



**Los Angeles County Committee on
School District Organization**
c/o Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242-2890

**2024
County Committee Members**

June 27, 2024

First Supervisorial District

John Quintanilla
John Nunez

TO: Members of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee)

Second Supervisorial District

Estefany Castaneda
Charles Davis

FROM: Octavio Castelo, Secretary to the County Committee

Third Supervisorial District

Ralph Mechur
Barry A. Snell

SUBJECT: Cancellation of July 3, 2024, Regular Meeting of the County Committee

Fourth Supervisorial District

Donald LaPlante
Martha Deutsch, *Vice Chairperson*

The regular meeting of the County Committee scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2024, has been **CANCELLED**. The next scheduled meeting of the County Committee is for **Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 9:30 AM**.

Fifth Supervisorial District

Cherise Moore
Suzan T. Solomon, *Chairperson*

The following is an update of relevant information and activities as of June 21, 2024.

At Large

Frank Bostrom

Octavio Castelo
Secretary
(562) 922-6131

Staff Activities

Staff continues to monitor developments related to a petition from the City of Malibu to form a Malibu Unified School District (USD) from territory currently within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (USD).

Staff is guiding districts that are in various stages of their trustee area and trustee area voting proposals related to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

Staff is monitoring CVRA press coverage within the county, in addition to adjacent counties and other regions throughout the state in order to add articles to the County Committee website.

Staff is assisting with the planning of the annual County Committee Fall Election and will be sending a bulletin to all Los Angeles County school districts and community college districts apprising them of the upcoming election once details are confirmed.

Staff is continuing its work with the Policies Subcommittee in its review of County Committee policies.

Legislation Updates

Staff are monitoring legislative activities for pertinent bills.

School District Organization Proposals

Updated versions of the following two documents are provided for your information.

- “Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Re-Organization Proposals.” (Attachment)
- “Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Re-Organization Proposals.” (excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District) (Attachment)

If you have questions, please email me, or you may reach Dr. Allison Deegan at (562) 922-6336.

AD/EH:vb

Attachments



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Attachment

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORGANIZATION (COUNTY COMMITTEE)
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – JULY 2024**

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Assembly Bill 453 / Cervantes	INTRODUCTION DATE: 02/06/23	LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 06/18/24: Re-referred to Senate Committee on Local Gov't.
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DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require that when any public hearing concerning the change to district-based elections is consolidated with a meeting that includes other substantive agenda items, to begin the public hearing at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda, and notice of the hearing must be given to the public.

**POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL
DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICTS**

School districts going through the process of implementing Trustee Areas (TA) and Trustee Area Voting (TAV) would need to ensure they comply with the bill by providing notice of the hearing with its specific commencement time. If the hearing is combined with a meeting, the agenda items will need to have their time allotments coordinated so that the hearing can occur at its scheduled time.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Watch | Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time. |
| ☐ Approve | County Committee supports the bill's concept, but will not actively work for passage. |
| ☐ Support | County Committee actively supports the bill. |
| ☐ Oppose | County Committee actively opposes the bill. |
| ☐ Disapprove | County Committee disapproves of the bill's concept, but will not actively oppose passage. |

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Senate Bill 1209 / Cortese	INTRODUCTION DATE: 02/15/24	LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 06/20/24: Passed out of Assembly Committee on Local Gov't.
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DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would authorize the LAFCO to require, as a condition for, among other things, processing a change of organization or reorganization, that the applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the LAFCO, its agents, officers, and employees from and against any claim, action, or proceeding, as specified, arising from or relating to the action or determination by the LAFCO.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill may result in reducing LAFCO's hesitation to approve proposals for which there are liability concerns inherent to the organization or reorganization, or in which there could be negative ramifications for an entity and/or its stakeholders at some point in the future.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- ☒ **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- ☐ **Approve** County Committee supports the bill's concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- ☐ **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- ☐ **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- ☐ **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill's concept, but will not actively oppose passage.

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Senate Bill 248 / Newman	INTRODUCTION DATE: 01/26/23	LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 09/01/23: Assembly Committee on Appropriations held on submission.
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DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require after April 1, 2024, a candidate for elective office to file with the Secretary of State, no later than the final filing date of a declaration of candidacy, a form to disclose the candidate's prior education and work history, and history of military service, if any.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This could possibly reduce the number of prospective candidates running for school board elections.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Watch | Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time. |
| ☐ Approve | County Committee supports the bill's concept, but will not actively work for passage. |
| ☐ Support | County Committee actively supports the bill. |
| ☐ Oppose | County Committee actively opposes the bill. |
| ☐ Disapprove | County Committee disapproves of the bill's concept, but will not actively oppose passage. |

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Assembly Bill 3277 / Assembly Committee on Local Government	INTRODUCTION DATE: 02/27/24	LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 06/13/24: Passed Senate, back to Assembly for engrossing and enrolling.
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DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require LAFCO to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency if the proposal includes the formation of a district and the applicant is seeking a share of the 1% ad valorem property taxes.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Until a petition with a proposed property tax revenue exchange plan involving the formation of a new district is presented to the County Committee, it is unknown whether the districts, County Committee, and/or SBE would concur with the amount(s) designated, or deem the amount as unfairly advantaging and/or disadvantaging the affected district(s). It is also unclear whether negotiated agreements affecting district(s) allocations in the future could be adjusted by LAFCO after making its determination, given future uncertainties of property tax revenue fluctuations.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Watch | Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time. |
| ☐ Approve | County Committee supports the bill's concept, but will not actively work for passage. |
| ☐ Support | County Committee actively supports the bill. |
| ☐ Oppose | County Committee actively opposes the bill. |
| ☐ Disapprove | County Committee disapproves of the bill's concept, but will not actively oppose passage. |

AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

If staff's recommended position is based on the need for amendments to the bill language, suggested alternative language is attached.

CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRED

If staff's recommended position is based on the need for correspondence to the bill's author, the Governor or other governmental officials, a draft of suggested language is attached.

Please direct comments to Mr. Octavio Castelo, Secretary to the County Committee at (562) 922-6131.



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Attachment

Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

July 2024

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that were at various stages in the school district organization process as of June 21, 2024.

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE LOS ANGELES USD (LAUSD) TO THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA USD (PVPUSD)

On July 10, 2019, Chadmar/Colfin Rolling Hills, LLC., submitted an owner petition to transfer five parcels of uninhabited territory from LAUSD to PVPUSD. At the September 4, 2019, regularly scheduled County Committee meeting, the petition was to be introduced to the County Committee. However, Chadmar's new counsel, David Soldani, addressed the County Committee and requested that the petition be withdrawn at that time. At the County Committee's regular meeting on March 3, 2021, Mr. Soldani provided the update that only four parcels may need to be transferred, and that the revised petition would likely be resubmitted within the next few months.

Status: Petition temporarily withdrawn, to be resubmitted
Status Date: March 3, 2021

RECENT INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last two years)

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Inner City USD / April 2024

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Inglewood USD to LAUSD / April 2023
- LAUSD to Palos Verdes Peninsula USD / March 2021

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.



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Attachment

**Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals
(Excluding those pertaining to Los Angeles Unified School District)**

July 2024

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals [excluding the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)] that are at various stages in the school district reorganization process as of June 24, 2024.

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

On September 1, 2017, LACOE received a petition in the form of a 2015 resolution from the City of Malibu to form a separate Malibu USD from territory within the boundaries of the existing Santa Monica-Malibu USD. The petition was introduced at the November 1, 2017 regular County Committee meeting, and at least one public hearing will be scheduled. After this local agency petition was introduced, however, the City of Malibu sent a letter requesting that the County Committee postpone the scheduling of its preliminary hearing to allow the stakeholders more time to discuss further options and details regarding the petition.

On February 28, 2018, however, the City of Malibu apprised the committee of their interest in pursuing the preliminary public hearing. Then, in April 2018, the City resolved to further investigate options before asking the County Committee to proceed. At its May 2, 2018 regular meeting, the County Committee voted to delay scheduling the preliminary public hearing until after getting an update on negotiations at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 5, 2018. On September 5, 2018, representatives from the City of Malibu and the Santa Monica-Malibu USD apprised the County Committee of their negotiations, and again at the March 6, 2019 meeting. On May 10, 2019, staff met with the district to ascertain the status of its ongoing study and analyses. The parties to the petition returned to the committee on September 4, 2019, October 2, 2019, November 6, 2019, January 8, 2020, and March 4, 2020 to provide updates on their studies.

On August 5, 2020, the school district's attorney apprised the committee that the impacts of the COVID-19 public health crisis on the school district- and on the city- had put a pause on their negotiations. On October 7, 2020, counsel for the City of Malibu said the pursuit of a legislative solution on the splitting of the parcel tax had stalled, and that on October 12, 2020, the City of Malibu would be considering hiring a third consultant to provide a new fiscal review on the petition. On October 29, 2020, the city manager sent the city council's request that the petition be reactivated and that the County Committee's process move forward.

At the County Committee's regularly scheduled meeting on December 2, 2020, the initial preliminary public hearing was scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021, pending public health concerns about the viability at that time of having an in-person public hearing. On March 3, 2021, the County Committee voted to conduct a virtual preliminary public hearing on April 17, 2021. That event was held and attended by more than 300 people. The County Committee heard testimony from the City of Malibu, the Santa Monica-Malibu USD, and both proponents and opponents of the petition. The County Committee concluded the preliminary public hearing on September 18, 2021, after which it approved moving the petition into the regular County Committee petition review process.

The County Committee held a virtual public hearing on November 10, 2021. At the County Committee's regular meeting on February 2, 2022, the City of Malibu requested that the County Committee delay further review of the petition in consideration of pending negotiations with the SMMUSD in March. At the County Committee's regular meeting on March 2, 2022, the City of Malibu apprised the County Committee that there are two meetings scheduled between the parties in March, and that a status update would be provided before the County Committee's regular meeting in April. On April 19, 2022, representatives of the City of Malibu notified staff that they are still negotiating with the SMMUSD and would like to delay hearing the petition. On February 1, 2023, staff received what the parties called a "Term Sheet" jointly from representatives of the City of Malibu, and from the SMMUSD. At County Committee regular meetings throughout 2023, representatives for the City of Malibu and the SMMUSD (attorneys Christine Wood and David Soldani) have appeared online or in-person consistently to offer commentary. Attorney Dale Larsen, representing the SMMUSD on the trustee area petition, also appears and relates it to the petition to form a Malibu USD. Attorney Wood disputed the report of comments she made at one of the recent meetings so we are reviewing all of the recent County Committee recordings from 2023 to document (in brief) when the representatives spoke and to allude generally to commentary they offered. Below is a recounting of meetings we have reviewed:

March 1, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 55:45 mark, Soldani requested that the CC delay review of petitioners' SB 442 CVRA petition until after the unification is settled. It is unclear from the recording whether Wood attended.

April 5, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 1:33:45 mark, Soldani stated that the parties are continuing to negotiate and are making progress. At the 1:34:49 mark, Wood spoke and "agrees with Dr. Deegan's updates," and agreed with everything Soldani had just said in his update.

May 3, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At about the 24:00 mark, Dr. Deegan debriefed the phone consultation staff had conducted with Ms. Wood and Mr. Soldani, including the recommendation to revoke the current petition, since the parties' current activities and negotiations no longer comport with the former city council's 2015 original petition.

At the 26:15 mark, Wood said she concurred with Dr. Deegan's update.

At the 26:40 mark, Wood said "we have been coming to your meetings for several months now with updates on our joint negotiations," and she recapped that they had mediation sessions on 03-12-22, 04-02-22, 07-09-22, and the next one would occur on 08-08-23.

July 3, 2024, Cancelled Meeting of the County Committee
June 27, 2024
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At the 29:30 mark, Wood conveyed that both sides are on the same page with their mutually shared goals.

June 7, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 44:00 mark, Soldani read aloud a prepared statement by SMMUSD Governing Board Member Laurie Lieberman.

At the 46:47 mark, Soldani had concluded reading Lieberman's statement; he then requested that the CC lay out detailed expectations for the CVRA petition's public hearings, especially under the new procedures which the CC has never done before, and which some of the members appear to need more clarity about. At the 52:15 mark, Dale Larson, representing the SMMUSD district in the trustee area matter, said the CVRA petition should be paused until the unification petition is resolved.

At the 1:17:50 mark, Soldani reiterated that 08-08-23 will be the next mediation between the parties.

July (Meeting Cancelled)

August (Meeting Cancelled)

September 6, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 1:04:45 mark, Wood said the parties received an independent analysis which created a formula to monetize the Term Sheet the parties had created, and that both parties have agreed to the formula.

At the 1:06:50 mark, Soldani said he agreed to everything Wood had just conveyed to the County Committee, and that the next mediation on 10-17-23 has the goal of trying to agree to timelines and whether the City of Malibu is willing to withdraw its original petition and whether the SMMUSD would then file its own petition.

October 4, 2023 LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 1:34:35 mark, Wood said she had no updates beyond what Dr. Deegan had shared during the staff update. She said she was attending the meeting in case the CC had questions.

At the 1:35:45 mark, Wood said the parties had reached terms on a Per Pupil Funding Formula, and that they were in the process of negotiating contingency agreements for that, as well as various contingencies associated with Operational Agreements. She said that on 10-17-23, the parties would meet to try to come to further terms on many contingencies to be addressed.

At the 1:37:40 mark, Wood acknowledged that they haven't broached CEQA considerations yet, among many other issues.

At the 1:38:05 mark, Soldani said he had one "modification" to offer on Wood's updates, which is that of the three agreements (in the Term Sheet), the fiscal aspect is the most complicated, and that they believe they have come to agreement on that. The SMMUSD is hoping that the next mediation will result in the parties agreeing that the City of Malibu's petition should be withdrawn.

Nov. 1, 2023, LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 13:55 mark, Dr. Deegan gave the staff update.

At the 21:40 mark, attorney Dale Larsen (representing the SMMUSD in the trustee area petition) said the unification petition parties have made great progress, so the CVRA petition should be delayed to allow district to undertake significant public outreach about the unification petition.

At the 40:27 mark, Wood stated that the parties made substantive progress on a revenue sharing agreement, and that a JPA agreement shouldn't be difficult for the sides to achieve. They are hoping that in February 2024, the parties will ratify the agreements, but that the SMMUSD needs to do significant public outreach in January 2024 about the proposed revenue sharing agreement. They are optimistic they can have special legislation in the 2024 legislative session to help the two sides achieve the unification.

December 6, 2023 LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 1:08 mark, Dr. Deegan gave the staff update.

At the 1:10:00 mark, Ms. Wood, representing the City of Malibu in person, was called on and deferred to Mr. Soldani, representing the SMMUSD, who appeared online.

At the 1:11:30 mark, Mr. Soldani stated that the relevant parties did meet and continue to work through components of the revenue sharing agreement. He also stated that the parties to the unification petition owe the County Committee an updated timeline, reporting that the parties continue to make progress by degrees in their negotiations. Mr. Soldani clarified that the SMMUSD never threatened to withdraw from the unification process because of the work required on the trustee area petition but stated that to hold the public hearings for the trustee area petition in January 2024 would delay the unification in the special legislation process by a year. He continued that it does not make sense to review a trustee area petition on the cusp of a unification petition, which would necessarily address trustee areas.

At the 1:14:35 mark, Ms. Wood, representing the City of Malibu, stated that she would defer to Mr. Soldani and everything he said. She said the City would not be happy if the process to get special legislation started for the unification was delayed by a year, stating that the City want to move forward with the petition.

January 10, 2024 LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 44:58 mark, Dr. Deegan gave the staff update.

At the 45:43 mark, Ms. Wood, representing the City of Malibu, appeared in person along with Mr. Soldani, representing the SMMUSD. They presented their "updated aspirational timeline" for goals they had previously presented to the County Committee in a PowerPoint they referenced as the groups' term sheet.

March 6, 2024 LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 35:44 mark, Dr. Deegan gave the staff update.

At the 37:25 mark, Ms. Wood, representing the City of Malibu in person, was called on; Mr. Soldani was not in attendance nor appeared remotely. At the 38:16 mark, Ms. Wood said they gave a presentation to the County Committee several months ago and they have concluded all discussions and negotiations around their financial agreement. She said they are waiting for an opportunity to share that financial agreement with the community, and that they are negotiating the terms of the other two agreements. At the 47:14 mark, Ms. Wood said, "...all of the work that we've done in the last couple of years have been to avoid a review of the nine criteria." Ms. Wood also stated that the CVRA activity had obstructed their ability to focus and make progress on the [City of Malibu's] unification petition.

April (Meeting Cancelled)

May (Meeting Cancelled)

June 5, 2024 LACCSDO Meeting:

At the 35:38 mark, Dr. Deegan paused the start of the staff update as the County Committee engaged in discussion, then at the 43:50 mark sought to answer questions arising from the discussion by resuming the beginning of the staff update. At the 46:24 mark, Dr. Deegan was able to resume the staff update.

At the 53:32 mark, Ms. Wood representing the City of Malibu in person, was called on; Mr. Soldani attended online and spoke after her. She stated that Malibu has hosted several community meetings (no dates provided) for a total of eight. She stated that Malibu “had a special council meeting and a couple other community meetings, like on a Saturday, and an evening meeting, and met with all of our PTAs, and the Chamber of Commerce, and the Malibu Association of Realtors just to get feedback from the community about the terms of the Revenue Sharing Agreement.” Ms. Wood stated that they didn’t have any joint meetings, but they did use the same PowerPoint, including at the community meeting SMMUSD had at the end of May (2024).

At the 55:30 mark, Mr. Soldani began his update, and thanked the County Committee for allowing them to avoid litigating a previous version of a petition, given the willingness of both parties to negotiate. He emphasized that this will be the most complicated unification that has ever been attempted in California, and that it is more complicated than the Wiseburn Unification petition. He stated that both districts will be Basic Aid, and there are some financial complications involved. The groups and their mediator met on Tue. June 4, 2024, and they plan to be largely completed by early Fall 2024. They scheduled a June 18 follow-up mediation and intend to spend July working on the other two agreements, an Operational Agreement, and a JPA, targeting August 1st through 15th as when all three agreements will be shared with everyone in the community and with the County Committee.

In summary, representatives for both the SMMUSD and the City of Malibu (Soldani and Wood) consistently requested that the County Committee consider both the petition to add trustee areas and trustee area voting (submitted by two residents) and the petition to create a Malibu USD (submitted by the City of Malibu) as linked items given the involvement of the SMMUSD in both petitions and the challenging timelines for hearings, financial details that remain unresolved, ongoing mediation, and the prospects of special legislation. The timeline for hearing this petition remains unclear. In a November 29, 2023 letter from attorney Larsen (for the SMMUSD trustee area petition submitted by two residents) he stated that the district could not pursue the work needed to achieve unification during January and February of 2024 if it also had to attend to the trustee area petition, and, again linking the two petitions, requested that the trustee area petition not be taken up until March of 2024. At the County Committee meetings on December 6, 2023, and January 10, 2024, Kevin Shenkman, attorney for the trustee area petitioners, stated emphatically that the trustee areas petition is not linked with the petition to create a Malibu USD. On Wednesday, April 17, 2024, some County Committee staff met with some of the parties representatives for a presentation about their tentative Revenue Sharing Agreement. The parties said there are two other agreements they are working on which may be presented to the County Committee after they receive input from the outreach they are conducting and after the community meetings they are planning. Since County Committee staff were not invited to attend any of the community meetings which the City of Malibu’s representatives said were being scheduled, staff visited the City of Malibu’s website on May 1, 2024. The website said a community workshop would occur on May 15 at Malibu City Hall. Upon revisiting the website on May 4, it stated that the community meeting had been cancelled, and it did not mention if or when it would be rescheduled. On June 14, 2024, Mr. Soldani sent a letter with an

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updated timeline which was shared with the County Committee in its information packet for the cancelled meeting of July 3, 2024. When a full review of the petition is agendized, staff will present a feasibility study.

Status: Parties negotiating while feasibility study continues.
Status Date: June 25, 2024

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) TO THE LA CANADA USD

On November 23, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700, to transfer certain territory from the Glendale USD to the La Canada USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Ms. Nalini Lasiewicz, Mr. Thomas G. Smith, and Mr. Nick P. Karapetian. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On January 13, 2016, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioners on January 15, 2016.

On June 29, 2016, the chief petitioners submitted signed petitions for review. On June 30, 2016, staff conveyed the signed petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. On July 18, 2016, staff received notice from the Registrar-Recorder that there were sufficient signatures to move the petition forward. Chief Petitioner Smith subsequently resigned from his role.

The petition was presented to the County Committee on September 7, 2016. The County Committee held two public hearings (October 26, 2016, in the La Canada USD, and November 2, 2016, in the Glendale USD). In mid-February, 2017, the two districts resumed negotiations in an attempt to find amicable solutions, but as of mid-April, were not able to resolve issues. A feasibility study was presented to the County Committee at the May 3, 2017 meeting, after which the Committee gave a preliminary approval to the proposal.

In the fall 2017, staff concluded the Request For Proposal (RFP) process, evaluated vendors, and selected an environmental consultant, for whom a contract was agreed upon. The environmental analysis concluded with the report's comment period spanning August 30 – September 18, 2018. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Public Hearing convened on October 3, 2018, at the County Committee's regular scheduled meeting. The County Committee continued to review the petition.

In February 2019, Dr. Kelly King, Interim Superintendent of the Glendale USD, requested a delay in the final review of the petition so that she could become familiar with the relevant issues following her recent appointment. Also in February 2019, the chief petitioners requested that the final review of the petition not take place at the April 3, 2019 meeting, because that date would fall during spring break and may impact participation by the public. In April 2019, the chief petitioners requested the June meeting date be changed due to coinciding with the school year ending, which could prevent some parents from attending the meeting.

At the October 2, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting, the County Committee voted to accept the CEQA findings, and conducted a final vote to approve the petition, but did not approve the election area, pending the review of different election area scenarios. At the November 6, 2019, regularly scheduled meeting, the County Committee further discussed election area factors and requested additional election area maps to be reviewed at the January 8, 2020 meeting.

Before the County Committee could finalize the election area at the January meeting, however, Glendale USD appealed the petition's approval to the State Board of Education (SBE), and commenced litigation about the sufficiency of the CEQA process, which halted the County Committee's process. At its May 6, 2020, regular meeting, the County Committee passed a resolution to convey the petition's administrative record to the SBE.

In September of 2022, CDE/SBE notified County Committee staff that they were reviewing this appeal and preparing for SBE review. In the latter half of December 2023, the CDE issued notification that the appeal was scheduled for January 18-19, 2024. The SBE heard the appeal on January 18, 2024, denied the appeal, and selected the transfer area as the election area. The CEQA litigation was settled and the suit dismissed on March 13, 2024.

Status: Election preparations underway
Status Date: May 28, 2024

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

On July 23, 2015, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioner Mr. Seth Jacobson, a community member who is a Malibu resident. Mr. Jacobson, along with two other chief petitioners, wants to form a separate Malibu USD from territory within the boundaries of the existing Santa Monica-Malibu USD. Prior to the submission of any signed petitions related to this request, the City of Malibu submitted its own petition to form a Malibu USD, which was discussed earlier in this update document.

Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on July 27, 2015, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on July 30, 2015, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable. The petition was mailed to the chief petitioner on July 31, 2015, for circulation within the petition area. Staff is informed that signatures have been gathered, but not yet presented for signature verification, as the petitioners continued to negotiate with the Santa Monica-Malibu USD. A joint committee was appointed by both the district and the City of Malibu, which released a study addressing the implications of this petition. It is not clear if negotiations with this petitioner group are ongoing.

Status: Petitioners may be in negotiation.
Status Date: March 18, 2016

FORMATION—ALTADENA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PASADENA USD)

On January 17, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioners Ms. Maurice Morse, Ms. Shirlee Smith, and Mr. Bruce Wasson, three community members who are residents of the area known as Altadena. The chief petitioners want to form an Altadena USD from territory within the boundaries of the Pasadena USD. The petition request was returned to the chief petitioners on January 20, 2006, because it lacked an adequate description of the area pursuant to EC §35700.3.

On February 10, 2006, LACOE received a revised request for a petition. Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on February 22, 2006, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on March 6, 2006, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable.

On March 7, 2006, staff forwarded the draft petition to the Registrar-Recorder for verification that the description of the proposed boundaries of the Altadena USD was sufficiently clear (so registered voters residing within the proposed petition area could be identified with specificity). The Registrar-Recorder confirmed that the description was sufficient on March 10, 2006.

The petition was mailed to the chief petitioners on March 14, 2006, for circulation within the petition area. The Registrar-Recorder estimated the chief petitioners must collect approximately 7,000 valid signatures to meet the criteria set forth in EC §35700(a).

On September 23, 2010, chief petitioners delivered signed petitions to LACOE. Staff submitted the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder on September 27, 2010, for signature verification. On October 22, 2010, the Registrar-Recorder notified staff that there were insufficient valid signatures (less than the required 25 percent of the registered voters within the petition area). Staff notified the chief petitioners of the insufficiency, and at Mr. Wasson's request, returned the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for a signature audit. Staff also advised the chief petitioner regarding the collection of additional signatures. Upon notification by the Registrar-Recorder of a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee at the next regular meeting.

On January 4, 2011, staff conferred with a representative from the Registrar-Recorder's office, who informed us that no audit of petition signatures had been done yet, and they clarified the cost of signature verification. On February 15 and March 1, 2011, staff contacted the Registrar Recorder's office and were informed that the signature audit was not yet done. On May 12, 2011, staff from the Registrar Recorder's office advised LACOE that an audit of the petition's signatures was underway. On November 28, 2011, the chief petitioner, Mr. Wasson, notified LACOE of the death of one of the co-chief petitioners, Ms. Morse. Mr. Wasson stated that another chief petitioner would not be named. In August of 2014, staff confirmed that petitioner is still interested in collecting additional signatures.

Status: Petition insufficient; chief petitioners may gather additional signatures.

July 3, 2024, Cancelled Meeting of the County Committee
June 27, 2024
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Status Date: December 5, 2011

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: February 21, 2008

FORMATION—LA MIRADA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORWALK – LA MIRADA USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: March 20, 2007

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Inner City USD / April 2024

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Castaic Union SD to Saugus Union SD / November 2023
- Inglewood USD to LAUSD / April 2023
- Azusa USD to Glendora USD/October 2016

Trustee Areas and/or Governing Board Size/Last Activity Date

- Acton-Agua Dulce USD / June 2024
- El Monte City SD / March 2024
- San Marino USD / April 2022
- Walnut Valley USD / May 2016

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10 RIVER PARK PLACE EAST, SUITE 240
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93720-1534
(559) 225-6700

FAX (559) 225-3416
WWW.AALRR.COM

CERRITOS
(562) 653-3200

IRVINE
(949) 453-4260

MARIN
(628) 234-6200

PASADENA
(626) 583-8600

PLEASANTON
(925) 227-9200

RIVERSIDE
(951) 683-1122

SACRAMENTO
(916) 923-1200

SAN DIEGO
(858) 485-9526

DSoldani@aalrr.com
(559) 221-2869

June 14, 2024

VIA EMAIL: HEREDIA_ANNA@LACOE.EDU

Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization
c/o Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway
Downey, California 90242-2890

Re: Updated Timeline for Malibu Unification Petition

Dear Committee Members:

At your last meeting held June 5th, I verbally provided an updated schedule of events pertaining to the Malibu Unification Process. I provide this written summary of the timeline for your planning purposes.

Importantly, this timeline has been agreed to by the subcommittees of the City of Malibu and the SMMUSD.

June 18, 2024 Mediation Session SMMUSD and City to revise Tentative Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement, finalize Operational Transfer Agreement and begin work on JPA Agreement and Election Area Discussion

July 1 – July 31 Community Engagement on the Full Unification Package in Both Communities

August 1- 15 All 3 Agreements posted on District and City Website and further public outreach by both entities

September 19 Discussion item at SMMUSD on Full Unification Package

October 10 Action Item for Approval of Full Unification Package, or, if complications, further discussion of Full Unification Package at SMMUSD Board Meeting

October 28 If approved by SMMUSD at October 10th meeting, City of Malibu consideration of approval of Full Unification Package at City Council Meeting

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO

Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization
c/o Los Angeles County Office of Education
June 14, 2024
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- *October 24 (If needed) Action Item for Approval of Full Unification Package by SMMUSD
- November 6 Joint Update by City and SMMUSD to County Committee re next steps in the Process and Potential Scheduling of Hearing Dates
- *November 11 (If needed) Action Item for Approval of Full Unification Package by City of Malibu

We continue to appreciate the Committee's understanding and for allowing the Parties to continue finishing this work prior to scheduling further public hearings on the matter.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions or concerns regarding the foregoing.

Very truly yours,

ATKINSON, ANDELSON, LOYA, RUUD & ROMO



David A. Soldani
Counsel for SMMUSD

DAS:sah

cc: Allison Deegan, Ed.D (Deegan_Allison@laoe.edu)
Eric Hass (Hass_Eric@laoe.edu)
Octavio Castelo (Castelo_Octavio@laoe.edu)
Michelle Cervera, Esq. (MCervera@counsel.lacounty.gov)
Christine Wood (christine.wood@bbklaw.com)
Antonio Shelton (ashelton@smmusd.org)