

AMADOR LAFCO



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

810 COURT STREET ♦ JACKSON, CA 95642 ♦ (209) 223-6380

MINUTES

September 21, 2017

APPROVED

This meeting was available via live audio streaming and was digitally recorded.

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call**

The September 21, 2017, meeting of the Amador Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), held at the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, was called to order by Chairman Crew at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present:

Pat Crew, Chairman
Dominic Atlan, City Member
Tim Murphy, City Member
Jim Vinciguerra, Public Member
Brian Oneto, County Member (arrived 6:16 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Roseanne Chamberlain, Executive Officer
Nancy Mees, Clerk to the Commission

3. **Approval of Agenda for September 21, 2017**

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Vinciguerra, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

4. **Approval of the Minutes of June 15, 2017**

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Atlan, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes for June 15, 2017, as submitted.

5. **Approval of Claims to September 21, 2017**

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Vinciguerra, and carried unanimously to approve the Approval of Claims – Meeting Final, as submitted.

6. **Public Forum – Public Comment**

Yvonne Kimball introduced herself as the new Jackson City Manager, and the board welcomed her.

7. **Study Session and Discussion: Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA)**

Executive Officer Chamberlain reported that, although LAFCO has no control over ACRA as it is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), that agency does work with the cities and county. As currently structured, ACRA has an unreliable revenue stream and is therefore looking at alternatives to being a JPA, one of which is the possibility of becoming an independent special district. Ms. Chamberlain has met with Carolyn Fregulia, the Executive Director of ACRA, and the ACRA Board to explain the LAFCO process of district formation to them.

Carolyn Fregulia then spoke, explaining that the State has already declared that JPAs must follow the rules for special districts. She distributed the list of ACRA Governing Board members. Ms. Fregulia stated that a large part of ACRA funding comes from membership fees, although not all members pay. Moreover, the fee was set in 2005 at five dollars per person in each city and in the unincorporated portion of the county. However, while expenses have increased over the years, fees have remained the same. ACRA tries to make up the difference through contracts with city pools, parks, Little League, etc. In addition, they receive some funding through participation fees, donations, and sponsorships, although sponsors are not included in the budget.

Ms. Fregulia distributed some financial documents for the last two years. She pointed out that expenses decreased from last year, but this was primarily due to staff cuts. Expenses are going up, however, she reported, and ACRA is limited as to what it can do. The City of Jackson has been funding the Hub program, and there have been donations from the Rancheria and others. They have also been trying to rent out their facilities to help defray costs. In conclusion, Ms. Fregulia stated that ACRA would like to change to a funding mechanism that all parties can agree on that did not rely on fees.

In answer to a question from Commissioner Crew, Executive Officer Chamberlain explained that, although JPAs can have bonds for capital improvements, they cannot levy assessments. But independent special district could do so. The current TAC committee for ACRA, made up of all the city managers, would like ACRA to become a regional parks and recreation district. In response to a question from Commissioner Vinciguerra, Ms. Chamberlain stated that, as far as she knew, no other county has a JPA form of parks and recreation management, nor do they have a regional parks and recreation district. Instead most have districts based in urban or other suitable areas. However, because Amador County is small and less populated, she believes a regional district could work here. The need for parks and recreation services has increased in Amador County, and that need will only increase in the future. But as people demand more parks and recreations services, those services should also be funded by the people.

Commissioner Crew asked why ACRA had originally been set up as a JPA. Ms. Fregulia replied that the County had received some grant money and needed someone to administer the funds. Currently ACRA mostly provides recreation services and manages the parks, but does not do capital improvement projects as they do not have the funding for that. They also have a hard time finding and keeping good employees due to the low salaries they are forced to pay.

Commissioner Atlan agreed that the JPA form does not make sense, and that a special district would work better. He believes, however, that any assessments should be on property, not persons. He also feels that no new taxes should be imposed, but that current tax income should be allotted differently.

8. **Report of the Little Hoover Commission: “Special Districts, Improving Oversight and Transparency”**

Executive Officer Chamberlain started by explaining that some of the problems addressed in this report are not problems in Amador County, although some of the recommendations will be helpful. She then briefly reviewed some of the recommendations. The second recommendation suggested that the Legislature provide one-time grant funding to pay for specified LAFCO activities. Ms. Chamberlain said there would be lots of competition for the funding, but it would be nice to receive some money from the state to pay for implementing their rules.

Recommendation 3 advised the Legislature to enact SB 448, which would simplify the process of dissolving inactive districts. There are a couple inactive districts in Amador County, so this will make dissolving them more simple and less expensive.

Recommendation 5 requests legislation to give LAFCO members fixed terms. This recommendation came about because there is politicization of LAFCO positions in some counties. However, in Amador County, Ms. Chamberlain said, the Commission has been stable, and the quality of the work done by this LAFCO Board reflects that.

Recommendation 9 says the Legislature should require every special district to have a website. This recommendation came about because a lot of districts operate under the radar, and the people within the district don't know what is happening. In Amador, LAFCO is working on validating the boundaries of the special districts. These will then be posted on our website.

The Report also had a group of recommendations suggesting that special districts consider elements of climate change and disaster preparedness when making their master plans and other documents.

9. **Appointment of Voting Delegate to CALAFCO Annual Meeting & Nominations, if any, to the CALAFCO Board of Directors**

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Vinciguerra, seconded by Commissioner Atlan, and carried unanimously to appoint Roseanne Chamberlain as the voting delegate for Amador LAFCO at the State CALAFCO Conference in October.

10. **Other Business, Reports**

- a. Correspondence –Executive Officer Chamberlain pointed out the letter in the packet from the California Special Districts Association regarding LAFCO's role with respect to special districts.
- b. Commissioner Announcements – none.
- c. Executive Officers Report – Ms. Chamberlain reported that she did not switch liability insurance carriers as she learned that the Executive Officer is covered under the current carrier's policy, but that the new carrier would not cover her for errors and omissions. In addition, there was little difference in cost between the two policies.


APPROVED

- d. Budget Report – in the review binder at the dais.
- e. Legislation Report – Executive Officer Chamberlain reviewed the legislation summarized in Agenda Item #10 in the packet. SB 448, giving LAFCOs the power to dissolve inactive districts without conducting a protest hearing is currently on the governor’s desk. AB 464 involving out-of-area service extensions was chaptered. AB 979 will streamline the process of seating special district members on LAFCO boards. AB 1479 deals with obtaining public records from any public agency. Although record requests are handled fairly well in Amador County, there are some districts in other areas from which it is hard to get information.
- f. Project Status Report – Executive Officer Chamberlain reported that things are not too busy at the moment, but LAFCO is working on boundary verifications.

11. Adjournment

The next regular LAFCO meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2017.

Chairman Crew adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



Pat Crew, Presiding Officer
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

ATTEST: Nancy Mees
Nancy Mees, Clerk to the Commission