LAFCo
of Merced County

Local Agency Formation Commission
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MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2025

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION MERCED COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Chairman Bertao called the regular meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in the Board of Chamber, Third Floor, Room, of the Merced County Administration Building.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:	**Commissioner Bertao (Chairman)** **Commissioner McDaniel** **Commissioner Pedrozo (Alternate Voting Member)** **Commissioner Silveira (Vice Chair)**
Commissioners Absent:	**Commissioner Reed** **Commissioner Amabile** **Commissioner Raymond**
Staff Present:	**Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer** **Malathy Subramanian, Legal Counsel (Online)** **Danielle Bettencourt, Recording Secretary**

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of the minutes from the September 18, 2025 meeting.

MOTION: M/S MCDANIEL – PEDROZO, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3 - 0, THE COMMISSION APPROVES THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

V. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Public comment opened 10:10 am

None

Public comment closed 10:10 a.m.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING (Testimony limited to 5 minutes or less per person

A. Annexation No. 2025-1 to the Franklin County Water District (LAFCO File No. 0706)

Executive Officer Bill Nicholson provided an overview of the Franklin County Water District's (FCWD) proposal to annex 34.4 acres consisting of 118 residential parcels and associated public roads and facilities into the district.

Executive Officer Nicholson noted the purpose of this annexation is to annex properties already connected to the District's sewer and wastewater services but were not previously annexed and to annex existing residential properties on small parcels that rely upon on-site septic systems but will likely require sewer services from the District in the future. Executive Officer Nicholson also indicated an error occurred in the Executive Officer report which in some locations listed the annexation as 43.4 acres, but it is a 34.4-acre annexation.

Public comment opened at 10:20 am

Jessica Johnson, Legal council for Franklin County Water District, came forward for public comment.

Public comment closed at 10:22 am

MOTION: M/S MCDANIEL – PEDROZO, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3 - 0, THE COMMISSION DETERMINED THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 34.4 ACRES CONSISTING OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE CEQA GUILDELINES SECTION 15301 – "EXISTING FACILITIES."

M/S MCDANIEL – PEDROZO, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3 - 0, THE COMMISSION ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 0706 APPROVING ANNEXATION NO. 2025-1 TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BASED ON THE NINE DETERMINATIONS PRESENTED ON PAGE 4 AND 5 OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT.

B. Joe Stefani School Annexation to the Franklin County Water District (LAFCO File No. 0705) and Waiver of the Application Processing Fees in Accordance with Government Code Section 56383 (d)

Executive Officer Bill Nicholson provided an overview of the annexation of Joe Stefani Elementary School located on a 15.7-acre parcel, into the Franklin County Water District. Executive Officer Nicholson noted this project was previously granted an out-of-boundary service extension to provide a wastewater connection to replace a failing septic system at the school, and the annexation into the District was a condition of approval.

Executive Officer Nicholson requested the Commission waive the annexation processing fees in the amount of $2,700 because the processing of this application occurred because of staff error in the processing of a similar annexation application that was brought before the Commission in 2022 (identified as LAFCO File No. 0692).

Public comment opened at 10:32 am

Jessica Johnson, Legal Counsel, came forward for public comment.

Public comment closed at 10:33 am

MOTION: M/S PEDROZO – MCDANIEL, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3 - 0, THE COMMISSION DETERMINED THAT THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 19.17 ACRES AND ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATLEY 15.17 ACRES WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER CEQA PURSUANT TO THE CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15301 – "EXISTING FACILITES."

M/S PEDROZO – MCDANIEL, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 3 - 0, THE COMMISSION ADOPTS RESOLUTION NO. 0705 APPROVING THE ANNEXATION OF JOE STEFANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNEXATION TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BASED ON THE TWELVE DETERMINATIONS PRESENTED ON PAGE 4 AND PAGE 5 OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT AND DETERMINE THAT THE REAPPROVAL OF THE ANNEXATION OF THE JOE STEFANI SCHOOL PROPERTY (LAFCO FILE NO. 0705) WAS PROCESSED AT NO FAULT OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT AND THE COMMISSION WAIVES THE PROCESSING FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,700.00 AS AUTHORIZED UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 56383(d) BASED ON THE TWO DETERMINATIONS PRESENTED ON PAGE 5 OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT.

VII. EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Summary of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Annual Conference held in San Diego in October 2025.

Executive Officer Nicholson provided an update and report on the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) Annual Conference that he and Commissioner Josh Pedrozo attended in San Diego in October 2025.

Vice Chairman Scott Silveira joined the meeting at 10:45 am.

B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner McDaniel wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Josh Pedrozo mentioned he enjoyed the CALAFCO conference and the breakout sessions and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Vice Chairman Scott Silveira wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Bertao adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.