



AGENDA ITEM 9A

MEETING: January 18, 2023
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Status of Expiring Commissioner Terms
The Commission will receive a report identifying members whose elected terms of office were scheduled to expire in 2022 or 2023. The report is being presented for information only.

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 states the composition of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) shall generally include seven regular members consisting of county (two), city (two), special district (two), and public (one) representation. Each category represented on LAFCo also has one alternate member. Appointments for the county, city, and special district seats are made by the board of supervisors, city selection committee, and mail ballot processed by LAFCo, respectively. Appointments for the public seats are made by the other regular members. All LAFCo terms are four years.

DISCUSSION

Humboldt LAFCo had six members whose LAFCo terms of office and/or elected terms of office were scheduled to expire in 2022 including:

- Virginia Bass (county)
- Stephen Avis (city)
- Gordon Johnson (city alternate)
- Troy Nicolini (special district)
- David Couch (special district alternate)
- Skip Jorgensen (public alternate)

County Member Selection:

On January 10, 2023, the Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisors Michelle Bushnell and Steve Madrone as the regular county members and Supervisor Mike Wilson as the county alternate.

City Member Selection:

The City Selection Committee met on August 3 and appointed Ferndale Councilmember Stephen Avis to serve as the Regular City Member and Rio Dell Councilmember Gordon Johnson to serve as the Alternate City Member. However, both members elected terms of office ended on December 31, 2022. As such, the City Selection Committee will need to meet again to appoint two new members to the

Commission. On January 3, 2023, the Executive Officer sent a request to the City Selection Committee and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors (Attachment B) requesting new appointments and is awaiting to hear back once the meeting is scheduled.

Special District Member Election:

The terms for one Regular and one Alternate special district seat, previously held by Troy Nicolini (Peninsula CSD) and David Couch (McKinleyville CSD), expired in 2022. A mailed ballot election process concluded on November 1, 2022, with a quorum of independent special districts submitting ballots. Troy Nicolini was re-elected for the Regular Special District seat and Heidi Benzonelli (Humboldt CSD) was elected for the Alternate Special District seat, both with a term ending June 30, 2026. A notice of the election results was sent out all independent special districts on November 4, 2022 (Attachment C).

Public Member Selection:

The alternate public member seat previously held by Skip Jorgensen is currently vacant. Staff has issued news releases and announcements soliciting applications for the open seat. These have been issued to multiple outlets and organizations throughout Humboldt County and posted to our website. To date, two applications have been received. Applications will be reviewed by a subcommittee, and if deemed necessary, interviews with the candidates will be scheduled. A recommendation will be made prior to the Commission voting on the alternate public member appointment at the March 15th Regular Commission meeting. Subcommittee members were originally appointed at the March regular commission meeting and included Commissioners Bass, Lake, and Losey. However, since Virginia Bass is no longer a commissioner, a new county member will need to be appointed to the committee.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission designate a county member to the special committee to review alternate public member applications, interview candidates if deemed necessary, and make a recommendation to the full Commission. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

Attachments

Attachment A: Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

Attachment B: City Selection Committee Memo

Attachment C: Independent Special District Election Results

ATTACHMENT A
Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

Member	Designation	Appointed	LAFCo Term (June 30)
Michelle Bushnell	Regular/County	1/10/2023	By Annual appointment
Steve Madrone	Regular/County	1/10/2023	By Annual appointment
Mike Wilson	Alternate/County	1/10/2023	By Annual appointment
Mike Losey	Regular/City	1/28/2021*	2020-2024
Vacant	Regular/City	n/a	2022-2026
Vacant	Alternate/City	n/a	2022-2026
Debra Lake	Regular/District	7/01/2020	2020-2024
Troy Nicolini	Regular/District	10/28/2022	2022-2026
Heidi Benzonelli	Alternate/District	10/28/2022	2022-2026
Ali Lee	Regular/Public	7/15/2020	2020-2024
Vacant	Alternate/Public	n/a	2022-2026

**Appointed to serve remainder of unexpired term*



1125 16th Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 445-7508 / (707) 825-9181 fax
www.humboldtlafo.org

Date: January 3, 2023
To: Mayor City Selection Committee of Humboldt County
 City Council Members of Humboldt County
From: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
Subject: **Request for City Member Appointments to LAFCo**

Humboldt LAFCo currently has two vacancies on its Commission and is requesting a meeting of the Mayor Selection Committee for purposes of appointing one regular and one alternate city member to fill unexpired four-year terms ending June 30, 2026. The current listing of city members appointed to LAFCo is provided below.

Current City Members on LAFCo

Designation	Current Member	Term Expiration
Regular Member	Mike Losey, City of Fortuna	June 30, 2024
Regular Member	Stephen Avis, City of Ferndale*	June 30, 2026
Alternate Member	Gordon Johnson, City of Rio Dell*	June 30, 2026

*Elected term with City ended December 31, 2022

Humboldt LAFCo is an independent commission created by the State Legislature to encourage the orderly growth and development of local agencies. LAFCo's mission is to facilitate changes in local governmental structure and boundaries that foster orderly growth and development, promotes the efficient delivery of services, and encourages the preservation of open space and agricultural lands. LAFCo seeks to be proactive in raising awareness and building partnerships to accomplish this through its special studies, programs, and actions.

The Commission is composed of seven regular commissioners: two county supervisorial members, two city council members, two special district members, and one public member, with an alternate for each category. LAFCo meets on the third Wednesday of odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m. in the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Chamber. Commissioners receive a \$20 per diem stipend and mileage reimbursements to help defray the costs of attending meetings. For more information about LAFCo, please visit www.humboldtlafo.org or contact the LAFCo office at (707) 445-7508.

Interested mayors or city council members are encouraged to provide letters of interest or other pertinent information for consideration by the Mayor City Selection Committee. Please send your letters of interest to colettem@humboldtlafo.org.

cc: Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
 City Managers



1125 16th Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 445-7508 / (707) 825-9181 fax
www.humboldtlafo.org

Date: November 4, 2022
To: Board of Directors of Independent Special Districts
From: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
Subject: RESULTS - Independent Special District Election

The term of office for one regular and one alternate special district member on LAFCo expired on June 30, 2022. Previously, a request for nominations was sent to independent special districts on January 23, 2022, which provided the opportunity to nominate candidates to fill the regular and alternate special district member vacancies on LAFCo. The nomination period ended on April 8, 2022, with several nominations received by the deadline. Subsequently, an official ballot was mailed on April 15, 2022, which provided each district the opportunity to vote for one candidate per seat. The deadline to return completed ballots was originally set for June 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. However, a quorum of votes was not received by the deadline and the balloting period was extended twice with a final deadline of October 28, 2022. Tabulation of ballots was conducted on November 1, 2022, with a total of 25 out of 48 independent special districts submitting ballots. The ballot count results are provided on the following page.

The successful candidates are listed below and will be seated at the January 18, 2022 LAFCo meeting and serve until June 30, 2026 (4 year term).

Regular Special District Member: Troy Nicolini – Peninsula CSD

Alternate Special District Member: Heidi Benzonelli – Humboldt CSD

Thank you to all that participated in this special district election. Please contact LAFCo at (707) 445-7508 or colettem@humboldtlafo.org if you have any questions.



Regular Special District Member Election Results
(For term beginning on July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2026)

Candidate	District	Votes
David Couch	McKinleyville Community Services District	4
Ed Duggan	Willow Creek Community Services District	4
Michael Hansen	Humboldt Community Services District	3
Troy Nicolini	Peninsula Community Services District	14
Total		25

Alternate Special District Member Election Results
(For term beginning on July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2026)

Candidate	District	Votes
Heidi J. Benzonelli	Humboldt Community Services District	11
David Couch	McKinleyville Community Services District	9
Troy Nicolini	Peninsula Community Services District	3
C. Caroline Snow	Willow Creek Community Services District	2
Total		25