



AGENDA ITEM 9A

MEETING: September 21, 2022
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 are scheduled to expire in 2022. 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 has five members whose terms of office that were scheduled to expire June 30, 2022. These members are as follows:

Stephen Avis (city)
Gordon Johnson (city alternate)
Troy Nicolini (special district)
David Couch (special district alternate)
Skip Jorgensen (public 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. Both commissioners are beginning new four-year terms ending June 30, 2026. Welcome back!

Special District Member Election:

Staff initiated the mail ballot selection process for the new special district terms with a call for nominations among the independent districts that was mailed on January 28, 2022. Nominations were received for multiple special districts for both the regular and

alternate seat. Official ballots were sent out to all independent special districts on April 15, 2022 and were due to LAFCo by 5:00pm on Friday, June 24, 2022. Following is a list of candidates for the regular and alternate seats.

Regular special district seat:

- David Couch, McKinleyville CSD
- Ed Duggan, Willow Creek CSD
- Michael Hansen, Humboldt CSD
- Troy Nicolini, Peninsula CSD

Alternate special district seat:

- Heidi Benzonelli, Humboldt CSD
- David Couch, McKinleyville CSD
- Troy Nicolini, Peninsula CSD
- Caroline Snow, Willow Creek CSD

In order to reach a quorum of all independent special districts within the county, at least 25 signed ballots must be returned to LAFCo. As of June 24, 2022, a quorum had not been reached. As such, the election was extended to August 26, 2022. To date, a quorum still has not been reached. As such, the election has been further extended to October 28, 2022 (see Attachment B). Staff will be reaching out to individual District's that have not returned a ballot to remind them of the election and offer additional assistance with the balloting process as needed. Per the CKH act, current members can continue to serve until the appointment or qualification of their successor.

Public Member Selection:

Currently, the alternate public member seat is vacant. Staff has issued news releases soliciting applications for the opening public seat. These have been issued to multiple outlets throughout Humboldt County and posted to our website. However, to date there have been no applicants. Staff has looked into the possibility of placing an advertisement in several area newspapers to help garner more interest and will be placing ads by the end of the month. Once an application (or applications) are received, the selected subcommittee members will review applications, interview candidates, and make a recommendation prior to the Commission voting on the alternate public member appointment. Subcommittee members were appointed at the March regular commission meeting and currently include Commissioners Bass, Lake, and Losey. Former alternate Jorgensen has effectively stepped down from the Commission and the seat is now consider vacant.

RECOMMENDATION

This item has been agendized for information only. 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: Independent Special District Election – voting Period Extension

ATTACHMENT A
Current LAFCo Membership and Terms

Member	Designation	Appointed	LAFCo Term (June 30)
Michelle Bushnell	Regular/County	1/11/2022	By Annual appointment
Virginia Bass	Regular/County	1/11/2022	By Annual appointment
Mike Wilson	Alternate/County	1/11/2022	By Annual appointment
Mike Losey	Regular/City	1/28/2021*	2020-2024
Stephen Avis	Regular/City	8/3/2022	2022-2026
Gordon Johnson	Alternate/City	8/3/2022	2022-2026
Debra Lake	Regular/District	7/01/2020	2020-2024
Troy Nicolini	Regular/District	4/11/2018	2018-2022
David Couch	Alternate/District	4/11/2018	2018-2022
Ali Lee	Regular/Public	7/15/2020	2020-2024
Vacant	Alternate/Public	n/a	2022-2026

**Appointed to serve remainder of unexpired terms*



Date: September 2, 2022
To: Board of Directors of Independent Special Districts
From: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
Subject: Independent Special District Election – Voting Period Extension

The terms of office for one regular and one alternate special district members on LAFCo expired on June 30, 2022. Previously, a request for nominations was sent to independent special districts with several nominations received by the deadline. Official ballots were mailed on April 15, 2022, which provided each district the opportunity to vote for one candidate for each seat. The deadline for submitting ballots, originally due June 24, 2022, was extended to August 26, 2022. **To date, not enough ballots have been received to achieve a quorum. As such, the deadline for submitting ballots is being extended once again to Friday, October 28, 2022.**

An updated schedule is enclosed, which provides for an extended balloting period. For those special districts who have not yet submitted their ballots, please contact LAFCo if you need replacement ballots. **Ballots must be returned to Humboldt LAFCo, 1125 16th Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521 on or before October 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

Your district is encouraged to participate in this election process. For an election to be valid, at least a quorum of special districts must submit valid ballots. With 48 independent special districts in the county, a quorum represents 25. Please refer to the enclosed list of participating districts.

If you have questions or need replacement ballots, please contact:

krystleh@humboldtlafo.org or leave a voicemail at (707) 445-7508.

Thank you!

Election Schedule

LAFCo call for nominations	Friday, January 28, 2022
Nominations due to LAFCo	By 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 8, 2022
Ballots mailed to independent special districts via certified mail	By Friday, April 15, 2022
Election Day – Ballots due to LAFCo (<i>quorum not achieved</i>)	By 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 24, 2022
Extended Election Day – Ballots due to LAFCo	By 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 28, 2022
Election results mailed to independent special districts	No later than Friday, November 4, 2022
New special district members seated	At November 16, 2022 LAFCo Meeting

Current Special District Terms

Designation	Current Member	Term of Office (ends on June 30)
Regular Member	Debra Lake, Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District	2020 - 2024
Regular Member	Troy Nicolini, Peninsula Community Services District	2018 - 2022
Alternate Member	David Couch, McKinleyville Community Services District	2018 - 2022

Independent Special Districts

Districts with a ✓ have submitted ballots

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Big Lagoon Community Services District ✓ Briceland Community Services District Carlotta Community Services District ✓ Fieldbrook-Glendale Community Services District ✓ Humboldt Community Services District Loleta Community Services District Manila Community Services District ✓ McKinleyville Community Services District Miranda Community Services District Orick Community Services District Orleans Community Services District Palmer Creek Community Services District ✓ Patrick Creek Community Services District ✓ Peninsula Community Services District Phillipsville Community Services District Redway Community Services District ✓ Riverside Community Services District ✓ Scotia Community Services District Weott Community Services District Westhaven Community Services District ✓ Willow Creek Community Services District Alderpoint County Water District ✓ Hydesville County Water District ✓ Jacoby Creek County Water District ✓ Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garberville Sanitary District ✓ Resort Improvement District No. 1 ✓ Arcata Fire Protection District Blue Lake Fire Protection District Briceland Fire Protection District Bridgeville Fire Protection District Ferndale Fire Protection District ✓ Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District ✓ Garberville Fire Protection District Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District Kneeland Fire Protection District Myers Flat Fire Protection District ✓ Petrolia Fire Protection District Redway Fire Protection District ✓ Rio Dell Fire Protection District Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District Willow Creek Fire Protection District ✓ Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District ✓ Humboldt County Resource Conservation District North Humboldt Recreation and Park District Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District ✓ Fortuna Cemetery District Petrolia Cemetery District |
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