

## **AGENDA ITEM 6.A.**

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**MEETING:** June 17, 2025  
**TO:** Trinity LAFCo Commissioners  
**FROM:** Colette Santsche, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Strategic Planning Discussion: Strengthening LAFCo Coordination with Special Districts

### **BACKGROUND**

Trinity LAFCo is responsible for facilitating orderly growth and efficient service delivery through local agency boundary changes and the review of municipal service providers. A core part of LAFCo's role includes supporting the long-term sustainability of special districts and exploring opportunities for improved governance structures.

Trinity County's special districts face significant challenges. Many operate with limited budgets, aging infrastructure, and ongoing difficulties with recruitment and retention of volunteers. These pressures often affect service reliability and long-term viability, making some districts potential candidates for consolidation or shared services.

LAFCo has a unique role in identifying and supporting opportunities for collaboration, consolidation, and governance reorganization. However, staff capacity is limited, and proactive support must be carefully aligned with Commission priorities and available resources.

### **DISCUSSION**

To help inform staff work plans and near-term priorities, this agenda item is designed as a facilitated conversation with the Commission. The goal is to reflect on LAFCo's role and identify potential strategies to better support local special districts.

Commissioners are invited to consider the following open-ended questions:

1. How can LAFCo best use its unique authority to encourage or support meaningful collaboration or consolidation among special districts?
  - a. Are there specific examples where LAFCo should take a more active role?
2. What kinds of support or resources (technical assistance, facilitation, outreach, etc.) do you think LAFCo can realistically provide to special districts given our limited budget and staffing?
3. How can LAFCo build trust and stronger relationships with district boards and volunteers, particularly in communities that may be wary of regional governance changes?
4. What would success look like in 5 years if LAFCo were more effective in promoting service sustainability and coordination among special districts?
  - a. What are the key milestones or outcomes we should aim for?

These questions are intended to guide a generative conversation that will help shape LAFCo's strategic approach in the coming years. Feedback from this session will be summarized by staff and may inform future work plans, MSR priorities, and engagement strategies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive staff presentation and participate in an informal strategic planning discussion focused on how Trinity LAFCo can strengthen coordination with special districts. Provide input and direction to staff on potential priorities and approaches for future action.

Attachments:

None