

**Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 13, 2025**

The Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting of May 13, 2025, was called to order by Chair Ogren at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Siskiyou County Meeting Chambers, 311 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Yreka, California.

**Present:** Commissioners Valenzuela, Baker, Mazzoni, Cook, Ogren

**Absent:** Commissioner Harkness

**Also Present:** Hailey Lang, Executive Officer; Rachel Jereb, Deputy Executive Officer; Janine Rowe, Commission Clerk

**Minutes:**

**January 14, 2025:** It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Baker, to approve the January 14, 2025, Minutes as presented.

**Voted** upon and the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present.

**February 11, 2025:** It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Ogren, to approve the February 11, 2025, Minutes as presented.

**Voted** upon and the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present.

**April 8, 2025:** The meeting was called due to the lack of a quorum. Because Chair Ogren was the only commissioner who was present for that meeting, she approved the Minutes.

**Unscheduled Appearances:** None

**Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Hearing Protocol:** Chair Ogren stated that the public is encouraged to participate in the hearing process and opened the public hearing for the LAFCO Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

**New Business:**

**Agenda Item 1: Siskiyou County LAFCO Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (Action Item)**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 56381, Siskiyou County LAFCo will consider and adopt its proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 / 2026. It is anticipated that adoption of the proposed budget for FY 2025 / 2026 will be determined to be a government fiscal activity or funding mechanism which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

**Staff Report:**

The previously circulated Staff Report was reviewed by the Commission, and a presentation of the project was provided by Executive Officer Hailey Lang.

Ms. Lang reminded the Commission that the Fire Protection District MSR/SOI was completed in the last fiscal year, which was a large portion of the funding. She said staff is looking into planning the MSR/SOI updates for the nine incorporated cities and that the update hadn't been done since 2016. She said the law requires updates to be done every five to 10 years.

Ms. Lang said as far as incoming projects are concerned, nothing is currently planned. She said staff has heard about some possible annexations although no applications have been received.

Ms. Jereb added that there has been an increase in out-of-area service agreements, which are ministerial unless they don't meet the criteria. She has two that will be finalized today.

**Commission Questions/Discussion:**

Chair Ogren said she was recently appointed to the CALAFCO board and wanted to know if there was room in the budget to allow her to travel to some of the meetings. Ms. Lang said staff can add additional funding to allow for that.

Ms. Jereb brought up the nine-city MSR/SOI updates. She said the current budget remains at \$30,000, funded by county and city contributions, but the Commission may need to consider an increase to ensure adequate funding. However, adjustments may be challenging considering budgets are tight. She said if funding remains unchanged, delaying the MSR/SOI updates may be necessary.

Discussion was held that the \$30,000 contributions are shared by the County and the nine incorporated cities, with the County paying \$15,000 and the remaining \$15,000 is shared among the nine cities. The amount contributed by each city is based on their tax base.

Commissioner Valenzuela said he didn't think it was a good idea to raise contributions considering the current economic environment, and the MSR/SOI updates should be delayed until the funding is available.

Chair Ogren asked about the process when it is time to update the MSR/SOIs. Ms. Jereb said MSR/SOIs remain valid if they are less than five years old. If an MSR/SOI is older, LAFCO staff will typically handle the update as part of the regular nine-city MSR/SOI updates, but if they are not doing so, the entity needing the update would have to cover the cost upfront. Generally, city MSR/SOI updates have been consistently maintained, except for delays in the last cycle due to COVID-19.

Discussion was held that even though the cities do not pay the same rate, they are still responsible for their portion of the annual budget. If a city were to update their MSR/SOI ahead of schedule, that city would have to bear the cost. The annual budget is in statute and each city must pay its portion regardless of what their situation is on the MSR/SOI.

Also discussed was the fact that the County always pays 50 percent of the contribution, but if special districts became a part of LAFCO they would be responsible for a third of the cost and the cities would then only be responsible for a third. Ms. Jereb said no special districts have expressed interest

in participating once they find out the cost.

**Public Hearing:**

The Chair opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comments: None

The Public Hearing will remain open.

**Motion:** Following discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Mazzoni, to Adopt the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and to continue the public hearing to the next regular meeting on June 10, 2025.

**Voted** upon and the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously by those Commissioners present.

**Items for Discussion/Direction: None**

**Miscellaneous:**

1. **Future Meetings:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
  2. **Correspondence:**
    - A. Senate Bill 389: Ms. Lang said a legislative bill was recently proposed to amend the Permit Streamlining Act, which governs land use project evaluations and processing timelines. The proposed amendments sought to incorporate LAFCO into the act, despite LAFCO not being a land use authority. This raised concerns, as LAFCO follows the CKH Act and operates separately from land use decisions. She said she and Chair Ogren submitted a letter of opposition. She added that the latest update is that the amendments involving LAFCO have been removed, although the bill itself is moving through the legislative process.
    - B. CALAFCO letter: Chair Ogren discussed the letter from CALAFCO which stated that the organization is in transition and outlined the key actions they are taking. Chair Ogren will be attending the meeting in Chico which will be addressing the matter.
    - C. Senate Bill 777: Ms. Jereb said she received an email from another LAFCO executive officer regarding SB777 which would require LAFCOs in counties with abandoned cemeteries to designate a local agency to be responsible for their care, maintenance, and embellishment. Ms. Jereb said the recommendation is to oppose the bill, and a template letter is available if needed. She added that the bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and opposition is advised.
- Discussion was held regarding LAFCO's purview. The Commission directed Staff to find out what the deadline is for opposition, and Commissioner Valenzuela requested that the subject be agendaized for the next meeting to have further discussion.

3. **Staff Comments: None**

4. **Commission Comments: None**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Signature on file*

Hailey Lang, Secretary

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