

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of the proceedings and discussion associated with the business on the Commission's agenda; rather, what follows is a summary of the order of business and general nature of testimony, Commission deliberation, and action taken. Votes are shown in abbreviated format when unanimous (Ayes-Noes-Abstain).

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

EO Santsche called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members present: Commissioners Julia Brownfield, Anna Burke, Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Todd Corbett, Jill Cox, Jake Grossman-Crist*, Andrew Johnson, and Alternate Commissioner Liam Gogan.

Members absent: Alternate Commissioners Lisa Harper and Joe Kasper.

Staff Present: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer (EO), Krystle Heaney, Clerk/Analyst

*Participated remotely.

Commissioner Grossman-Crist requested to participate remotely for emergency circumstances under AB 2449 due to an illness. Motion to approve remote participation by Commissioner Carpenter-Harris and seconded by Commissioner Burke. All approved.

B. Designation of Chair and Vice Chair

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of officers for the past several years. LAFCo policy is to have the Chair and Vice Chair represent different member agencies.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Jill Cox as Chair for the 2025 calendar year was presented by Commissioner Carpenter-Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Todd Corbett as Vice Chair for the 2025 calendar year was presented by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

2. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Seating of County Members for Calendar Year 2025

EO Santsche welcomed the new County members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on LAFCo.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Commission Meeting

Motion to approve the consent calendar was presented by Commissioner Carpenter-Harris, seconded by Commissioner Grossman-Christ, and passed by 4-0-3 voice vote.

Commissioners Brownfield, Cox, and Johnson abstained since they were not in attendance at the prior meeting. It was clarified that members are allowed to vote on the prior meeting minutes as long as they reviewed the draft minutes and found them to be in good order.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

No public comment was received.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for Trinity County Waterworks District #1 (TCWWD #1)

This item was continued from the December 17, 2024 Regular Commission meeting. EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief overview of the District. She also noted changes to the document since the last meeting which included updated information about the water system and details on the wastewater treatment system for the District. Staff is also proposing to expand the SOI to include four parcels; two proposed for annexation, one that receives water service from the District, and one adjacent to the existing service that would prevent creation of an island. It was noted that General Manager Shane McDonald was in attendance and available for questions.

Commissioners held discussion regarding the MSR/SOI Update and asked clarifying questions. It was noted that tax rate areas are used to disperse property taxes to local taxing agencies. Upon annexation, a statement of boundary change will be filed with the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and the parcels will be assigned to new tax rate areas where TCWWD #1 is a taxing agency. It was also noted that since TCWWD #1 is a dependent special district under County Waterworks District law, they are not required to adhere to website requirements under AB929. However, they strive to meet these requirements and maintain transparency.

Commissioners clarified that the Trinity Life Support Community Services District was successful in obtaining grant funding for new ambulances and as such, the Hayfork area now has a dedicated backup ambulance. It was requested that this be updated in the adopted MSR/SOI Update.

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-01 approving the TCWWD #1 MSR/SOI Update with changes as discussed was presented by Commissioner Carpenter-Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

6. BUSINESS

A. TCWWD #1 Horse Tail Hill Road Annexation

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided details regarding the parcel proposed for annexation. The proposed water connection would support a licensed cannabis facility located on designated agricultural parcel. LAFCo circulated a referral to interested and affected agencies and received minimal comments on the proposed annexation. Upon annexation, the BOE would be notified, and the County Auditor-Controller would assign the parcel a new tax rate area. The proposal would not be subject to protest proceedings since there is 100% landowner consent, but it would be subject to a 30-day reconsideration period.

Commissioners held minimal discussion regarding the proposed annexation and asked if any environmental impacts to Cedar Gulch were considered during the review process. EO Santsche clarified that LAFCo is concerned with the extension of services only and any other environmental impacts regarding cannabis cultivation would have been considered during the County licensing process.

It was also clarified that the property is already served through a connection from an adjacent parcel that is within the District and as such, little ground disturbance would take place. Annexation would allow the District to install a separate meter for the property to accurately track and bill water usage.

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-02 approving the TCWWD #1 Horse Tail Hill Road Annexation to the TCWWD #1 was presented by Commissioner Carpenter-Harris, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, and passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

B. TCWWD #1 Hyampom Road II Annexation

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided details about the parcel proposed for annexation.

The process for this application was very similar to the Horse Tail Hill annexation and much of the information provided was the same. The item was opened up to the Commission for discussion, but none was held.

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-03 approving the TCWWD #1 Hyampom Road II Annexation to the TCWWD #1 was presented by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

C. FY2024-25 Mid-Year Financial Report

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided an overview of current revenues and expenses. Since revenues do not cover expenses, LAFCo has to use a portion of reserve funding every year. Staff has been slowly increasing member contributions each budget cycle, but this may need to be increased more so that reserves are not depleted to an unhealthy level. Staff will be providing a 5-year projection as part of the proposed FY2025-26 budget at the April Commission meeting.

Commissioners held minimal discussion and asked for clarification on how certain projects are funded. Applications are processed on a full cost recovery basis but other items, such as working with Post Mountain PUD, come out of the staffing and MSR budget.

D. Status of Current and Future Applications

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and noted that this is a tracking mechanism of the current applications on file. Since the Commission has approved the two annexations for TCWWD #1, staff will work on filing with the BOE and notify the County of the approved boundary change.

Commissioners inquired about the potential for cannabis farmers to connect to established water systems. It was noted that due to the already stringent regulatory environment for cannabis cultivation—including surface water forbearance periods—it is unlikely that cannabis operators would opt to connect to public systems. Additionally, current regulations prohibit new cannabis licenses from being approved within district boundaries, further limiting the feasibility of such connections.

E. Expiring Commissioner Terms Update

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and noted that one regular member seat will be expiring in April. Staff will begin the process for public member selection soon and seek applications from any interested persons including the incumbent, Anna Burke.

7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE (Information Only)

EO Santsche noted that she is continuing to work with Post Mountain PUD and will provide a more detailed report at the April meeting.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Clerk Heaney noted that Alternate Commissioner Kasper emailed comments prior to the meeting since he was unable to attend. His comments expressed an interest in promoting collaboration between private property owners with water storage tanks and local fire service providers to better plan for emergency situations. He also expressed an interest in gathering community support to help people and families that have been impacted by recent federal layoffs.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

ATTEST:

Krystle Heaney, Clerk

DATE: _____