreement following LAFCO's consideration of the proposed annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District does hereby declare its intent to negotiate

and enter into a revenue sharing agreement with the City of Ceres following the proposed annexation of the Ceres Fire Protection District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is an expression of intent only and does not obligate the District to enter into any agreement, make any payment, or accept any particular financial or contractual term. Any proposed revenue sharing agreement shall be subject to subsequent consideration and approval by the Board of Directors at a duly noticed public meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution modifies, supersedes, or otherwise affects any property tax allocation or exchange undertaken pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 99 in connection with the proposed reorganization.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District Board of Directors at a special meeting thereof held on the 17th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	Board Members:
NOES:	Board Members:
ABSENT:	Board Members:
ABSTAIN:	Board Members:

Brandon Rivers, Board President

ATTEST:

Jessica Sousa, Clerk of the Board

Kyler Rayden, District Counsel

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CERES
DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO
A REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE STANISLAUS
CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE
PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE CERES FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT**

THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Ceres

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is scheduled to consider the proposed annexation of the Ceres Fire Protection District into the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District on August 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, for more than sixty years the City of Ceres has provided fire protection services within the Ceres Fire Protection District pursuant to contractual agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ceres recognizes that the proposed annexation is intended to provide long-term governance and financial stability for fire protection services within the affected area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ceres and the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District have initiated discussions regarding a future revenue sharing agreement associated with the annexation; and

WHEREAS, representatives of both agencies have expressed a mutual desire to negotiate in good faith toward an agreement that would continue funding to the City of Ceres at a level generally equivalent to the revenues currently received by the City for providing fire protection services within the former Ceres Fire Protection District service area for a transition period, the duration and terms of which remain to be negotiated; and

WHEREAS, both agencies recognize that additional time is necessary to negotiate the specific terms, conditions, duration, and implementation of such an agreement; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this Resolution is intended to modify, supersede, or otherwise affect any allocation or exchange of property tax revenues required or approved pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 99 in connection with the proposed reorganization; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to publicly express the City's commitment to continue those negotiations in good faith and to work cooperatively with the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District to reach a mutually beneficial agreement following LAFCO's consideration of the proposed annexation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ceres does hereby declare the City's intent to negotiate and enter into a revenue sharing

ATTACHMENT A

agreement with the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District following the proposed annexation of the Ceres Fire Protection District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is an expression of intent only and does not obligate the City to enter into any agreement, make any payment, or accept any particular financial or contractual term. Any proposed revenue sharing agreement shall be subject to subsequent consideration and approval by the Ceres City Council at a duly noticed public meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution modifies, supersedes, or otherwise affects any property tax allocation or exchange undertaken pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 99 in connection with the proposed reorganization.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Ceres City Council at a regular meeting thereof held on the 24th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers:
NOES:	Councilmembers:
ABSENT:	Councilmembers:
ABSTAIN:	Councilmembers:

Javier Lopez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Fallon Martin, City Clerk