

**Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 14, 2026**

The Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting of April 14, 2026, 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 Harkness, Valenzuela, and Chair Ogren

**Absent:** Commissioners Baker and Mazzoni

**Also Present:** Hailey Lang, Executive Officer and Director, Community Development Department; James Phelps, Deputy Director of Planning; Katie Howell and Dianne Johnson, Commission Clerks

**Election of Officers:**

**Chair:**

**Motion:** It was moved by Chair Ogren, seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela, to elect Commissioner Baker as Chair for 2026.

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

**Vice Chair:**

**Motion:** It was moved by acting Chair Ogren, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, to elect Commissioner Valenzuela as Vice Chair for 2026.

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

**Approval of Minutes: September 9, 2025**

It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Harkness, to approve the September 9, 2025, Minutes as presented.

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

**Unscheduled Appearances: None**

**Conflict of Interest: None**

**Presentation of Documents: None**

**Availability of Public Records:** The acting Chair referred to the agenda, which documented the public records statement.

**Changes to the Agenda: None**

**New Business:****Agenda Item 1: Appointment of Deputy Executive Officer**

Consideration of appointment of County employee, James Phelps, as Deputy Executive Office for the Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission pursuant to Government Code Section 56384(c).

**Staff Report:**

Deputy Director of Planning James Phelps stated former Deputy Executive Officer Rachel Jereb has resigned and the position is now vacant. Mr. Phelps has been nominated by Executive Officer Hailey Lang to fill the Deputy Executive Officer position.

**Commission Questions: None**

**Motion:** It was moved by Commissioner Valenzuela and seconded by Commissioner Harkness to appoint James Phelps as Deputy Executive Officer.

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

**Agenda Item 2: City of Yreka Sphere of Influence Amendment (LAF-26-01)**

The City of Yreka has requested an amendment to its Sphere of Influence (SOI) to include 3.20 acres of unincorporated territory located adjacent to the City limits. The proposed amendment would modify the City's adopted SOI boundary to include the subject territory to facilitate a concurrent annexation request (Evans-Wilmarth Annexation, LAF-23-01).

**Staff Report:**

Deputy Executive Officer James Phelps presented the staff report.

**Commission Questions/Comments: None****Public Hearing:**

Acting Chair Ogren opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comments: None

There being no comments, the Chair closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion:**

Commission Harkness moved that the Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission adopt Resolution LAF-26-01, approving an amendment to the Sphere of Influence of the City of Yreka, including the required Government Code determinations and CEQA findings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Valenzuela.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Harkness, Valenzuela, and Chair Ogren  
Noes:  
Absent: Commissioners Baker and Mazzoni  
Abstain:

**Agenda Item 3: Evans-Wilmarth Annexation (LAF-23-01)**

The proposal is an owner-initiated annexation of approximately 3.20 acres of unincorporated land, identified as the northeastern portion of APN 014-430-120, to the City of Yreka. The annexation would merge the annexed territory with the existing City parcel APN 062-202-150.

**Staff Report:**

Deputy Executive Officer James Phelps presented the staff report.

**Commission Questions/Comments:** None

**Public Hearing:**

Acting Chair Ogren opened the Public Hearing.

Public Comments: None

There being no comments, the Chair closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion:**

Commission Valenzuela moved that the Siskiyou County Local Agency Formation Commission adopt Resolution 2026-002 approving the Evans–Wilmarth Annexation, making the required findings, authorizing protest proceedings, and determining the project to be categorically exempt from CEQA. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Harkness.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Harkness, Valenzuela, and Chair Ogren  
Noes:  
Absent: Commissioners Baker and Mazzoni  
Abstain:

**Items for Discussion/Direction:**

**Discussion Item 1: Discussion Regarding City Contributions**

Staff facilitated discussion on the current allocation of LAFCO administrative costs and the relationship between agency workload and city contributions toward LAFCO operations. Currently, LAFCO operating costs are funded through approximately \$30,000 in annual contributions, with \$15,000 from the County of Siskiyou and \$15,000 from the nine incorporated cities, with the cities'

share allocated by tax base. The Commission may provide directions to staff regarding development of potential funding and budget options for consideration at the May and June meetings.

**Staff Report:**

Deputy Director of Planning James Phelps presented the staff report regarding Discussion Item 1.

**Commission Questions/Comments:**

Commissioner Valenzuela asked whether there were specific scenarios relative to the increase amount and number of years to fund municipal service reviews. He stated that he would rather see us ahead of the curve. Additionally, he pointed out that the rates have not been raised in a long time and municipal service reviews are getting more expensive.

**Direction to Staff:** None

**Discussion Item 2: LAFCO Preliminary FY 2026/27 Budget**

LAFCO staff will be presenting the preliminary budget for consideration at the May 12, 2026 meeting.

**Staff Report:**

Deputy Director of Planning James Phelps presented the staff report regarding Discussion Item 2.

**Commission Questions/Comments:**

Commissioners requested that the items be presented in a different order during next meeting relative to the LAFCO FY 2026/27 Budget and the City contribution amounts.

Acting Chair Ogren asked for a brief description of what the budget might look like ahead of next month's discussion.

Executive Officer Hailey Lang stated the budget would be the same as in prior years. She also stated there would be a training amount again in the event any Commissioners wanted to attend any CALAFCO conferences or other training events.

Acting Chair Ogren stated that she would prefer, instead of sending someone to a conference, that in-house training be brought in for all commissioners to benefit from.

**Direction to Staff:** None

**Miscellaneous:**

- 1. Future Meetings:** The next regular meeting of Siskiyou County LAFCO is scheduled for
- 2. Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**
- 3. Correspondence: None**
- 4. Staff Comments: None**
- 5. Commission Comments:**

A brief discussion arose regarding the status of the CALAFCO association and some member counties not renewing their membership.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

James Phelps, Secretary

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