

**2023**

**Commissioners**

**Chair**

Matt Gourley  
*Public Member*

**Vice Chair**

Kimbley Craig  
*City Member*

Mary Adams

*County Member, Alternate*

Wendy Root Askew

*County Member*

Glenn Church

*County Member*

David Kong

*Special District Member, Alternate*

Mary Ann Leffel

*Special District Member*

Ian Oglesby

*City Member*

Warren Poitras

*Special District Member*

Steve Snodgrass

*Public Member, Alternate*

Anna Velazquez

*City Member, Alternate*

**Counsel**

Reed Gallogly

*General Counsel*

**Executive Officer**

Kate McKenna, AICP

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## Regular Meeting MINUTES LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Adopted on August 28, 2023

Monday, June 26, 2023

All Commissioners and public participated in the meeting on Monday, June 26, 2023 in person or by Zoom video conference.

### Call to Order

The Local Agency Formation Commission was called to order by Chair Gourley at 3:01p.m.

### Roll Call

Commissioner Adams

Commissioner Root Askew

Commissioner Church

Commissioner Kong

Commissioner Leffel

Commissioner Oglesby

Commissioner Poitras

Commissioner Snodgrass

Commissioner Velazquez

Vice Chair Craig

Chair Gourley

Arrived at 3:59 p.m.

### Members Absent (Excused Absence)

None

### Staff Present

Kate McKenna, Executive Officer

Darren McBain, Principal Analyst

Jonathan Brinkmann, Senior Analyst

Safarina Maluki, Clerk to the Commission/Office Administrator

### Also Present

Reed Gallogly, General Counsel

### Pledge of Allegiance

All Commissioners participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## General Public Comments

*Anyone may address the Commission briefly about items not already on the Agenda.*

There were no public comments.

## Consent Agenda

*All items on the Consent Agenda will be approved in one motion and there will be no discussion on individual items, unless a Commissioner or member of the public requests a specific item to be pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.*

1. Approve Draft Minutes from the May 22, 2023 Regular LAFCO Commission Meeting.  
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378)
2. Accept the May 31, 2023 Draft Balance Sheet and Income Statement.  
Recommended Action: Accept statements for information only.  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378).
3. Authorize the Executive Officer to execute Amendment #2 to the Best Best & Krieger LLP Agreement for Specialized Attorney Services.  
Recommended Action: Authorize Agreement Amendment #2 with Best Best & Krieger LLP to provide funding for continued legal representation of LAFCO in litigation with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) (Case No. 22CV000925).  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378).
4. Accept Report on Anticipated Agenda Items and Progress Report on LAFCO Special Studies.  
Recommended Action: Accept report for information only.  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378).
5. Accept Report on Activities of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions.  
Recommended Action: Accept report for information only.  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378).

Commissioner Leffel requested consent agenda items #3 and #4 pulled for discussion.

Commissioner Velazquez requested consent agenda item #1 pulled for discussion.

Staff responded to questions from Commissioner Leffel regarding the BBK Amendment #2 and timelines for the LAFCO Initiated Studies.

Staff responded to questions and comments from Commissioners Oglesby and Church.

Commissioner Velazquez requested that her comments from the May 22 meeting regarding concerns raised by residents of the City of Soledad about the Soledad Cemetery District be entered into the record. The Soledad City Council has received multiple complaints about vandalism of the gravesites, accurate accounting of purchased plots, partying and drinking on cemetery grounds, lack of maintenance and upkeep of gravesites, lack of meeting transparency and the lack of resolution and responsiveness to concerns.

Executive Officer McKenna addressed Commissioner Velazquez's request for a timeline on the initiated studies for reviews and prioritization and provided action steps that Staff would follow up on.

There were public comments from Ida Lopez Chan, CEO of Soledad Health Care District.

Commissioner Oglesby requested staff update the Commission on concerns and priorities.

Commissioner Action:

Upon motion by Commissioner Leffel, seconded by Commissioner Poitras, the Commission approved Consent Agenda Items #1 – #5 with corrections.

Motion Carried :

AYES: Commissioners: Church, Leffel, Oglesby, Poitras, Vice Chair Craig,  
Chair Gourley

NOES: Commissioners: None

ALTERNATES: Commissioners: Adams, Kong, Snodgrass, Velazquez (Non-Voting)

ABSENT: Commissioners: Root Askew

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None

New Business

6. Agricultural Preservation and Mitigation – Review of LAFCO's Policies and Practices.  
Recommended Action: Receive and discuss a presentation on LAFCO's policies and practices.  
(CEQA: Not a Project under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378).

Executive Officer McKenna provided an introduction to the presentation and staff report.

Principal Analyst McBain presented a slideshow that reviewed LAFCO's policies and practices. Executive Officer McKenna provided closing comments.

Staff responded to questions from Commissioners Velazquez, Church and Poitras. There were further questions, discussion comments and concerns expressed by Commissioners Leffel, Craig, Velazquez and Oglesby.

There were public comments from:  
Lisa Brinton, Community Development Director, City of Salinas  
Meghan Hunter, City Manager, City of Soledad  
Brent Slama, Brent Slama Consulting  
Chris Steinbruner (Zoom)  
Leif Agha

There were additional comments from Commissioners Leffel, Craig, Velazquez and Oglesby. Chair Gourley invited a motion to continue the meeting the next scheduled meeting in August.

Commissioner Leffel made the motion to:

- 1) Continue the discussion to the Regular August 28 meeting;
- 2) To discuss, at the August meeting, what the Preservation of Open Space and Agricultural Lands policy of LAFCO should be going forward, to meet the needs of our communities; and
- 3) To direct staff to provide the slide that the Commission did not have in the June 26, 2023 meeting packet.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Poitras.

Commissioner Craig requested the motion be amended and to:

- 4) Direct staff to transmit a letter to the County from LAFCO stating that LAFCO is currently reviewing the policies and procedures and LAFCO staff will be meeting with Salinas Valley cities over Ag Mitigation. LAFCO on record, will continue with the discussion with the County, after the meeting with the cities has occurred.

Commissioner Leffel approved the motion be further amended and added that the Commission would not only discuss policy, but consider providing direction to make policy changes(action).

The Commissioners voted unanimously to add the amendments to the motion.

### Commissioner Comments

*Individual Commissioners may comment briefly on matters within the jurisdiction of LAFCO. No discussion or action is appropriate, other than referral to staff or setting a matter as a future agenda item.*

Commissioner Root Askew directed interested parties and viewers looking for further clarification and contact information to the Housing Community & Development website which lists the efforts by other agencies and communities that have been working on Ag Mitigation.

### Adjournment to the Next Meeting

A motion to table, continue the agenda item to the next meeting and adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Craig, seconded by Chair Gourley and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Gourley adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

The next Regular LAFCO Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the **Monterey Rooms at the Monterey County Government Center (Second Floor, 168 W. Alisal Street)**.

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