



**SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**  
**ADOPTED MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. in the City of Eureka Council Chambers and via Zoom video conference with Chair Bushnell presiding.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Heidi Benzonelli, Michelle Bushnell, Steve Madrone, Meredith Matthews, Troy Nicolini, and Elaine Weinreb

Members Absent: Cheryl Kelly\*

Alternates Present: David Couch, Debra Garnes\*\*, and Gordon Johnson

Alternates Absent: Mike Wilson

Staff: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer  
Krystle Heaney, Clerk  
Ryan Plotz, Attorney

\*Commissioner Kelly was present on Zoom but not seated as a voting member.

\*\* Commissioner Garnes was seated as a voting member for the meeting.

**4. COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A) Recognition of the Appointment of Regular and Alternate City Members**

EO Santsche recognized the appointment of Meredith Matthews (City of Arcata) and Cheryl Kelly (City of Trinidad) as regular city members, and Debra Garnes (City of Rio Dell) as alternate city member.

**B) Recognition of the Appointment of Regular and Alternate Special District Members**

EO Santsche recognized that Heidi Benzonelli (Humboldt Community Services District) was elected as regular special district member and David Couch (McKinleyville Community Services District) was appointed as alternate special district member.

Chair Bushnell welcomed the new commissioners and thanked them for their availability and willingness to serve on LAFCo.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A) Approval of July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion Madrone/ Benzonelli** to approve the consent calendar. Motion passed by 7-0-0 voice vote.

**7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A) Introduction/ Overview of LAFCo**

EO Santsche introduced the staff report provided a presentation on the general make up and functions of LAFCo. This included information on commission regulatory functions, planning functions, and the application process.

Commissioner Nicolini noted that LAFCo's overarching objective is promoting the efficient delivery of public services. This guides LAFCo in its planning and regulatory functions of establishing spheres, conducting service reviews, and approving boundary changes that seek to discourage sprawl and protect open space.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**A) Orleans Community Services District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (continued from July 17, 2024 meeting)**

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided an overview of the revisions made to the document since the last commission meeting. District President Earl Crosby provided comments and noted that the District is involved with planning efforts to update the water treatment system and will also be updating their distribution system as part of the process.

Commissioners asked if members of the Orleans community ever contacted the District about water issues, and what type of intake system is utilized for the water system. Mr. Crosby responded that there have been limited public comments but that the District is always open and available to answer questions. He also noted that the stream intake is located in a steep drainage with no influence from cattle grazing or agriculture and it is unlikely that a higher quality source could be found and utilized. It was noted that portions of the system are supported by propane generators, and the new treatment plant will have an integrated generator to support operations during power outages. The District is also working with Cal Poly Humboldt and other stakeholders on development of a microgrid for the community.

**Motion Madrone/Matthews** to adopt Resolution 24-07 approving the Orleans CSD MSR/SOI Update. Motion passed by 7-0-0 roll call vote.

**9. INFORMATIONAL AND CONTINUING ITEMS**

**A) Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms**

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of expiring commissioner terms in 2024. The staff report also included a summary of the special district election results.

**B) Status Municipal Service Review Preparations**

Clerk Heaney introduced the staff report and provided an overview of current MSR preparations. Staff have been working on the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District MSR/SOI Update and the City of Eureka MSR/SOI Update.

**C) Status of Current and Future Proposals**

EO Santsche introduced the staff report and provided a brief summary of current applications. Staff is working on finalizing the Arcata FPD and hope to complete the process by the end of the year.

EO Santsche provided an overview of current fire services planning efforts. She participates in weekly calls with a fire services planning group that provides assistance to fire agencies including long term planning, tax roll preparation, and more.

It was also briefly noted that Humboldt CSD is still working on their annexation application for the North McKay Ranch subdivision which will potentially be received by the end of the year. EO Santsche has responded to inquiries regarding shared administrative services between Big Lagoon CSD and McKinleyville CSD, and Redway CSD's efforts to update their Place of Use permit.

## **10. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **A) CALAFCO Daily Legislative Report (May 2024)**

### **B) CALAFCO Staff Workshop (April 2024)**

EO Santsche noted that the current legislative list was included in the packet for Commission review and provided an overview of the CALAFCO staff workshop.

## **11. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE - None**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am. The next meeting of the Commission will take place on November 20, 2024 at 9:00am at the City of Eureka Council Chambers located at 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.