



Inyo Local Agency Formation Commission
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Commissioners:

Rick Pucci (Inyo County)
Susan Cash (Inyo County)
Jeff Griffiths (City of Bishop)
Susan Cullen (City of Bishop)
Dave Patterson (Public)

Alternates:

Marty Fortney (Inyo County)
Jim Ellis (City of Bishop)
Doug Thompson (Public)

LAFCo Staff:

Joshua Hart, AICP (Executive Officer)
Dana Crom (Counsel)
Dan Stewart (Clerk/Analyst)

MINUTES for Monday, April 11, 2011

The Inyo Local Agency Formation Commission met on Monday, April 11, 2011, at the Bishop City Council Chambers located at 301 West Line Street, Bishop, CA. Chair Patterson opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

ITEM 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Commissioners absent: Susan Cash and Jim Ellis

Staff absent: None

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Griffiths suggested that Commissioner Patterson remain the LAFCo Chair for 2011, Commissioner Patterson agreed to another term.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Griffiths and seconded by Commissioner Cullen to nominate Dave Patterson as chairperson for 2011.

The Motion passed unanimously with Chair Patterson abstaining as he was being nominated for the position. With Commissioner Cash and Commissioner Ellis absent.

Commissioner Cullen suggested that Commissioner Cash assume the Inyo LAFCo Vice-Chair position for 2011. Commissioner Cash, being absent, could not object or agree.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Cullen and seconded by Commissioner Fortney to nominate Commissioner Cash as vice chairperson for 2011.

The Motion passed unanimously. With Commissioner Cash and Commissioner Ellis absent.

ITEM 4: ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED FROM THE AGENDA

Executive Officer, Joshua Hart, clarified that today's Agenda was drafted prior to the release of the appointments for both the County of Inyo and the City of Bishop, and there are some changes on the Agenda due to this fact. He went on to state that the County of Inyo appointed Supervisor Rick Pucci and Supervisor Susan Cash to represent the County of Inyo on the Inyo LAFCo Commission, with Supervisor Marty Fortney as the alternate. Also the City of Bishop LAFCo representatives include City Council Members Jeff Griffiths and Susan Cullen, and Jim Ellis as the City of Bishop alternate. The Public LAFCo members will remain the same, with Dave Patterson and Doug Thompson as the Public alternate.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 7, 2010 INYO LAFCO MEETING (Action Item)

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Cullen and seconded by Commissioner Fortney to approve the June 7, 2010 Inyo LAFCo Minutes.

The Motion passed unanimously. With Commissioner Pucci abstaining as he was not present at the June 7, 2010 LAFCo meeting. With Commissioner Cash and Commissioner Ellis absent.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were none.

ITEM 7: DISSOLUTION 2011-01/ HIDDEN SPRINGS WATER (Public Hearing and Action Item)- This project involves the dissolution of an inactive Water District in the Charleston View area. The Hidden Springs Water District provides no services, and is not expected to provide any services in the future, and therefore, it is recommended that it be dissolved.

Staff provided a brief summary of the proposed dissolution of the Hidden Springs Water District.

Commissioner Patterson remarked that some of the residents of Charleston View remarked to him that they were under the understanding that the Hidden Springs Water District was a Community Services District, and not a solely a Water District. Joshua Hart, Executive Officer, responded by informing the Commission that staff had contacted several of the citizens of Charleston View and conducted a public outreach meeting in the area of the Hidden Springs Water District to inform the residents of the proposed dissolution of the water district. Commissioner Fortney commented that he appreciated the fact that staff took the time to talk with and address the concerns of the people of Charleston View, rather than just proceeding with the dissolution.

Dana Crom, LAFCo Counsel, explained that the water district is limited to providing water to district residents and its powers cannot be expanded to provide other community services. Counsel informed the Commission that based on the comments received during the public outreach meeting, future development within the district boundaries may warrant the formation of a community services district to address the needs and desires of the residents of Charleston View. Counsel further discussed the history and legal issues surrounding the ownership of the well previously used by the water district, and the analysis supporting staff's conclusion that the water district owns know no assets.

Commissioner Pucci inquired about the assets of the Hidden Springs Water District. Dan Stewart, Clerk/Analyst, clarified that the Hidden Springs Water District has no known assets. Commissioner Pucci further inquired about the potential benefits of a Community Services District versus the Water District that the Hidden Springs Water District is currently organized as. Joshua Hart commented that there are two large proposed projects within the Hidden Springs Water District boundaries, the BrightSource Solar Project and the Magnificent Church. A Community Services District could potentially provide many services to the Residents of Charleston View moving forward, however the Water District is very limited to water services.

Commissioner Griffiths inquired about the Planned Development in the Charleston View area. Dan Stewart, LAFCo Clerk/Analyst, replied that there was a plan that was submitted for development many years ago, however nothing has moved forward to development stages. Commissioner Fortney added that the primary reason nothing has moved forward is due to limited water resources.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Griffiths and seconded by Commissioner Cullen to adopt Resolution No. 2011-01/Hidden Springs Water District and schedule a protest hearing within the boundaries of the Hidden Springs Water District, as recommended by staff.

The Motion passed unanimously. With Commissioner Cash and Commissioner Ellis absent.

After some discussion about the logistics of the protest hearing the Inyo LAFCo Commission tentatively scheduled the Hidden Springs Water District's Dissolution Protest Hearing for 2 pm May 16, 2011 at the community bulletin board in Charleston View, CA.

ITEM 8: SPECIAL DISTRICTS UPDATES- Annual update to the Inyo LAFCo Special Districts.

Staff provided a summary of the annual special districts updates and asked for input.

ITEM 9: EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S & COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Joshua Hart, LAFCo Executive Officer, informed the Commission that the Mesa CSD is contemplating reorganization, which was the last of the Special Districts that were identified as inactive in the 2007 Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence Updates. The dissolution of the Hidden Springs Water District was the last piece of business Inyo LAFCo identified for staff. Mr. Hart mentioned that other CALAFCo's were initiating a second round of Municipal Service Reviews, and that the Inyo LAFCo could potentially follow suit. Mr. Hart also remarked that many of the Special Districts in

Inyo County were fiscally healthy and operated efficiently. Mr. Hart posed the question what is the next order of business for LAFCo staff. Commissioner Patterson agreed that many of the Special Districts in Inyo County functioned well as they are. He went on to comment that conducting a second round of Municipal Services Review may simply “creating” work for Staff. Mr. Hart agreed with Commissioner Patterson and went on to clarify that the Inyo LAFCo should remain dormant for fiscal year 2011-2012, unless a project is put forth by application.

Mr. Hart commented that he and Mr. Stewart had recently returned from the 2011 CALFCo Staff Conference in Ventura, CA. Mr. Hart went on to state that there were several sessions that were useful and interesting. Mr. Stewart added that it was enlightening to observe and interact with other larger and more active LAFCo’s.

Mr. Hart commented that the 2011 Annual Conference would take place in late August and early September. Commissioner Patterson commented that the 2010 CALAFCo Annual Conference was well worth attending. He went on to inform the Commission that one of the topics presented at last years conference was the rising costs of labor, which is largely due to the increase in pension costs. He also informed the Commission that another one of the presentations at the last years conference depicted the costs associated with consolidations was very high, however the cost of consolidations had been good investment for other LAFCos. Overall Commissioner Patterson believes that the conferences are well worth the time and money spent.

Commissioner Griffiths commented that there was an error in the Audit conducted for fiscal year 2009-2010. Staff replied that they agreed and would inquire with the Inyo County Auditor. Commissioner Fortney added that there is an assembly bill in the House that may limit the amount of audits that a single audit firm may conduct on behalf of a municipal agency.

ITEM 10: DETERMINE TIME AND LOCATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF INYO LAFCO (Action Item)

Commissioner Patterson reaffirmed that the next Inyo LAFCo meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. May 16, 2011 in Independence, CA to discuss the preliminary budget. The Commission would then travel to Charleston View to conduct the Protest Hearing for the Dissolution of the Hidden Springs Water District at 2 p.m. May 16, 2011. The Commission agreed that this course of action would be the most economical and best use of the Commission’s time.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Patterson adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Prepared by:

Dan Stewart,
Inyo LAFCo Clerk/Analyst