



AGENDA ITEM 8A

MEETING: July 15, 2026

TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Amber Chung, Clerk

SUBJECT: **Appointment of Alternate Public Member**

The Commission will receive a report on the Alternate Public Member recruitment process, including a recommendation from the Public Member Selection Committee, and consider the appointment of an Alternate Public Member to serve the 2026-2030 term.

BACKGROUND

The Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is established pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 and consists of seven regular members, including two county members, two city members, two independent special district members, and one public member. Each membership category is also represented by one alternate member.

While county, city, and special district members are appointed by their respective appointing authorities, the Commission serves as the appointing authority for the Public Member and Alternate Public Member positions. At its May 20, 2026 meeting, the Commission appointed Commissioners Bushnell, White, and Couch to serve on a Public Member Selection Committee to review applications, interview candidates as desired, and provide a recommendation to the full Commission.

DISCUSSION

The term of Alternate Public Member Commissioner Johnson expired on June 30, 2026. LAFCo staff issued a public notice and press release in March 2026 to solicit applications for the expiring alternate public member seat. Four applications were received and provided to the Selection Committee for review.

Following its review, the Selection Committee elected to interview two applicants and is recommending Michele Fell-Casale for appointment as the Alternate Public Member. All applicants were notified of the Selection Committee's recommendation and invited to attend the Commission's July meeting.

The Commission is invited to discuss this item, receive public comment, and, if desired, ask questions of any attending applicants in attendance prior to taking action on the appointment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission receive the report, consider the recommendation of the Selection Committee, and appoint an Alternate Public Member to serve the 2026-2030 term. Pursuant to Government Code Section 56325(d), appointment of an Alternate Public Member requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the Commission, including at

least one county member, one city member, and one special district member. Alternatively, the Commission may continue this item to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for September 16, 2026.