

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, with in-person and remote participation available. Commissioners will attend in-person in accordance with the Brown Act, unless remote participation is authorized and properly noticed pursuant to Government Code Section 54953. Instructions for remote public participation are provided below.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84393317666?pwd=eWR2TWg4bFc1MFhWVUNQazNSbUQxUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 9331 7666

Passcode: 740955

Call in: 1 (669) 900-6833

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call

2. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Presentation of Case Study by Kristin Dobbin on Lewiston Community Services District's Consolidation of Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company

The Commission will receive a presentation by Kristin Dobbin, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist with UC Berkeley, on the consolidation process between Lewiston CSD and Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company, completed in 2018.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR (Potential Action)

A. Approval of Minutes from November 4, 2025, Special Commission Meeting

4. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

This portion of the meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda, provided that the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Potential Action) - None

6. BUSINESS (Potential Action)

A. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

The Commission will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 calendar year.

B. Mid-Year Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-26

The Commission will receive a mid-year budget report for FY 2025-26. This item is for informational purposes only.

C. Summary of Down River Regional Fire Service Provider Meeting

The Commission will receive a summary of a recent meeting held with fire service providers as part of the Down River Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review. This item is for informational purposes only.

- D. Commercial Timberlands Report
The Commission will receive a report on recent efforts to address the treatment of commercial timberlands in State Responsibility Areas as it affects fire protection districts. This item is for informational purposes only.
- E. LAFCo Code of Conduct Policy Update
The Commission will consider approving the addition of Section 1.13 "Responsibilities of Commissioners" to the LAFCo Policies and Procedures.

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

- A. Form 700 and Ethics Training
- B. Brown Act Update
- C. Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next LAFCo meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity County Library Meeting Room in Weaverville.

The Commission may take action upon any item listed on the agenda. Unless otherwise noted, items may be taken up at any time during the meeting.

All persons are invited to provide public testimony and submit written comments to the Commission. All written materials received by staff before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission. If you wish to submit written material at the meeting, please supply 10 copies.

Accessibility

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible. If other accommodations are required to assist a person with a disability to participate in the meeting, please contact the Executive Officer or Commission Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Disclosure & Disqualification Requirements

Government Code section 84308 ("Levine Act") establishes campaign contribution conflict of interest rules that apply to public agency proceedings involving certain contracts, licenses, permits and discretionary entitlements for use. LAFCo Commissioners may be disqualified and not able to participate in a proceeding covered by the Levine Act if, within the 12 months preceding the LAFCo decision in the proceeding, the Commissioner received more than \$500 in campaign contributions from the applicant, an agent of the applicant, or any financially interested participant who actively supports or opposes the LAFCo decision on the matter. Applicants or agents of applicants in a proceeding covered by the Levine Act who have made campaign contributions totaling more than \$500 to any LAFCo Commissioner in the past 12 months are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the proceeding, and financially interested participants or their agents are strongly encouraged to do so. Disclosures must include the amount and date of the contribution and the person or agent making the contribution, and may be made either in writing to the Clerk of the Commission prior to the hearing or by an oral declaration at the time of the hearing.

Late-Distributed Materials. Any material submitted to the Commission after this agenda is posted will be made available for public inspection as soon as possible on the LAFCo website trinitylafco.org.

Contact LAFCo Staff. For additional information please contact amber@trinitylafco.org

AGENDA ITEM 2.A.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Presentation of Lewiston CSD Consolidation Case Study

BACKGROUND

Trinity LAFCo includes a standing “Presentations/Announcements” item on each regular meeting agenda to highlight partner agencies and initiatives relevant to the Commission’s mission and responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

The Commission will receive a presentation from Krisin Dobbin, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist with UC Berkeley, regarding a case study of the 2018 consolidation between Lewiston Community Services District and Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company.

This case study is part of a statewide research project to develop 8-12 examples of consolidation efforts. The research aims to (1) create practical, shareable resources for agencies considering consolidation, and (2) evaluate common factors, outcomes, and lessons learned across projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive the presentation and ask questions as appropriate.

Attachments:

A) Lewiston CSD Consolidation Case Study

Lewiston Community Services District's consolidation of Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company

(Trinity County)

Background

Lewiston Community Services District (LCSD) is an independent special district in rural Trinity County. The district was originally formed in 1960 to provide fire services and later expanded its authority to include street lighting and recreation. It wasn't until 2012 that LCSD requested and received authorization to provide water and wastewater services following the district's acquisition of the Lewiston Valley Water Company with 51 service connections. LCSD acquired the company at their request to help address chronic water system deficiencies. Ultimately it was necessary to construct a new water treatment plant and storage facilities, for which LCSD secured grant funding.

Soon after, State Water Resources Control Board approached LCSD about acquiring the Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company, which provided water to 550 customers through 168 service connections. The LCSD board was initially reluctant to take on such a large (by comparison) system which also had significant infrastructure deficiencies but ultimately agreed as part of an arrangement to receive a \$17 million grant to bring their failing wastewater system into compliance.

Construction of an intertie between the two systems began in 2016 and was completed in 2017, funded through Integrated Regional Water Management program. This funding was also used to install two new fire hydrants as well as a flow metering station. Then in July 2018, LCSD formally acquired the Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company system.

Post-consolidation, LCSD once again needed to pursue grant opportunities to replace deteriorating infrastructure in the consolidated system. With funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the distribution system for the acquired system was fully rebuilt with expanded fire capacity and new fire hydrants. This project was completed in July 2025.



The old Lewiston Bridge across the Trinity River.

Source: Angela Feltes, [Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Accomplishments

- ➔ Prior to consolidation, Lewiston Park customers regularly received water boil notices when surface water was drawn from the Trinity River. Consolidation with LCSD eliminated this issue, ensuring a consistent supply of safe drinking water.
- ➔ System upgrades have also improved reliability and efficiency throughout the service area, while increasing resilience to drought and wildfires.
- ➔ LCSD has been highly successful in obtaining grants to make improvements to their water and wastewater systems. In the last fifteen years the district has rebuilt most of its infrastructure including a new water intake, a new treatment plant, new storage facilities, rebuilt distribution lines and a brand-new wastewater treatment plant. Some of these investments were only possible with consolidation given their high costs and LCSD's small number of connections.

Challenges

- ➔ LCSD has struggled to find operators qualified to manage their state-of-the-art facilities. Due to their remote location, LCSD has had to contract out for operators at significant expense to the district.
- ➔ Even post-consolidation, LCSD is an extremely small system (234 service connections). The community is also a severely disadvantaged community. This combination has made it very difficult for the board to keep up with increasing operations and maintenance costs without imposing hardship to residents. Despite rate increases of 3% in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025, LCSD continues to struggle to cover the cost of operating their system.
- ➔ LCSD cannot afford a general manager, leaving grant and system management to volunteer board members. This, in turn, has caused board member burnout and raised significant concerns about long-term technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity and sustainability. LCSD has reached out to nearby districts about sharing the costs of a general manager, but they have not found a system willing to do so.

“We have a plant that’s first class, no question about that. It just costs so much money to run.”

Key Takeaways

Regional funding programs offer opportunities to fund consolidation projects

LCSD has leveraged state bond funding through their local Integrated Regional Water Management group, the North Coast Resource Partnership, to fund the physical consolidation project and later to partially fund a complete replacement of the consolidated water system’s distribution system. Such regional programs, while inconsistently funded, offer technical assistance and grant opportunities with different eligibility and prioritization criteria than statewide grant programs. Often these programs also offer incentives for projects that benefit disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities.

Very small consolidated systems may still need operations and maintenance support

Receiving systems can face financial strain trying to balance affordability with sustainability, pointing to the need for proactive planning to cover operation and maintenance costs as part of consolidation agreements and potential, supplemental operations and maintenance funding as part of grant packages. This is particularly true for very small systems acting as receiving systems and systems serving severely disadvantaged communities. In this case, while grants addressed infrastructure deficiencies, LCSD continues to struggle with ongoing costs despite consistently raising their rates.

Capacity investments are as important as infrastructure

Beyond sustainable operations and management funding, to be successful, consolidated water systems need sufficient human capacity to operate effectively. Post-consolidation, LCSD has struggled not just financially but managerially and technically as well. Because they have not been able to afford to hire a general manager, that labor has been done on a volunteer basis by district board members, and the lack of regional operators has caused further challenges. Whether through Technical Assistance programs, investing in regional shared services arrangements, or covering the additional costs of contract labor, there should be plans in place to ensure adequate staffing to sustain the achievements associated with consolidation long-term.

Next Steps

LCSD is continuing to explore options for addressing their staffing needs. The district recently applied for Technical Assistance funds to get additional support in managing the system. PACE Engineering, on behalf of the district, is currently conducting a rate study to potentially further increase rates to cover the district's operating expenses.



Case Study Authors: Gardiner Brown and Kristin Dobbin

Contact: kdbobbin@berkeley.edu

For more case studies visit: https://bit.ly/Consolidation_casestudies_library

Highlights

Water systems involved (service connections at the time of consolidation)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lewiston Community Services District (Independent Special District): 51 service connections Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company (Mutual Water Company): 168 connections
<u>Consolidation structure</u>	Acquisition
<u>Consolidation type</u>	Physical
<u>Governance of consolidated entity</u>	Independent Special District
Motivations for consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewiston Park Mutual Water Company's groundwater well production was decreasing leading to increased reliance on the Trinity River. Because the system's treatment plant was not sufficient, this led to regular boil water notices LCSD was seeking additional grant funding to address challenges with their wastewater system and needed a grant that exceeded the State Water Board's \$15 million cap
Concerns about consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LCSD board was concerned about the costs and expertise needed to manage a water system that would be 350% larger than their current system
Project Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 84 grant for \$558,000 for the water system intertie project Later LCSD secured another Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 1 Round 1 grant for just over \$1M and a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant just over \$6M to replace the system's distribution system
Rate impacts for consolidated customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Pre-consolidation monthly rate:</u> Unknown. <u>Current average monthly rate:</u> \$51.63 (approximately 1.2% of area MHI). <u>Future changes:</u> Another rate study is in progress. Additional rate increases are expected.
Infrastructure Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original consolidation project included the construction of a 3,585 foot 10-inch system intertie, flow metering, and valve station and two fire hydrants Subsequently the distribution system of the consolidated water system was rebuilt including approximately 14,170 feet of water main and appurtenances, 7 new fire hydrants, new AMI water meters, and a new well

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

Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members present: Commissioners Brownfield, Burke, Cox, Grossman-Crist, and Johnson; Alternate Commissioner Kasper

Members absent: Commissioners Carpenter-Harris and Corbett; Alternate Commissioners Gogan and Harper.

Staff Present: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer (EO), and Amber Chung, Acting Clerk/Analyst

2. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting

No Commissioner comments or questions.

Motion to approve the consent calendar by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Grossman-Crist, and passed by 5-0-0 voice vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Comment was provided by a Post Mountain resident regarding concerns associated with the Public Utility District's (PUD) communication and fire service provision. Chair Cox clarified comments regarding Post Mountain PUD be provided during Agenda Item 6.A.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

6. BUSINESS

A. Extension of Remediation Period for Post Mountain Public Utility District

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and explained the proposed extension of the remediation period steps needed to be taken by the District over the next year to resolve two core issues: lack of road maintenance funding and emergency medical service capacity. Comments were provided by Lisa Wright, owner of Flowra, in support of extending the District's remediation period. She explained that Flowra had identified multiple opportunities to help the District with its regulatory compliance framework through grant funding for essential projects in the area. Commissioners asked clarifying questions, largely pertaining to road construction and the funds needed to finance this work.

Additional public comment was provided by Tommy, a Post Mountain resident, expressing concerns over his perceived lack of professionalism displayed by the fire chief. He also expressed frustration over the District's collaboration with the County, explaining that the District is doing what

they can to acquire licenses and comply with regulations and isn't receiving assistance from the County. Blong Yang, PUD President, provided updates on the work the District has done over the past year including improving compliance with financial auditing, the Brown Act, and governance requirements and conducting community outreach and providing Hmong translation services during emergency medical situations.

Bill Gillespie, retired Fire Chief, provided comments summarizing the results of a site visit he conducted in October; the District is moving in a positive direction and continuing to make changes despite numerous challenges when providing services in a rural area, including lack of funding. He was in support of the District working towards providing emergency medical services to the area. Astrid Dobo, District Fire Chief, explained that the District used to provide medical services in the past but does not currently as they don't have the medical equipment and supplies to respond to these calls. Commissioners asked what medical equipment the District already has and how much it would cost to purchase the remaining necessary equipment. Chief Dobo indicated she would need to check the current inventory in order to provide an accurate price estimate. Commissioners also asked what the training requirements are for first aid certification; it includes being certified in Title 22 Public Safety First Aid, a 21-hour course for personnel and 40-hour course for instructors.

Commissioners deliberated over what would be the best option for the provision of services in the area. Chris Losi, Flowra representative, expressed support for the comments made by Lisa Wright and explained that while funding is one of the greatest obstacles of the District, another challenge is the reluctance by residents to get involved. His opinion was that if the District was dissolved, those that were disinterested in being involved would be even less likely to get involved if the County was managing the service provision in the area instead. Commissioners asked clarifying questions about the allocation of property tax in the area, answered by EO Santsche. Discussion was had over the various avenues for funding support including County and State support.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-07, extending the remediation period through December 31, 2026, as shown in Attachment A, by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Grossman-Crist, and passed by 5-0-0 roll call vote.

B. Professional Services Contract for Executive Officer Services

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and explained that, if approved, the professional services contract would be extended for two years. Commissioners expressed appreciation for EO Santsche's dedication to the Commission and supported the contract extension.

Motion to approve Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement, as shown in Attachment A, by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Grossman-Crist, and passed by 5-0-0 roll call vote.

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

A. Status of Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Updates

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided updates on the current drafting of the Down River Regional Fire Services MSR/SOI Update. Staff recently met with Garrett Watty, Salyer CSD Board Chair, and received helpful information on the District's fire service provision. No Commissioner comments or questions. EO Santsche also indicated that the CALAFCO Conference held in October went well and that staff would be providing recent updates to the Brown Act at a later meeting. She also noted that two special district member seats would be expiring soon and that staff would be looking into reconvening the Independent Special District Selection Committee.

B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Alternate Commissioner Kasper provided comment that he is still working on the development of a hydrogen fueled steam powered generator to supply power as an alternate power source for Post

Mountain PUD. The model generator he developed did not supply a practical amount of power and he is working on making improvements.

C. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Cox adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

ATTEST:

Amber Chung, Acting Clerk

DATE: _____

AGENDA ITEM 6.A.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

BACKGROUND

It is the policy of the Commission to annually designate a Chair and Vice Chair among its regular members. Per Trinity LAFCo policy, the Chair and Vice Chair shall not be members of the same appointing authority (county, special district, or public).

The table below shows a five-year history of officer positions.

Year	Chair	Vice Chair
2025	Jill Cox	Todd Corbett
2024	Dan Frasier	Andrew Johnson
2023	Heidi Carpenter-Harris	Dan Frasier
2022	Keith Groves	Annie Burke
2021	Keith Groves	Joseph Kasper

DISCUSSION

The designated Chair would preside over the next meeting and all future meetings for 2026 unless otherwise preferred.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 calendar year.

AGENDA ITEM 6.B.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Mid-Year Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-26

BACKGROUND

LAFCo operating costs are annually funded equally by Trinity County (50%) and special districts (50%). Special district apportionments are proportionate to each agency's total revenues as a percentage of the overall revenue amount collected. The apportionment funds are collected by the Trinity County Auditor-Controller.

DISCUSSION

Trinity LAFCo's adopted FY 2025-26 budget for staffing and services/supplies totaled \$49,900. Budgeted revenues from intergovernmental contributions and fees totaled \$37,800.

Mid-year actuals are provided in Attachment A. The majority of independent special district allocations have been collected by the Auditor-Controller, and the County's apportionment is anticipated. With regard to actual expenses, all costs are on track to be at or under budget at year end. As of December 31, 2026, there is 63% of the budget remaining.

At the Commission's April 21st meeting, staff will bring a Proposed Budget for FY 2026-27. Final budget adoption is scheduled for the June 16th meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments:

- A) FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Financial Report

Trinity LAFCo Budget

Agenda Item 6B
Attachment A

Categories	Acct #	FY 2023/24 Amended Budget	FY 2023/24 Year End Actual	FY 2024/25 Amended Budget	FY 2024/25 Year End Actual	FY 2025/26 Adopted Budget	FY 2025/26 Mid Year Actuals
REVENUES:							
Interest	6601	-	3,839.06	-	3,294.83	-	-
LAFCo Fees (Applications)	8404	5,000	-	12,000	11,557.50	5,000	-
Cont From Other Agencies:							
County	9282	15,000	15,000.00	15,500	15,500.00	16,400	-
Indep Spec Districts	9285	15,000	14,281.08	15,500	16,226.42	16,400	16,326.05
TOTAL Revenues		\$ 35,000	\$ 33,120.14	\$ 43,000	46,578.75	\$ 37,800	\$ 16,326.05

EXPENDITURES:

Memberships	2240	1,500	1,346.00	1,400	1,378.00	1,500	1,423.00
Office	2260	600	447.38	500	395.70	600	22.80
Professional & Specialized:	2300	59,800	53,492.99	52,800	51,557.50	45,800	16,182.49
- Staffing services		33,000	32,609.00	25,000	24,650.00	25,000	10,915.00
- MSR/SOI		21,000	20,591.00	15,000	15,350.00	15,000	5,247.50
- Applications		5,000	-	12,000	11,557.50	5,000	-
- Legal Counsel		500	-	500	-	500	-
- Web Service		300	292.99	300	-	300	19.99
Publications & Legal Notices	2500	550	428.12	550.00	514.91	500	-
Transportation & Travel	2750	1,500	615.00	1,650.00	1,608.02	1,500	344.40
Training	2756	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contrib to Non LAF Agency	3200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer Out		-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL Expenditures		\$ 63,950	\$ 56,329.49	\$ 56,900	\$ 55,454.13	\$ 49,900	\$ 17,972.69

Operating Difference		\$ (28,950)	\$ (23,209.35)	\$ (13,900)	\$ (8,875.38)	\$ (12,100)	\$ (1,647)
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(Negative Balance Indicates Use of Reserves)

FUND BALANCE/RESERVES

Beginning Year Fund Balance		\$ 94,381		\$ 71,172		\$ 62,297	
Ending Year Fund Balance			\$ 71,172		\$ 62,297		

AGENDA ITEM 6.C.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Summary of Down River Regional Fire Service Provider Meeting

BACKGROUND

Staff is currently preparing the Down River Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence (MSR/SOI) Update, which will evaluate fire protection and emergency response services in the Down River region of Trinity County. The geographic scope aligns with the Trinity County Wildfire Protection Plan and includes the following primary fire service providers:

- Salyer Community Services District (CSD)
- Downriver Volunteer Fire Department (VFD)
- Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire Department (VFD)

Salyer CSD is the only independent special district within this region. As such, formal Sphere of Influence determinations will apply solely to this agency. However, the MSR will place significant emphasis on mutual aid relationships and opportunities for governance and funding opportunities among providers in the region.

The Downriver and Hawkins Bar VFDs are non-district volunteer departments and do not have sustainable base funding beyond community donations and grants. Regional service is further supported through mutual aid by Willow Creek FPD (Humboldt County) and Junction City FPD.

DISCUSSION

The Down River region presents unique fire and rescue service conditions, particularly with respect to emergency response along the State Route 299 (SR 299) corridor. Local departments - including Salyer CSD, Downriver VFD, Hawkins Bar VFD, Junction City FPD, and Willow Creek FPD - historically respond to vehicular accidents and other emergencies along SR 299, a state-owned and managed highway.

According to Caltrans District 1, the SR299 segment near Willow Creek averages approximately 8,000 vehicles per day. By comparison, U.S. Highway 101 in Garberville averages approximately 7,000 vehicles per day and is predominantly a four-lane facility. Despite this significant traffic volume and associated emergency response demand, Down River providers do not receive stable state funding dedicated to sustaining emergency medical services and rescue response along state highways.

To support the MSR process, staff facilitated a regional meeting on February 4, 2026, with representatives from all fire service providers in the area. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Build a shared understanding of current fire and rescue service conditions in the Down River region, with particular focus on SR 299 response.
- Identify common challenges and opportunities that may benefit from continued coordination or joint exploration.

- Clarify what the Down River Fire MSR will include and how it can support local departments.
- Confirm next steps for the MSR and regional coordination.

Regional Successes:

Representatives discussed current conditions and identified several shared successes across departments, including:

- Installation of Starlink systems to address limited broadband access.
- Improvements to SR 299 (additional pullouts and paving). Representatives noted a perception of fewer vehicular accidents in recent years; however, collision data has not yet been evaluated to confirm this trend.
- Strong countywide coordination on grant funding.
- Effective collaboration and mutual aid among Down River fire providers.
- Acquisition of new extrication equipment.

Additional department-specific successes included:

- Implementation of a junior firefighter program (Junction City FPD).
- Establishment of a paid Fire Chief position (Willow Creek FPD).
- Increased volunteer recruitment (Junction City FPD).
- CAL FIRE response support from the Weaverville station, when available (Downriver VFD).

Table 1: Department Successes

	Salyer CSD	Hawkins Bar VFD	Down River VFD	Junction City FPD	Willow Creek FPD
Starlink	X	X	X	X	X
Mobile Starlink		X	X		
SR 299 Improvements	X	X	X	X	X
Junior Program				X	
Paid Fire Chief					X
Increased # of Volunteers				X	
New Extrication Equipment	X	X	X	X	X
Collaboration with Neighboring Providers	X	X	X	X	X
CAL FIRE Response Support from Weaverville Station			X		

Regional Challenges:

All departments identified significant and ongoing challenges. Common themes included:

- Lack of stable and sufficient funding.
- Recruitment and retention difficulties, including aging volunteer bases and limited population growth.
- Rising costs for apparatus, equipment, and turnout gear.

- Consolidation among apparatus manufacturers, reducing purchasing options and increasing costs.
- Lack of administrative capacity to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements.
- High and increasing insurance premiums (particularly for non-district departments), leading some providers to reduce coverage levels.
- Ongoing issues with untimely reimbursement from the U.S. Forest Service for past responses.
- Insufficient supply of turnout gear to meet volunteer needs.
- Limited succession planning and leadership development.

Additional challenges identified by specific providers included:

- Conflict with the County regarding direct charge lists (Salyer CSD).
- Shortage of qualified apparatus drivers (Willow Creek FPD).

Table 2: Department Challenges

	Salyer CSD	Hawkins Bar VFD	Down River VFD	Junction City FPD	Willow Creek FPD
Lack of funds	X	X	X	X	X
Collaboration with USFS (timely payments)		X	X	X	
Volunteer Recruitment and Retention	X	X	X	X	X
Aging Volunteers and Personnel, Lower Influx into the Population	X	X	X	X	X
High Insurance Costs		X	X	X	X
Conflict with the County on Direct Charge Lists	X				
Lack of an Adequate Supply of Turnouts	X	X	X	X	X
Increased Cost of Equipment, More Issues with Apparatus (consolidation among fire apparatus manufacturers)	X	X	X	X	X
Lack of Succession Planning	X	X	X	X	
Lack of Personnel for Admin Duties (difficult to stay in compliance)	X	X	X	X	X
Qualified Drivers for Apparatus					X

Potential Strategies and Next Steps:

Representatives shared what would be most helpful for them to continue providing service or to increase capacity moving forward. These ideas and next steps included:

- Identifying ways to reduce insurance costs or create insurance breaks for small departments.

- Establishing a countywide or regional “turnout closet” to improve gear access and reduce waste associated with volunteer turnover.
- Expanding the role of the Fire Chiefs Association, including exploring formation as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) entity.
- Exploring long-term governance models, including a regional or countywide Fire Protection District structure with local battalions.
- Evaluating governance and funding options for Hawkins Bar VFD, including potential district formation or annexation to a neighboring district.
- Exploring a satellite CAL FIRE resident program in Willow Creek, similar to programs in Hayfork and Fawn Lodge.
- Supporting installation of satellite-enabled call boxes along SR 299.
- Supporting legislation addressing the State’s responsibility for EMS and rescue response along state highways.

Willow Creek FPD has drafted a letter to Senator Mike McGuire requesting stable state funding to sustain emergency medical and rescue services along state highways. Down River departments expressed interest in supporting the effort and intend to co-sign the letter once finalized.

Staff will continue engaging with regional providers through the MSR/SOI process to evaluate these issues, assess governance and funding alternatives, and identify feasible implementation strategies.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments:

- A) Down River Regional Fire Service Provider Meeting Agenda

MEETING AGENDA

Down River Regional Fire Meeting
February 4, 2026, 1-3 p.m.
Salyer Fire Station

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Build a shared understanding of current fire and rescue service conditions in the Down River region, with particular focus on SR 299 response.
- Identify common challenges and opportunities that may benefit from continued coordination or joint exploration.
- Clarify what the Down River Fire MSR will include and how it can support local departments.
- Confirm next steps for the MSR and regional coordination.

AGENDA

Welcome & Review Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductions (name, role, department) ○ Review meeting purpose and confirm agenda
Overview of Regional MSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background and purpose of the Down River Fire Municipal Service Review (MSR) ○ What the MSR includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency profiles • Required determinations • Regional context and mapping ○ How the MSR can support local decision making
Regional Conditions & Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reflections: What Departments are Experiencing (open discussion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's working well today • Where departments are feeling stretched • How conditions have changed over the last 5-10 years • What feels most uncertain looking ahead
Shared Themes & Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review draft maps and regional context ○ Discussion on common themes and shared realities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR 299 Response

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current response practices ○ Expectations vs. capacity ○ Coordination strengths and gaps ● Personnel and Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer recruitment, retention, and aging membership ○ Daytime and extended incident coverage ○ Informal vs. formal succession planning ● Service Areas and Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District, non-district, and goodwill responses ○ Jurisdictional boundaries vs. response areas ○ Mutual aid patterns ● Funding Realities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Existing funding structures ○ Stability, predictability, and constraints ○ What has been tried locally or regionally
Exploring Options & Coordination Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss options and opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where are departments already coordinating successfully? ● Are there areas where shared approaches (training, admin support, advocacy, equipment, staffing coverage) might help? ● What types of options would be useful to learn more about, even if only informational? ● What support would help departments remain sustainable while preserving local identity?
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How today's discussion will inform the MSR ○ Additional information or follow-up conversations needed ○ Opportunities for continued coordination or future meetings ○ Tentative MSR schedule and upcoming milestones
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final reflections ○ Summary of key takeaways ○ Confirm Follow-up items and timeline

Thank you!

AGENDA ITEM 6.D.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Commercial Timberlands Report

BACKGROUND

Health & Safety Code §13811 allows inclusion of State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within a Fire Protection District (FPD), except for “commercial forest lands which are timbered lands”. The statute, last updated in 1987, does not define what constitutes commercial timberland and does not reflect today’s all risk-emergency service realities in rural counties.

The ambiguity in §13811 was highlighted in Mendocino Redwood Co. v. County of Mendocino (2019), where the appellate court determined that commercial timberlands were excluded from a fire protection district and entitled to refund of parcel taxes previously paid within the statute of limitation period (4 years).

More recently, in Humboldt County, Humboldt LAFCo faced similar issues during the Kneeland FPD annexation of its longstanding goodwill response area. Following Commission approval, LAFCo received a reconsideration request from Humboldt Redwood Company citing §13811. The Commission ultimately removed 17 Humboldt Redwood Company parcels from the annexation area due to risk of litigation. The matter demonstrated the practical challenges LAFCo’s face in administering the statute where districts are operationally responding to these lands but lack clear authority to include them for funding purposes.

DISCUSSION

In Trinity County, significant portions of Middle Trinity and North Lake are classified as SRA (see Attachment A). Approximately 333 parcels or approximately 80,000 acres of TPZ classified lands are located within existing district boundaries.

While CAL FIRE retains responsibility for wildland fire suppression in SRAs, local fire districts routinely respond to medical aids, vehicle accidents (including logging-related incidents), rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and structure protection on timberlands.

The statutory exclusion creates uncertainty for fire districts seeking to align their boundaries with long-standing response areas and improve service levels. It also creates legal and fiscal ambiguity for districts that already include SRA lands within their existing boundaries, calling into question the enforceability of locally approved funding mechanisms applied to those properties.

Over the past several months, staff in coordination with Chair Cox, have coordinated with Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Calforests, regional fire service providers, and Sierra Pacific Industries Weaverville District Manager to discuss the issue and possible solutions.

Recent discussions indicate interest in continuing to explore how fire districts may receive proportional compensation for unreimbursed emergency services provided on commercial

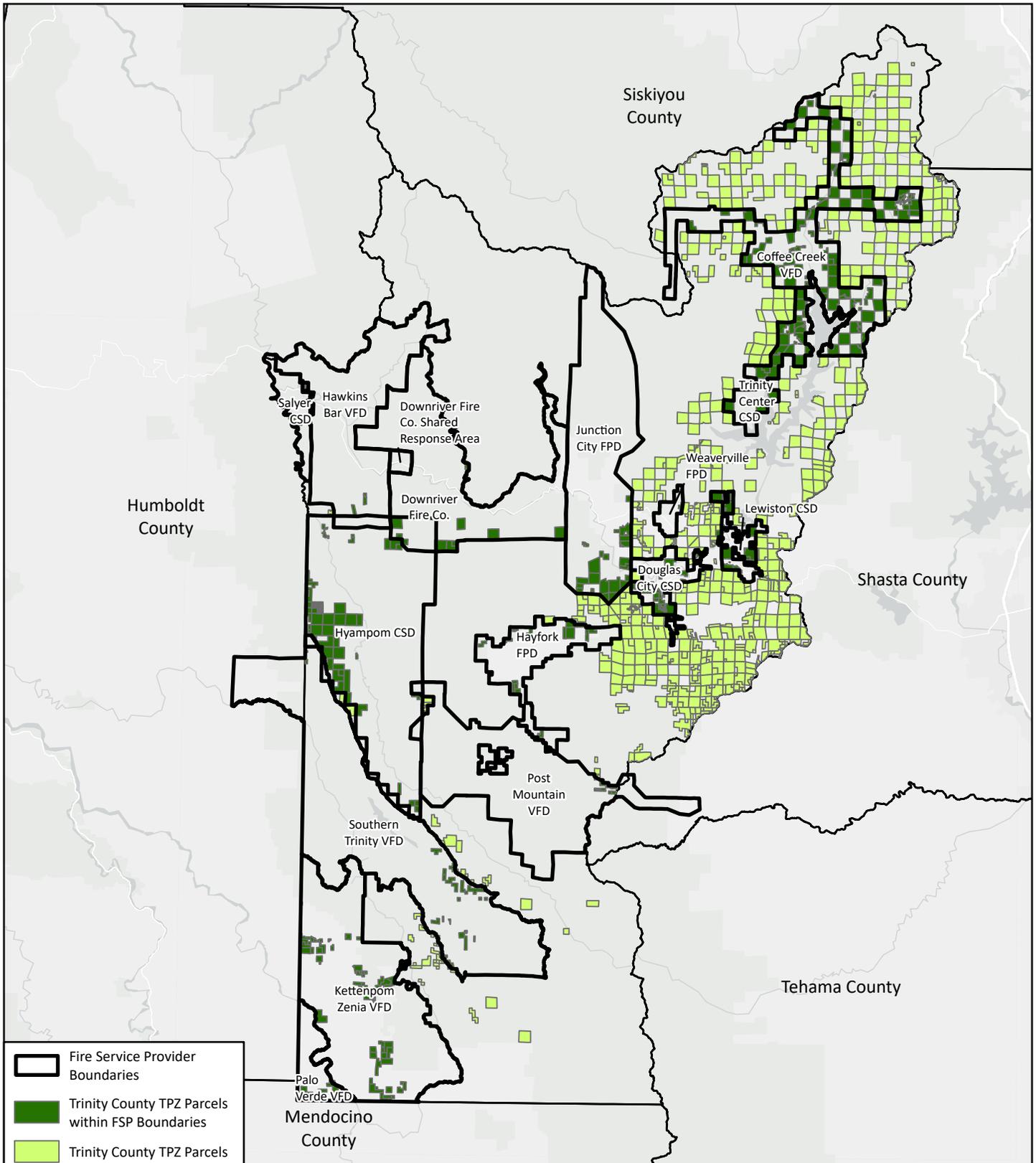
timberlands. Continued coordination will be aimed at developing a balanced approach that reflects operational realities, fiscal fairness, and CAL FIRE's statutory wildland fire role.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments:

- A) Trinity County TPZ Parcels within Fire Service Provider Boundaries Figure



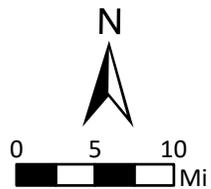
-  Fire Service Provider Boundaries
-  Trinity County TPZ Parcels within FSP Boundaries
-  Trinity County TPZ Parcels



Trinity County TPZ Parcels

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Fire Service Provider Boundaries: Trinity LAFCo, Trinity RCD CWPP Hub
 Parcels: Trinity RCD
 Roads: Trinity County Open GIS

2/2/2026



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane California I FIPS 0401 Ft US

AGENDA ITEM 6.E.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: LAFCo Code of Conduct Policy Update

BACKGROUND

Government Code (GC) Section 56300(a) requires each LAFCo to adopt written policies and procedures. Trinity LAFCo's Policies and Procedures, adopted April 20, 2021 (Resolution No. 2021-03), establish the framework for the Commission's administrative processes and operational practices.

DISCUSSION

The Commission's Policies and Procedures were last comprehensively updated in 2021 and can be found on the Commission's website www.trinitylafco.org. LAFCo staff is proposing the addition of Section 1.13, *Responsibilities of Commissioners*, to formally establish standards related to Commissioner decorum, ethical conduct, and enforcement procedures.

The proposed policy is intended to:

- Clarify expectations regarding professional conduct and meeting decorum;
- Reinforce statutory obligations, including the exercise of independent judgment;
- Establish clear standards regarding representation of the Commission; and
- Provide a defined process for addressing violations.

The proposed policy language is included as Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission adopt Section 1.13, *Responsibilities of Commissioners*, as presented in Attachment A, with any revisions as directed by the Commission, and direct staff to incorporate the section into the Commission's Policies and Procedures.

Attachments:

- A) Proposed Code of Conduct Policies

Proposed Code of Conduct Policies

1.13 RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONERS

1.13.1 Commissioner Decorum:

(a) Each Commissioner shall:

1. Prepare for meetings by reviewing agenda materials and understanding the issues to be considered.
2. Direct questions regarding agenda items or operational matters to the Executive Officer prior to meetings whenever possible.
3. Maintain the confidentiality of information properly designated as confidential, including matters discussed in closed session as provided by law.
4. Treat fellow Commissioners, staff, and members of the public with courtesy and respect, including listening without interruption and using professional language.
5. Keep remarks relevant, concise, and limited to agenda items during meetings.
6. Refrain from personal attacks, abusive conduct, or statements attacking the character or motives of others.
7. Act impartially and in the best interests of the public, exercising independent judgement on behalf of the residents, property owners and the public as a whole, consistent with Government Code Section 56331.4, the Political Reform Act, and all applicable laws.
8. Respect Commission decisions. Once action is taken, Commissioners shall not obstruct implementation except through lawful reconsideration authorized by Government Code Section 56895 and consistent with Commission policy.
9. Provide fair and equal treatment of all persons and matters before the Commission.

1.13.2 Standards of Conduct:

(a) Each Commissioner shall:

1. Faithfully discharge the duties of office and uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of California.
2. Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including conflict of interest, campaign, and lobbying laws, and with Trinity LAFCo Policies.
3. Avoid financial, business, or personal relationships that create actual or apparent conflicts of interest.
4. Avoid actions that exceed the authority of office or create the appearance of impropriety.
5. Not make commitments or representations on behalf of LAFCo unless authorized by the Commission.

6. When expressing personal opinions, clearly indicate they do not represent LAFCo unless authorized to speak on its behalf.
7. Use LAFCo resources only for official business and in compliance with applicable law and policy.

1.13.3 Enforcement of Decorum and Conduct Policy:

- (a) Presiding Officer Authority. The presiding officer shall maintain order and may call attention to violations of this policy during a meeting.
- (b) Commission Review. Alleged violations may be placed on a future agenda for Commission consideration. Upon a super-majority vote finding a violation, the Commission may impose one or more of the following actions:
 1. Issue a written warning;
 2. Adopt a resolution of censure;
 3. Remove the Commissioner from committee assignments, as applicable;
 4. Deny or reduce stipends or reimbursement associated with the meeting at which the violation occurred, as applicable.
- (c) Motion to Enforce. If the presiding officer fails to act, any Commissioner may move to enforce this policy. A super-majority vote shall direct enforcement and may designate another Commissioner to preside for that limited purpose.

AGENDA ITEM 7.A.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Form 700 and Ethics Training

BACKGROUND

The Political Reform Act (Government Code §§ 81000-91015) requires most state and local government officials to publicly disclose personal assets and income and to disqualify themselves from participating in governmental decisions that may affect their financial interests. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is the state agency responsible for administering the Act, issuing the Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), and interpreting its provisions.

In 2005, Assembly Bill 1234 (AB 1234) was enacted, requiring local agency officials to complete ethics training within one year of assuming office and every two years thereafter.

Effective January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 827 (SB 827, Chapter 661, Statutes of 2025) expands training requirements for local agency officials, including LAFCo Commissioners and Alternates. These requirements are in addition to AB 1234 ethics training and Form 700 filing obligations.

DISCUSSION

Form 700 - Statement of Economic Interests:

Upon appointment or election to the Commission, Commissioners and Alternates must file an Assuming Office Form 700. In addition, an Annual Form 700 covering the period from January 1 through December 31 must be filed each year.

- Annual Filing Deadline: April 1
- Filing Officer: LAFCo staff
- Access: Forms are retained by LAFCo and made available to the public upon request
- FPPC Website: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>

Ethics Training (AB 1234):

Commissioners and Alternates are required to complete ethics training within one year of assuming office (six months for officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026), and every two years thereafter.

The FPPC offers an online ethics training course at:

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/public-officials-and-employees-rules-/ethics-training.html>

The course takes approximately 2.5 hours, may be completed in multiple sessions, and includes short quizzes following each section. Upon completion, Commissioners must save and submit the completion certificate to the Commission Clerk.

New Training Requirements Effective January 1, 2026 – SB 827

SB 827 establishes additional requirements applicable to Commissioners and Alternates beginning in 2026:

- Accelerated Ethics Training Timeline: Officials assuming office on or after January 1, 2026 must complete ethics training within six months of assuming office.
- Fiscal and Financial Training: Commissioners and Alternates must complete at least two hours of fiscal and financial training every two years, covering topics such as budgeting, financial reporting, fiscal oversight, revenues, and stewardship of public resources.
- Recordkeeping: LAFCo is required to retain ethics and fiscal training records for a minimum of five years and make information available regarding how training records may be requested.

Staff will incorporate these requirements into commissioner onboarding materials and compliance tracking beginning in 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

AGENDA ITEM 7.B.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Brown Act Update

BACKGROUND

The Ralph M. Brown Act (G.C. §54950 et seq.), otherwise known as the Brown Act, was enacted in 1953 to ensure that actions of local agencies occur in open and public meetings, with posted agendas, where all persons are permitted to attend and participate. Over the years, several updates have been made to the Brown Act. Most recently, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) on October 3, 2025, that has become operative on January 1, 2026.

DISCUSSION

SB 707 includes several changes to the Brown Act for all agencies, and additional requirements for certain eligible agencies. Changes for all agencies include the following:

- Provide a copy of the Brown Act: Local agencies are now required to provide a copy of the Brown Act to any serving members on the legislative body of the local agency. For Trinity LAFCo, a [digital link](#) will be provided to each Commissioner via email. A hard copy of the Brown Act can be provided upon request.
- Social Media Communication: Members of a legislative body are now permanently allowed to use internet-based social media platforms to engage with the public on matters within their jurisdiction. However, they may not deliberate or discuss business among themselves on such platforms. This includes any interaction with a digital post such as a written reply or any sort of reaction (“Like”, emojis, etc.).
- Meeting Decorum and Disruptions: The Brown Act now expressly affirms that local agencies may remove or restrict participation by individuals engaging in disruptive behavior during teleconferenced or hybrid meetings, ensuring that the orderly conduct of public meetings is maintained even in virtual settings.
- Accessibility Accommodations: Members of a legislative body with disabilities may now participate in meetings remotely as a reasonable accommodation. These members must participate using both audio and video technology unless their disability requires an exception. They must also disclose whether any other individuals over the age of eighteen are present in the room in their remote location and the general nature of their relationship to those individuals. Participation by members under these circumstances is deemed equivalent to in-person attendance for all legal purposes, including the quorum requirements.
- Board (Commission) Member Remote Meeting Participation Options: Traditional teleconferencing rules under G.C. §54953 are still available for members of a legislative body. SB 707 made changes to alternative teleconferencing options based on the type of local agency and the circumstances in which teleconferencing is being used. Most notably, the “emergency circumstances” provision allowed by AB 2449, has now been incorporated under the “just cause” provisions. Additionally, a legislative body may now hold meetings remotely under a proclaimed state of emergency (proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act) or local emergency (proclaimed by the governing body of the local

agency affected in accordance with Section 8630 of the California Emergency Services Act or a local health emergency declared pursuant to Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code).

Additional changes are required for “eligible legislative bodies” which is defined as:

- (A) A city council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
- (B) A county board of supervisors of a county, or city and county, with a population of 30,000 or more.
- (C) A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
- (D) The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets any of the following conditions:
 - (i) The boundaries of the special district include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more, and the special district has over 200 full-time equivalent employees.
 - (ii) The special district has over 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.
 - (iii) The special district has annual revenues, based on the most recent Financial Transaction Report data published by the California State Controller, that exceed four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000), adjusted annually for inflation commencing January 1, 2027, as measured by the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index from January 1 of the prior year to January 1 of the current year, and the special district employs over 200 full-time equivalent employees.

Under this definition, LAFCo does not qualify as an eligible legislative body and is therefore not subject to the additional requirements of SB707.

Several entities have developed updated guides or informational pages on the Brown Act which can be found using the following links:

- California Special District Association: 2026 CSDA Brown Act Compliance Manual
www.csda.net/member-resources/brown-act-resources
- Burke, Williams, & Sorensen, LLP: Brown Act 2026
www.bwslaw.com/insights/burke-brown-act-compilation-2026/
- Best, Best, & Krieger, LLP: Major Brown Act Updates Under SB 707
www.bbklaw.com/resources/la-101025-major-brown-act-updates-under-sb-707

LAFCo staff will be emailing resources on the Brown Act and its recent updates to all special districts within the County. Resources include a two-page Q&A drafted by staff (Attachment A) and a link to the 2026 Brown Act Compliance Manual created by CSDA.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments

- A) Brown Act Update Information for Special Districts

Recent Updates to the Brown Act

What is the Brown Act?

The Ralph M. Brown Act or “Open Meeting Law” is codified in [California Government Code § 54950 et seq.](#) The Brown Act was enacted in 1953 to guarantee the public’s right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.

Who must comply with the Brown Act?

The Brown Act applies to most legislative bodies, including city councils, boards of supervisors, special district boards, commissions, and standing committees.

What does the Brown Act mandate?

The Brown Act requires that all meetings of legislative bodies be conducted in a public forum and be open to the public. Key requirements include:

- (1) Meetings must be publicly noticed with agendas posted at least 72 hours in advance (24 hours for special meetings).
- (2) Agendas must clearly describe each item of business to be discussed and acted upon.
- (3) Deliberations and actions must occur in open session unless specifically authorized for closed session.
- (4) The public must be allowed to attend and provide comment.
- (5) A majority of members may not discuss, deliberate, or take action on agency business outside a properly noticed meeting (including serial communications).

What is SB 707?

On October 3, 2025, Governor Newsom signed SB 707 (Durazo) into law. SB 707 makes significant revisions to the Brown Act, including reorganizing teleconferencing rules and expanding public access requirements. Most provisions take effect January 1, 2026. Certain additional requirements apply beginning July 1, 2026, to agencies classified as “eligible legislative bodies.”

How do the recent updates to the Brown Act affect my district?

SB 707 includes several changes to the Brown Act that apply to all agencies, along with additional requirements for certain “eligible legislative bodies.” Changes for *all agencies* include the following:

- Provide a copy of the Brown Act: Local agencies must provide a copy of the Brown Act to each member of the legislative body. The copy may be provided electronically.
- Social Media Communication: Members of a legislative body may use internet-based social media platforms to communicate with the public on matters within the agency’s jurisdiction. However, members may not deliberate, discuss, or develop a collective concurrence with other members regarding agency business through social media. This prohibition includes written replies, comments, or reactions (such as “likes” or emojis) to another member’s post concerning agency business or matters within the agency’s jurisdiction.
- Meeting Decorum and Disruptions: The Brown Act now expressly affirms that agencies may remove or restrict participation by individuals who engage in disruptive behavior during

teleconferenced or hybrid meetings, ensuring that the orderly conduct of public meetings is maintained even in virtual settings.

- Accessibility Accommodations: Members with qualifying disabilities may participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation. Participation must generally include both audio and video unless the disability requires otherwise. Members must disclose whether any individuals over age 18 are present in the room and the general nature of their relationship. Participation under this provision counts fully toward quorum and voting requirements.
- Board Member Remote Meeting Participation Options: Beginning January 1, 2026, SB 707 eliminates the former “emergency circumstances” provision and limits remote participation without prior notice to members who qualify under the revised “just cause” provision. “Just cause” now includes childcare or caregiving responsibilities, contagious illness, physical or mental health needs, official travel on behalf of the legislative body or another state or local agency, care for an immunocompromised family member, a medical emergency, or military service obligations. Unlike prior law, local agency approval is no longer required to use a just cause exception, but the qualifying circumstances are now strictly defined. Vacation travel or private employment travel does not qualify. A member who does not meet the just cause requirements may still participate remotely if the agenda lists the physical location from which the member will appear and that location is open to the public. Otherwise, a member may observe the meeting remotely in the same manner as a member of the public but may not participate or be counted toward quorum.

Additional Requirements for “Eligible Legislative Bodies”:

Certain additional amendments apply only to “eligible legislative bodies,” as defined by SB 707. These include expanded teleconferencing requirements, language translation requirements for agendas, and adoption of policies addressing internet disruptions during meetings.

For special districts, an “eligible legislative body” includes the board of directors of a special district that maintains a website and meets one or more of the following conditions:

- The district’s boundaries include the entirety of a county with a population of 600,000 or more and the district employs more than 200 full-time equivalent employees;
- The district employs more than 1,000 full-time equivalent employees; or
- The district has annual revenues exceeding \$400,000,000 (adjusted annually for inflation beginning January 1, 2027) and employs more than 200 full-time equivalent employees.

Most rural special districts do not fall within this classification.

For More Information

For additional guidance, please consult the 2026 CSDA Brown Act Compliance Manual, which is available on our website at: www.trinitylafco.org/lafco-information/

Additional resources and compliance materials are also available through the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) at: www.csda.net

AGENDA ITEM 7.C.

MEETING: February 24, 2026
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms

BACKGROUND

The Commission consists of seven regular and three alternate members. The term of office for each member pursuant to CKH Act §56334 is four years and until the appointment and qualification of a successor. There are no term limits.

- County - Three regular members and one alternate appointed annually by the Board of Supervisors;
- Special Districts - Two regular members and one alternate appointed by the Independent Special Districts; and
- Public Members - Two regular members and one alternate appointed by the Commission.

DISCUSSION

County Member Selection:

County member appointments were made at the Trinity County Board of Supervisors meeting on January 6, 2026. Changes made included making Commissioner Carpenter-Harris the Alternate County seat, with Commissioner Gogan now seated in the Regular County seat.

Special District Member Election:

The terms of Commissioner Corbett and Alternate Commissioner Harper are scheduled to expire on April 30, 2026. LAFCo staff is working to initiate the election process by distributing a Request for Nominations to all independent special districts within Trinity County. Once nominations are received, a meeting of the Independent Special District Selection Committee will be convened for Districts to place ballots and vote for the new Commissioners. Staff anticipate this meeting being scheduled, if necessary, on or near April 21, 2026, the date of the next Commission meeting.

Public Member Selection:

The terms of Commissioner Grossman-Crist and Alternate Commissioner Kasper are scheduled to expire on April 30, 2027. At the beginning of 2027, LAFCo staff will issue a public notice and press release to solicit applications for these expiring public member seats. Commissioner Burke's term is not set to expire until April 30, 2029.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments

- A) Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

ATTACHMENT A

Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

Member	Designation	Appointed	LAFCo Term (June 30)
Julia Brownfield	Regular/County	01/06/26	By Annual appointment
Liam Gogan	Regular/County	01/06/26	By Annual appointment
Jill Cox	Regular/County	01/06/26	By Annual appointment
Heidi Carpenter-Harris	Alternate/County	01/06/26	By Annual appointment
Todd Corbett	Regular/District	06/18/2024	2022-2026
Andrew Johnson	Regular/District	06/18/2024	2024-2028
Lisa Harper	Alternate/District	12/09/2022	2022-2026
Anna C. Burke	Regular/Public	05/01/2025	2025-2029
Jake Grossman-Crist	Regular/Public	06/20/2023	2023-2027
Joseph Kasper	Alternate/Public	04/30/2023	2023-2027