

Colusa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
546 Jay Street, Colusa, California

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Commissioners present were Ponciano (Chair), Bell, Corona, Ash, Codorniz (arrived at 3:10), and Alternate Loudon. Staff present was Larkyn Feiler, Executive Officer.

**2. Public Comment**

Comments were made by Ben King regarding the Colusa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCFCWCD) related to the creation of Zone 3 last year for the purpose of water storage benefit contracts for the Sites project, public agency financing from USEPA once water rights are approved from the State Water Resources Control Board, CCFCWCD cannot expand outside Colusa County if the county needs the water (i.e. adding Dunnigan Irrigation District in Yolo County), inclusion of a Sovereign Nation, and the importance of keeping the Colusa Trough wet.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Commissioner Corona and second by Commissioner Bell, the minutes of the May 1, 2025 LAFCo meeting were unanimously approved.

**4. Approval of Claims**

Upon motion by Commissioner Bell and second by Commissioner Corona, the payment of claims for April and May 2025 were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**5. Public Hearing - Final LAFCo Budget for FY 2025-26**

Chair Ponciano opened the Public Hearing for the Final LAFCo Budget for FY 2025-26 at 3:08 pm. EO Feiler presented budget changes from the prior hearing, including an increase in the Liability Insurance budget line item of \$46 due to an updated cost estimate received from SDRMA, and a correction to add the estimated revenue of Processing Fees (\$5,000) and Interest (\$400) to the carryover calculation, which reduced the apportionment amount to \$106,662.76, instead of \$112,016.76.

Commissioner Corona asked about the change in the reserve amount from \$70,000 to \$110,000 and EO Feiler responded that there was more carryover than expected this year due to cost savings from the change in staff services and delays in the MSR/SOI process, which created an opportunity to provide more robust reserves. EO Feiler further explained that reserves are important to safeguard against unanticipated expenses and should be considerably higher than \$70,000 since there is only one opportunity each year for LAFCo to collect apportionment fees and if litigation were to occur during the year, it would be necessary to have funds available immediately. EO Feiler noted that apportionment fees would also be reduced roughly \$25,000.

The Public Comment Period was opened at 3:10 pm. No public comments were received. The Public Comment Period and Public Hearing were closed at 3:10 pm.

Upon motion of Commissioner Bell and second by Commissioner Ash, adoption of Resolution No. 2025-04 approving the Final Budget for FY 2025-26 was unanimously approved.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY 2025-26**

The Commission considered election of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Ash nominated Commissioner Dunlap for Chair and Commissioner Corona volunteered as Vice Chair. No public comments were received.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ash and second by Commissioner Ponciano, election of Commissioner Dunlap for Chair was unanimously approved.

Upon motion of Commissioner Ponciano and second by Commissioner Bell, election of Commissioner Corona for Vice Chair was unanimously approved.

##### **7. CALAFCO Annual Conference**

The Commission considered attendance for the 2025 CALAFCO Conference on October 22 - 24 at Wyndham Bayside Hotel in San Diego for early registration, and considered nomination of the 2025 CALAFCO Voting Delegate and Alternate.

Commissioners Ponciano, Codorniz, and Alternate Loudon volunteered to attend the conference and there was interest for Commissioner Ponciano to serve as the Voting Delegate if Commissioner Dunlap does not attend and EO Feiler to serve as Alternate Voting Delegate again. No public comments were received.

#### **OTHER ITEMS:**

##### **8. Correspondence**

a. March 23, 2025 Letter from Nicolas Chapman of Downey Brand LLP regarding Colusa Basin Drainage District MSR/SOI Post Workshop Questions.

EO Feiler noted continued efforts to finalize research and information requests from the District for a continued workshop at the August 7 Commission meeting. Ben King provided comments and concerns about good governance, the Colusa Basin Drainage District has collected \$4.5 million over 30-years and folks are not getting benefit (it is unclear if the money collected is Prop 218 compliant), there was more flooding in the 1980s and 1990s when the District was formed, the District has changed and now pays for water recharge, low income landowners are paying and the money is going to big farmers, the District has needed an MSR/SOI for 17-years, there are pending PRA requests with the District, and it may be time to it over to the Grand Jury.

b. March 20 - 21, 2025 CALAFCO Board of Directors Retreat Summary Report.

EO Feiler noted that a Six- to Nine-Month Action Plan is on page 46 of the packet, and explained that the CALAFCO Transition Team is making good progress in collecting membership feedback to prepare recommendations for reform at the July Board of Directors meeting (Policies) and for Membership vote at the Conference (Bylaws).

**9. Executive Officer's Report**

EO Feiler reported that two more LAFCoS have approved non-renewal for FY 2025-26 membership (El Dorado and Napa), and there will be no change in membership dues.

EO Feiler reported that the May 15, 2025 CALAFCo Northern Regional Roundtable, and some emerging themes, including: simplify the 16-member Board of Directors, send membership-wide communications, advocate for the value of LAFCo at the State-level, build regional engagement opportunities, and creation of a mentorship program.

**10. Counsel's Report**

A recent appeal to existing litigation, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) v. LAFCo of Monterey County (Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 22CV000925), has the potential to be precedent setting statewide, and Monterey LAFCo invited all LAFCoS to file amicus briefs in support of the pending appeal.

**11. Commissioner Reports - Discussion**

Commissioner Ponciano updated that a tax share negotiation meeting is scheduled for the City of Colusa proposed annexation of the WWTP area on June 9. Commissioner Bell asked for an update on following up with the Sacramento River FPD regarding application concerns and EO Feiler confirmed speaking with the Fire Chief on May 2.

Commissioner Ash asked about Counsel Browne's absences and EO Feiler explained that there have been conflicts due to travel plans and the Butte LAFCo EO retirement today and the intent is to set up conference calls in the future if needed to ensure regular or backup Counsel participation.

**12. Adjourn to the next regular LAFCo meeting on August 7, 2025**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.