



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

2025 Members

First Supervisorial District: John Nunez, John Quintanilla
Second Supervisorial District: Estefany Castañeda, Charles Davis
Third Supervisorial District: Ralph Mechur, Barry A. Snell
Fourth Supervisorial District: Donald LaPlante, Martha Deutsch – Vice Chairperson
Fifth Supervisorial District: Cherise Moore, Suzan T. Solomon – Chairperson
At Large: Frank Bostrom

December 23, 2025

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

FROM: Octavio Castelo, Secretary
County Committee

SUBJECT: Regular Meeting of the County Committee – Wednesday, January 7, 2026

The next regular meeting of the County Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. in the board room at the Los Angeles County Office of Education in Downey. **Please note that this meeting has a later start time to accommodate the annual luncheon following immediately afterward. This meeting will be hybrid, with in-person, as well as the online opportunity to participate.** Connection information will be emailed to you in advance of the meeting.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

If you have questions, please call Dr. Allison Deegan at (562) 922-6336.

AD:vb
Attachments



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

Agenda No. 1 – Calendar Year 2026

The agenda is accessible through the LACOE website at the following link:
<https://www.lacoe.edu/CountyCommittee/Agendas>

Procedures for addressing the County Committee can be found on its website. To request a disability-related accommodation under the ADA, please contact Ms. Victoria Bernstein at (562) 922-6131 or by e-mail at Bernstein_Victoria@lacoe.edu at least 24 hours in advance.

For members of the public, use the following phone number to call into the meeting: 1-669-900-9128
Webinar ID: 861 9810 0117
Passcode: 028856

The public may also view the meeting via the following link:
<https://lacoe-edu.zoom.us/j/86198100117?pwd=azZlcHY4b1dqcvBqOVVhem8wVi9CUT09>
Password: 028856

PUBLIC COMMENT IN ADVANCE: To provide public comment in advance, you may also submit written comments or documentation by e-mail to Bernstein_Victoria@lacoe.edu or you may record a voicemail with your comments by calling (562) 922-6131.

- Any advance public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 4:00 P.M. the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting (one week before the meeting date).
- Please include your name, phone number, specific agenda item, and meeting date in your correspondence.
- Correspondence received shall become part of the administrative record.

**County Committee on School District Organization
Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-person, as well as remote online access)
9300 Imperial Highway, Board Room
Downey, CA 90242
January 7, 2026
10:30 A.M.**

*I - Informational
D - Discussion
A - Action*

Speaker	Item	Notes
Ms. Solomon	I. CALL TO ORDER - 10:30 A.M.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	<i>I, D, A</i>

Speaker	Item	Notes
Ms. Solomon	III. ROLL CALL	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	V. ORDERING OF THE AGENDA	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Attachment October 1, 2025	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	VII. NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE FOR NEW OFFICERS The Nominating Subcommittee will submit its recommendations for chairperson and vice chairperson for 2026. The County Committee will vote on the Nominating Subcommittee's recommendations. The new officers will assume their duties immediately.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo	VIII. COUNTY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS The Chair may address Communications.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON OPEN SESSION ITEMS Access for members of the public to observe and offer public comment: Connection information was provided to the Public for those who wish to remotely attend the County Committee meeting as a listener or to make public comment. Public comment received by 4:00 P.M., the Wednesday before the meeting (one week before the meeting date) becomes part of the administrative record.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo	X. ANNOUNCEMENTS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo	XI. CORRESPONDENCE	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XII. PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS / COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XIII. CONSENT CALENDAR	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XIV. PRESENTATIONS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XV. REPORTS / STUDY TOPICS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. LaPlante Dr. Deegan	An update will be provided by the Policies Subcommittee Chairperson and staff.	<i>I, D, A</i>

Speaker	Item	Notes
Chair	XVI. RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XVII. HEARINGS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XVIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Dr. Deegan	<p>A. PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) TO THE LA CAÑADA USD</p> <p>Secretary Castelo will provide an update on the residential signatories petition to transfer three parcels from the Glendale USD to the La Cañada USD. The County Committee will hear a feasibility study prepared by staff and will solicit additional input from the chief petitioners, the impacted districts and members of the public. The County Committee may take action on this petition.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Mr. Hass	<p>B. CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA)</p> <p>An update will be provided to the County Committee on activity related to the CVRA.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Mr. Hass	<p>C. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Attachment</p> <p>An update will be provided to the County Committee on legislation that may impact the school district organization process.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Dr. Deegan	<p>D. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD) REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS - Attachment</p> <p>An update may be provided to the County Committee on recent activity related to school district organization proposals pertaining to LAUSD.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Dr. Deegan	<p>E. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS EXCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE LAUSD - Attachment</p> <p>An update may be provided to the County Committee on recent activity related to school district organization proposals pertaining to districts excluding LAUSD.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair Mr. Castelo Dr. Deegan	<p>F. COUNTY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS, MEETING SCHEDULE, ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING TIMES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, FOLLOW UP</p> <p>The Chair may provide reminders about any upcoming public hearings, meetings, and any other matters.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Chair	XIX. ADJOURNMENT	<i>I, D, A</i>

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
Hybrid Meeting
October 1, 2025**

*County Committee Meeting
October 1, 2025* The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) held a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 A.M. by Chairperson, Ms. Suzan Solomon.

Members Present

Frank Bostrom
Martha Deutsch
Donald LaPlante
Ralph Mechur
Dr. Cherise Moore
John Nuñez
John Quintanilla
Barry Snell
Suzan Solomon

Staff Present

April Mitchell, Acting Secretary
Dr. Allison Deegan, Staff
Eric Hass, Staff
Elizabeth Talbot, Staff
Victoria Bernstein, Staff

Members Present Via Zoom

None

County Counsel Present

None

Item	Description			
<i>Call to Order</i>	Ms. Solomon called the County Committee meeting to order at 9:31 A.M.			
<i>Pledge of Allegiance</i>	Mr. Nuñez led the flag salute.			
<i>Roll Call</i>	Roll call was conducted. Attendance was as follows:			
	Mr. Frank Bostrom	Yes	Dr. Cherise Moore	Yes
	Ms. Estefany Castaneda	Absent	Mr. John Nuñez	Yes
	Mr. Charles Davis	Absent	Mr. John Quintanilla	Yes
	Ms. Martha Deutsch	Yes	Mr. Barry Snell	Yes
	Mr. Donald LaPlante	Yes	Ms. Suzan Solomon	Yes
	Mr. Ralph Mechur	Yes		
<i>Establishment of Quorum</i>	Quorum was established.			
<i>Ordering of the Agenda</i>	The ordering of the agenda stands. No recommendations to reorder the agenda were received.			
<i>Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2025 Meeting</i>	The motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 Regular Meeting was MOVED by Mr. Bostrom and SECONDED by Mr. Nuñez. The vote was as follows:			
	Mr. Frank Bostrom	Yes	Dr. Cherise Moore	Yes
	Ms. Estefany Castaneda	Absent	Mr. John Nuñez	Yes
	Mr. Charles Davis	Absent	Mr. John Quintanilla	Yes
	Ms. Martha Deutsch	Yes	Mr. Barry Snell	Yes
	Mr. Donald LaPlante	Yes	Ms. Suzan Solomon	Yes
	Mr. Ralph Mechur	Yes		

<i>County Committee Communications</i>	Ms. Mitchell informed the Committee that LACOE is completing the review of the districts' 2024-25 Unaudited Actuals submissions following the close of the fiscal year. Ms. Mitchell highlighted that LACOE continues to provide support and guidance for districts, especially those districts that are facing funding challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the conclusion of special one-time federal funds. This announcement resulted in a robust discussion between the Committee and Staff on the role of financial managers in the oversight and budgeting procedures of a district.
<i>Public Comments on Open Session Items</i>	None at this time.
<i>Announcements</i>	<p>Ms. Mitchell reiterated the prior announcement that LACSTA's fall meeting is to be held on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. in the LACOE Conference Center where the County Committee election will conclude.</p> <p>Ms. Solomon thanked Mr. Hass and Ms. Mitchell for their assistance with her vehicle's flat tire after the September 3, 2025 regular meeting.</p>
<i>Correspondence</i>	None at this time.
<i>Public Interest Items/ Committee Member Announcements</i>	None at this time.
<i>Consent Calendar</i>	None at this time.
<i>Presentations</i>	None at this time.
<i>Reports/Study Topics</i>	Mr. LaPlante announced that Policies Subcommittee reviewed the draft bylaws and determined there are more necessary edits, therefore the subcommittee was not ready to bring them to a vote. The Policy Subcommittee proposes that rather than maintaining two separate Policies and Bylaws documents, adopting a singular encompassing Bylaws document to be regularly reviewed and maintained. Chairperson Solomon requested that the Policies Subcommittee and Bylaws remain a standing item on the agenda to support its adoption and maintenance.
<i>Recommendations</i>	None at this time.
<i>Hearings</i>	None at this time.
<i>Informational Items</i> A. <i>Petition to Transfer Territory from the Glendale Unified School District to the La Cañada Unified School District</i>	A. Dr. Deegan shared that staff is working with Glendale USD and La Cañada USD staff to finalize the logistical details of the two upcoming public hearings. The two public hearings are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 P.M. in the La Cañada USD Boardroom and Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Glendale USD Boardroom pending final confirmation from the districts. Dr. Deegan stated that following the completion of the public hearings, staff will prepare a feasibility study of the petition to be presented at a later meeting prior to the Committee taking a vote on the petition.

<p><i>Informational Items</i></p> <p><i>B. California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)</i></p>	<p>B. Mr. Hass provided an update on CVRA issues that have continued within the city of Montebello and Montebello Unified School District as the district prepares to bring a petition to establish trustee areas and trustee area voting before the Committee. He stated that these discussions within the district have been contentious and anticipates the public hearings to be highly attended.</p>																								
<p><i>Informational Items</i></p> <p><i>C. Legislative Update</i></p>	<p>C. Mr. Hass provided updates on several bills that have reached the Governor's desk pending final signature that would impact telecommunication or online remote meeting participation for bodies like the County Committee, providing more flexibility to participate in meetings and safety to board members.</p>																								
<p><i>Informational Items</i></p> <p><i>D. Update on LAUSD Reorganization Proposals</i></p>	<p>D. None at this time.</p>																								
<p><i>Informational Items</i></p> <p><i>E. Update on Los Angeles County Reorganization Proposals Excluding Those Affecting LAUSD</i></p>	<p>E. None at this time.</p>																								
<p><i>Informational Items</i></p> <p><i>F. County Committee Communications, Upcoming Meetings and/or Public Hearings, Future Agenda Items, and Follow-Up</i></p>	<p>F. The next regular meeting of the County Committee is planned for Wednesday, November 5, 2025 in the LACOE Boardroom.</p>																								
<p><i>Adjournment</i></p>	<p>It was MOVED by Mr. Bostrom and SECONDED by Dr. Moore. The vote was as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="532 1438 1466 1667"> <tr> <td>Mr. Frank Bostrom</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Dr. Cherise Moore</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Estefany Castaneda</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>Mr. John Nuñez</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Charles Davis</td> <td>Absent</td> <td>Mr. John Quintanilla</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Martha Deutsch</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Mr. Barry Snell</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Donald LaPlante</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Ms. Suzan Solomon</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Ralph Mechur</td> <td>Yes</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Mr. Frank Bostrom	Yes	Dr. Cherise Moore	Yes	Ms. Estefany Castaneda	Absent	Mr. John Nuñez	Yes	Mr. Charles Davis	Absent	Mr. John Quintanilla	Yes	Ms. Martha Deutsch	Yes	Mr. Barry Snell	Yes	Mr. Donald LaPlante	Yes	Ms. Suzan Solomon	Yes	Mr. Ralph Mechur	Yes		
Mr. Frank Bostrom	Yes	Dr. Cherise Moore	Yes																						
Ms. Estefany Castaneda	Absent	Mr. John Nuñez	Yes																						
Mr. Charles Davis	Absent	Mr. John Quintanilla	Yes																						
Ms. Martha Deutsch	Yes	Mr. Barry Snell	Yes																						
Mr. Donald LaPlante	Yes	Ms. Suzan Solomon	Yes																						
Mr. Ralph Mechur	Yes																								



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**

**REPORT TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE
ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CERTAIN TERRITORY
FROM THE GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO THE LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

December 22, 2025

Prepared by:

**Los Angeles County Office of Education
Business Advisory Services**

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 15, 2025, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) received a request for a petition pursuant to Education Code (EC) §35700(a) to transfer certain territory from the Glendale Unified School (USD) to the La Cañada USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Mara Curtis and Kasey Curtis. The territory in question consists of three parcels, all of which are residential, referred to herein as the Three Homes. They are all currently within the Glendale USD, as highlighted in the map included in the petition (Attachment A). They are zoned into unincorporated Los Angeles County. The homes do not lie within the City of La Cañada (as all of the homes in the previous large scale transfer of territory do).

After gathering sufficient signatures and submitting to staff to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) on May 15, 2025, the five petition signatures of registered voters within the petition area were verified by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (Registrar-Recorder). The petition was introduced to the County Committee at its September 3, 2025, regular meeting. Pursuant to EC §35705, two public hearings were conducted in the La Cañada USD on October 15, 2025, and in the Glendale USD on October 23, 2025.

Pursuant to EC §35706 and conditions set forth in EC §35753, Table 1 provides a summary of the nine statutory conditions that guide examination of school district organization petitions to transfer territory, along with staff's findings. The following report provides findings and analysis of each condition to be considered by the County Committee in its evaluation of the petition, and concludes with staff's recommendations.

As indicated in the following report, County Committee staff's analysis of this petition indicates several important concerns about the conditions of this petition to transfer territory, as well as some of the petitioners' representations therein, which may impact the decision of the County Committee makes on this petition. That being said, because the La Cañada USD supports the transfer of these Three Homes, and the Glendale USD has publicly stated that it does not oppose the petition to transfer, staff recommends that the County Committee find all of the conditions under EC §35753 substantially met and approval this petition. The information in this report was developed through research and discussions and meetings with the impacted parties and members of the public, as well as the review of past petitions in this region.

Staff's recommendation is that the Committee approve this petition to transfer territory.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS, FINDINGS, AND RATIONALE

#	Condition	Finding	Rationale
1.	Adequacy in number of students.	Substantially Met	Each of the impacted districts would continue to maintain enrollment of at least 1,501 students.
2.	Community identity.	Substantially Met	The petition’s Three Homes lie in unincorporated Los Angeles County between the City of La Cañada and the City of Glendale. They have been zoned within the Glendale USD for decades. All resident students attend La Cañada USD on permits. It is clear that there is a shared community identity effacing connection to both territories.
3.	Equitable division of assets and liabilities.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not require a division of assets or liabilities.
4.	Will not promote ethnic discrimination or segregation.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not affect student enrollment or attendance significantly in either of the impacted districts as the students residing in the Three Homes already attend La Cañada USD on permits.
5.	Will not substantially increase costs to the state.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not impact state funding significantly.
6.	Will not significantly disrupt educational programs in either district.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not require substantial changes to educational program.
7.	Will not result in a significant increase in school housing costs.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not impact school housing costs substantially.
8.	Proposal is not primarily designed to substantially increase property values.	Substantially Met	While property values of the Three Homes will likely go up as a result of the proposed transfer, there is no evidence that a desire to increase property values is the <i>primary</i> motive for the reorganization request.
9.	Will not affect the fiscal management or status of the affected districts.	Substantially Met	Reorganization would not lead to any significant impact of either districts’ fiscal management.

II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On May 15, 2025, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) received a request for a petition pursuant to Education Code (EC) §35700(a) to transfer certain territory from the Glendale Unified School District (USD) to the La Cañada USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Mara Curtis and Kasey Curtis. The territory in question consists of three homes (the Three Homes), all currently within the Glendale USD and in unincorporated Los Angeles County, as highlighted in the map included in the petition (Attachment A).

On May 16, 2025, staff to the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) examined the petition and forwarded it to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (Registrar-Recorder) for signature verification.

At its regular meeting on September 3, 2025, the petition was presented to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee). Pursuant to EC §35705, two public hearings were conducted, in the La Cañada USD on October 15, 2025, and in the Glendale USD on October 23, 2025. As part of the public hearings, the County Committee received several PowerPoint presentations from the Chief Petitioners, the La Cañada USD and the Glendale USD.

Pursuant to EC §35706 and conditions set forth in EC §35753, this petition was examined in accordance to the nine conditions that guide review of school district organization petitions to transfer territory. The following report provides findings and analysis of each condition to be considered by the County Committee in its evaluation of the petition, and concludes with staff's recommendations.

III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL AREA

The proposed transfer area consists of three parcels, all of which are residential homes located in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the Glendale USD. Attachment A contains a map of the area proposed for transfer. This report identifies the petition area as the Three Homes (in order to distinguish it from the current transfer petition of 900 homes which is currently nearing implementation after approval by the voters).

IV. DESCRIPTION OF IMPACTED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

GLENDALE USD

The Glendale USD serves K-12 students in the City of Glendale and part of the City of La Cañada, along with portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The district operates twenty elementary schools, four middle schools, four high schools, and collection of specialty campuses. The 2024-25 student enrollment for the Glendale USD was 25,329, according to the California Department of Education (CDE). The area supported by the Glendale USD is a diverse urban and suburban area with both single-family housing and multi-family housing, surrounded by many robust commercial areas.

LA CAÑADA USD

The La Cañada USD serves K-12 students within a portion of the City of La Cañada. The district operates three elementary schools, one combined junior/senior high school and one small high school for students with special needs. The 2024-25 student enrollment for the La Cañada USD was 3,988, according to the CDE. The area supported by the La Cañada USD is a suburban area with single-family housing, and very limited multi-family housing, surrounded by many robust commercial areas. It also includes a large area of forest lands.

V. PETITIONERS' RATIONALE

The rationale for petitioning for the transfer of territory as stated by the chief petitioners in their petition (Attachment A), is summarized as follows:

"These three houses are within the "Sagebrush" area of La Cañada, on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon. These three parcels were *inadvertently omitted* from the map affixed to the territory transfer petition filed by Thomas G. Smith, Nalini Lasiewicz, and Nick P. Karapetian on June 29, 2016 ... ("Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer") that was recently approved and is scheduled to take effect. Mr. Smith and Mr. Karapetian have confirmed this was a mistake and that they intended to include the Territory in the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer. As a result of this mistake, these three parcels will now be on an "island" separated by Pickens Canyon from the remainder of GUSD and adjoined by parcels within LCUSD.

This proposal would complete the Sagebrush transfer by transferring these 3 parcels from GUSD to LCUSD. These three parcels are in the middle of the Sagebrush area, and would be left on an island, as the only houses on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon that are not part of LCUSD, if they are not transferred.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

This petition seeks to address an issue with the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer in that it inadvertently omitted three parcels on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon. Thus, this petition would complete the unification begun by the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer and strengthen a fractured community by granting all La Cañada Flintridge (LCF) addresses the same opportunity to attend their hometown public schools and to benefit from the same social and educational resources currently enjoyed by all of the other LCF families.

This transfer is the final piece to resolve definitively and equitably a deeply emotionally-charged conflict that has festered for more than 50 years as evidenced by multiple petitions, legislative proposals and lawsuits that have pitted neighbor against neighbor with negative consequences to students and their families. Furthermore, GUSD could avoid significant financial expenditures and staff time from continuous negotiations and litigation.

The following are the compelling reasons for petitioning for this change and all of the registered voters living on these 3 parcels have signed this Petition demonstrating their support for the proposed transfer by affixing their signature to this Petition:

1. All registered voters within the Territory have signed this Petition. All registered voters within the Territory have signed this Petition and agree that they should be part of LCUSD. They have no desire to be left on [an] "island" as the only homes on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon or Ocean View Blvd that are still in GUSD.
2. The Territory was supposed to be part of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer. The proponents of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer have confirmed that the Territory was inadvertently omitted from the map affixed to the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition. As was detailed in the briefs and written materials submitted in support of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition, the intention was to transfer everything on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon from GUSD to LCUSD. Indeed, many of the maps they affixed in their presentation materials showed the Territory being part of the transfer. However, because the three homes within the Territory are within their own voting precinct (and within the City of La Cañada's sphere of influence; not its city limits), they were inadvertently excluded. Had this mistaken [sic] been discovered earlier it would have been corrected, but there is no reason to leave these parcels in GUSD.
3. To permit current students to continue in the school district they currently attend. All of the school aged children residing in the Territory currently attend LCUSD on Sagebrush permits and were released from GUSD. They should continue attending LCUSD like all the children who are part of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer.
4. To ensure that three parcels on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon on Ocean View Blvd. with La Cañada zip codes are not left on an island in a different school district than all the houses that surround them and separated from any house [in] GUSD by a body of water. The Education Code requires school district boundaries to be contiguous. It is questionable whether leaving these three lots, by themselves, on the other side of Pickens Canyon would comply with the Education Code. However, transferring the Territory to LCUSD would remedy any potential problem and ensure that the boundaries of GUSD and LCUSD are properly contiguous.
5. To nurture and promote student achievement. All of the children within the Territory are currently attending LCUSD. Their neighbors and friends are within Sagebrush and it would be damaging to their mental health and educational achievement for them to move schools because the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer inadvertently left these parcels off the map that was affixed to the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition. They have no connection to anyone on the other side of Pickens Canyon, whose houses despite being *600 feet* away require traveling *1.2 miles* to access because Pickens Canyon cannot be traversed.
6. To eliminate educational disparity and inequality. Territory residents, limited to 3 households are a minority of LCF families, are consigned to a neighboring school district due to an 1880s survey that ignored prominent well-defined natural land features and the fact that they were inadvertently omitted from the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer. Leaving three parcels on the La Cañada side of Pickens Canyon out of LCUSD unfairly isolates the students living on these three parcels.
7. To respect and honor the voice of Territory residents. Territory residents have all signed this Petition, establishing unanimous support for the territory transfer.”

VI. POSITIONS OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS

LA CAÑADA USD

At the public hearings held on October 15, 2025 in La Cañada USD, and on October 23, 2025 in Glendale USD, the La Cañada USD stated that it supported the petition to transfer the Three Homes from Glendale USD into La Cañada USD.

GLENDALE USD

At the October 23, 2025 public hearing held in the Glendale USD, the district stated that it did not oppose the petition to transfer the Three Homes from Glendale USD into La Cañada USD.

VII. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Parcels. The petition area is located within unincorporated Los Angeles County and the Glendale USD. Per the Registrar-Recorder’s office, the petition area contains three parcels, all of which contain single family homes. The parcels are located at the following addresses:

5165 Ocean View Boulevard, La Cañada, CA 91011

5167 Ocean View Boulevard, La Cañada, CA 91011

5169 Ocean View Boulevard, La Cañada, CA 91011

This area has been part of the Glendale USD since the school district’s formation in 1936. During the incorporation of the La Cañada USD in 1961, the petition area was deliberately excluded from the school district. When the City of La Cañada Flintridge (City of La Cañada) was formed in 1976, it did not include the petition area. This is not an unusual circumstance as nearly all cities in Los Angeles County cross school district lines, and nearly all school districts include territory from multiple cities, with some also including unincorporated territory in the county. For example, the ABC USD includes territory from seven different cities. Likewise, the City of Temple City includes territory from four different school districts. School district boundaries and city boundaries are rarely coterminous in Los Angeles County. Having the words “La Cañada, CA 91011” in an address does not certify that the property lies within the City of La Cañada. These three properties do not lie within the City of La Cañada.

Petition Area Enrollment. According to information submitted by the petitioners, there are three identified students living in the petition area. It is not clear if additional children will inhabit these three homes in the future. In any case, the enrollment from the petition area will be insignificant to the number of students in either the La Cañada USD and the Glendale USD.

Permit Process and Agreements. Both the Glendale USD and the La Cañada USD stated in materials presented to the County Committee and at public hearings that they facilitate the permit process for students in the petition area seeking to transfer out of the Glendale USD into the La Cañada USD. They do not have any formal transfer agreement with one another specifically impacting the petition area, and instead request that students seeking permits go through the standard process developed by each district. Both the La Cañada USD and the Glendale USD stated that they will continue to honor permit assess (both release and enrollment) of petition area students. The petitioners have stated that their three children are enrolled currently on permits in the La Cañada USD.

Past Petition Processes. There have been several attempts in the past to transfer the area near the Three Homes petition area from the Glendale USD to the La Cañada USD. Those petitions have not been successful until recently, when nearly 900 homes were approved for transfer from the Glendale USD to the La Cañada USD by the County Committee, the State Board of Education (SBE), and subsequently by approval of a voter initiative in November of 2024. That former transfer area, known as the Sagebrush area, borders the Three Homes petition area. Decisions in prior petitions are not controlling on the County Committee as it deliberates on this Three Homes petition; and it is not bound by any prior decision from nearby territory, charged as it is with examining the current petition on its own merit, relating it to circumstances present at the time of its review.

VIII. ANALYSIS OF MANDATED CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

EC §35753 identifies nine conditions which must be reviewed by the County Committee as part of the decision-making process related to proposed school district reorganizations. The County Committee must determine if these conditions are substantially met.

The County Committee may vote to approve a proposal to transfer territory when the conditions contained in EC §35753(a)(1) through (10) are substantially met. However, the Education Code does not mandate that the County Committee approve petitions where any, a majority or all of the conditions are substantially met. Likewise, the Education Code does not mandate that the County Committee deny a petition where all, many or some of the conditions are not substantially met. The Education Code provides the County Committee with broad authority to analyze factors it deems relevant and to assign to those factors the requisite weight they choose to determine how to vote on the petitions that come before it.

The County Committee has the option to disapprove a proposal to transfer territory even when the conditions are substantially met, if it determines that the proposal is not in the best overall interests of those affected; if there is no compelling reason for a change; if the proposal will not improve the effectiveness and/or the efficiency of the delivery of educational services to students; or for any other reason(s) the County Committee deems relevant.

The County Committee may also approve a proposal to transfer territory if it determines it is not practical or possible to apply the EC §35753 conditions literally and circumstances with respect to the proposal present an exceptional situation sufficient to justify approval of the proposal.

CONDITION 1

The reorganized districts will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled.

The County Committee may approve a proposal for reorganization of districts if the new district is adequate in terms of the number of students enrolled. Section 18573(a)(1)(a) of Title V, California Administrative Code (CAC), specifies that a unified district must have a projected enrollment of at least 1,501 students.

FINDINGS

According to the CDE, the 2024-25 student enrollment for the Glendale USD was 25,329, and for the La Cañada USD was 3,988.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Because the petition area contains so few students (approximately three) compared to the total enrollments of the impacted districts, approval of this proposal would not substantially reduce the number of students enrolled in the Glendale USD. In addition, those three students are currently enrolled in La Cañada USD on permits. Should the petition be approved, the permanent transfer of all of the Three Homes petition area students to the La Cañada USD would not negatively impact the enrollment at the Glendale USD to the point that it would not maintain a minimum enrollment above 1,501 students, the standard for a unified school district. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 2

The districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity.

The CAC, Title V, Section 18573(a)(2)(A-G), provides that community identity should be determined using criteria such as: isolation; geography; distance between social centers; distance between school centers; topography; weather; community, school, and social ties; and other circumstances peculiar to the area. The County Committee may determine which aspects of community life and description constitute relevant community identity for its review purposes.

FINDINGS

The petition area, historically a part of the Glendale USD, borders the La Cañada USD and is part of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The chief petitioners have provided a narrative about how the petition area “feels” a part of the La Cañada USD community, that their Three Homes are on an island, are isolated and living where they live while being assigned to Glendale USD challenges their children’s interactions with their peers, potentially causing psychological and academic challenges.

This area has many school, civic, social and geographic overlaps. Students nearby attend Glendale USD or La Cañada USD, depending on their interest in securing permits from and into either district. While there is no formal permit agreement, there seems to be great fluidity and accommodation in releasing and enrolling students from this area in either district.

The petitioners state in their petition that they were mistakenly excluded from the Sagebrush petition, only discovering their exclusion when they did not see the matter on their ballots when the issue came up for a vote in November of 2024. They obtained statements from the Sagebrush chief petitioners and other advisors to that petition movement that they intended to include the Three Homes in that petition. However, the parameters of the Sagebrush petition were aimed at transferring certain parcels that were within the City of La Cañada (who were historically zoned

into Glendale USD) into the La Cañada USD, thus, as they professed, uniting a community that the petitioners deemed distinct from Glendale USD.

The Three Homes petition area is not within the City of La Cañada, unlike the nearly 900 parcels that are part of the Sagebrush territory transfer. Thus, when electronic maps were developed by the Registrar-Recorder, the Three Homes were not included in the Sagebrush petition because they did not qualify. The Three Homes petitioners were well aware throughout the length of time that they owned their homes that they did not vote in matters contained by the City of La Cañada, since they did not live in that city.

In its review of the Sagebrush petition, County Committee staff contended that there is more of an amalgam of community identity in this area rather than distinct zones of specific identity. The petitioners in that petition, County Committee, the SBE and the voters disagreed and thus approved the Sagebrush petition, citing in those approvals that Condition 2 was substantially met, that the Sagebrush petitioners were correct in needing a boundary change, in part, to reconcile their inclusion in what they deemed to be their rightful school district (La Cañada USD). We will not repeat that analysis here and instead, following those prior approvals, deem Condition 2 substantially met in this Three Homes petition. However, it should be clear that the parcels in the Three Homes petition were not mistakenly left out of the Sagebrush petition. In fact, they did not qualify for that petition as they are not within the City of La Cañada. They remain in unincorporated Los Angeles County, whether or not they are officially transferred from Glendale USD into La Cañada USD.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Petitions to transfer territory are requests for changes to permanent boundaries. They should only be undertaken based on evidence of a compelling reason to make such changes related to educational reasons and guided by the mandated nine conditions of review. While staff do not see such compelling reasons related to community identity in this Three Homes petition, the Glendale USD has stated that it does not oppose it and has already granted release to the students in the petition area to enroll in La Cañada USD. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 3

The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts.

The division of real and personal property, funds, and obligations, except bonded indebtedness, shall be determined as provided in EC §§35560(a), 35561, 35564, 35565, and 35736.

FINDINGS

Real Property

No real or personal public school property of the Glendale USD is located within the boundaries of the area proposed for transfer.

Bonded Indebtedness and Tax Rate

EC §35575 states that “[w]hen territory is taken from one school district and annexed to another school district and the area transferred contains no public school property or buildings, the territory shall drop any liability for outstanding bonded indebtedness in the district of which it was formerly a part [Glendale USD] and shall automatically assume its proportionate share of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the district of which it becomes a part [La Cañada USD].” Since there are no school facilities and/or property located in the area proposed for transfer, the bonded indebtedness provisions of EC §35575 would apply.

Any territory transferred from Glendale USD into La Cañada USD would inherit the bonded indebtedness of La Cañada USD. If the Three Homes petition area contained a significant number of parcels, the influx of new territory and new ratepayers would necessarily lower the cost of existing bonded indebtedness to individual property owners within La Cañada USD as it would enlarge the pool of property available to cover the bonds. Subsequently, any property owners within Glendale USD would remain responsible for the current bonded indebtedness and would have to pay those obligations from a smaller pool of property owners if the transfer removed those homes in the petition area into La Cañada USD. However, in the case of the Three Homes petition, there are only three parcels. The impact on either district would be negligible.

Student Body Funds

EC §35564 specifies that “[i]f there is in the school an organized student body, the property, funds, and obligations of the student body shall be divided as determined by the County Committee, except that the share shall not exceed an amount equal to the ratio which the number of students leaving the school bears to the total number of pupils enrolled. The ownership of the property, funds, and obligations which is a proportionate share of each segment of the student body, shall be transferred to the student body of the school or schools in which the pupils are enrolled after the reorganization.”

If students who reside in the petition area attend schools within the Glendale USD that have an organized student body, EC §35564 would require the distribution of a proportionate share of those student body funds to the La Cañada USD, if this petition is approved. Since students living in the Three Homes petition area already attend La Cañada USD schools on permits, this would not be an issue.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Because no school facilities are located within the transfer area and only three students currently reside in the petition area (all of whom already attend La Cañada USD schools on permits), a division of property, funds or obligations (except bonded indebtedness) of the school districts would not be required should this proposal be approved. It is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 4

The reorganization of the districts will preserve each affected district's ability to educate students in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

The CAC, Title V, Section 18573(a)(4)(A-E), states that:

“To determine whether the new districts will promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation, the effects of the following factors will be considered:

The current number and percentage of pupils in each racial and ethnic group in the affected districts and schools in the affected districts, compared with the number and percentage of pupils in each racial and ethnic group in the affected districts and schools in the affected districts, if the proposal or petition is approved.

The trends and rates of present and possible future growth or change in the total population in the districts affected, in each racial and ethnic group within the total district, and in each school of the affected districts.

The school board policies regarding methods of preventing racial and ethnic segregation in the affected districts and the effect of the proposal or petition on any desegregation plan or program of the affected districts, whether voluntary or court ordered, designed to prevent or alleviate racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation.

The effect of factors such as distance between schools and attendance centers, terrain, and geographic features that may involve safety hazards to students, capacity of schools, and related conditions or circumstances that may have an effect on the feasibility of integration of the affected schools.

The effect of the proposal on the duty of the governing board of each of the affected districts to take steps, insofar as reasonably feasible, to alleviate segregation of minority students in schools regardless of its cause.”

As a matter of County Committee policy, the County Committee may also consider:

- participation in extracurricular activities;
- equipment of affected school districts;
- state of facilities of affected school districts;
- perception of staff, administrators, and community regarding whether schools are segregated; and,
- racial/ethnic make-up of staff and administration.

FINDINGS

The three students living within the Three Homes petition area already attend La Cañada USD schools on permit, so their racial/ethnic identity will not deprive Glendale USD nor alter La Cañada USD's makeup. The resulting new enrollment total would not alter the ethnic/racial

makeup of the La Cañada USD, nor would the loss of those students alter the ethnic/racial makeup of the Glendale USD.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The potential shift of the students from the petition area within the Glendale USD to the La Cañada USD would not have a discernable impact on the ethnic or racial distribution of either district, more so since the three students in the Three Homes petition area already attend La Cañada USD schools on permits. It is concluded that the proposed petition, if approved, would not promote racial or ethnic discrimination in any of the impacted school districts. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 5

Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

This petition area contains three students, all of whom currently attend the La Cañada USD on permits. Thus, there would be no change in student enrollment in either the La Cañada USD or the Glendale USD if the petition is approved.

FINDINGS

No new facilities would have to be imported, constructed or remodeled to house students within this petition area since they already attend La Cañada USD schools on permits.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Should this proposal be approved, no additional facilities would be required by the La Cañada USD. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 6

The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization.

Condition 6 considers the effect of the proposed transfer of territory on educational programs of the districts affected by the reorganization.

FINDINGS

Since all of the students (three) residing in the Three Homes petition already attend La Cañada USD schools on permit, there would be no impact to the educational performance or programs of either the La Cañada USD or the Glendale USD should the petition be approved.

The Glendale USD has indicated that the schools which serve the petition area have been recognized as providing educational programs that meet the highest standards. The La Cañada USD has indicated the same. Those statuses will not change if this petition is approved.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

As this petition would not require that either district modify or discontinue any portion of its current curriculum, it is concluded that the educational programs of the districts would not be disrupted and that the districts would continue to promote sound educational performance. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 7

Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization.

FINDINGS

As stated above, the La Cañada USD stated that it was supportive of the petition and was already housing the students from the Three Homes area on permits.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Because the students in the Three Homes petition area already attend La Cañada USD schools on permits, there would be no increase in school facilities costs should this petition be approved. In addition, because they do not attend schools in their home district of Glendale USD, the approval of this petition would not impact that district's facilities costs. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be not substantially met.

CONDITION 8

The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property value.

By policy, to evaluate this condition, the County Committee should analyze the rationale presented in the petition for transfer. In addition, if the proposed reorganization creates a significant change in local property values, the County Committee should consider whether increasing property values is the primary reason for the petition.

FINDINGS

The complete rationale for the petition to transfer territory, as stated by the chief petitioners, is included in the petition (Attachment A). Nothing in the petition language indicated a motive to increase real estate values. While staff cannot determine with certainty what the petitioners' motives are for the petition beyond their stated intent, it is not indicated that an increase in real estate value is the primary motive for the petition.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

EC §35753(a)(8) does not state that transfers should be denied if property value increases are projected. This section states that a proposal may be approved if “. . . the proposed reorganization is *primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values . . .*” [emphasis added.]

It can be reasonably projected that the chief petitioners and all residents of the petition area could benefit from an increase in housing values should the petition be approved (and their homes be zoned permanently within the La Cañada USD), but there is no evidence that a significant increase in property values represents the primary motive for the petition. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

CONDITION 9

The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the proposed district or any existing district affected by the proposed reorganization.

By policy, the County Committee should consider financial trends of the affected districts and revenue gains and/or losses that may result from the proposed reorganization. This information will be used to evaluate the proposal's effect on the viability of the reorganized districts to operate educational programs and to assess any negative impact to the fiscal management or status of the reorganized district(s).

FINDINGS

Based on the small number of students in the transfer area, and the fact that they are all enrolled in La Cañada USD on permits, there will be no fiscal impact on the Glendale USD. In addition, Glendale USD does not oppose the transfer, which they certainly would if it would bring a negative fiscal impact on the district.

One issue of concern that could have a negative fiscal impact in the future, particularly on the Glendale USD, is the phenomenon referred to by school district organizational staff around the State as “the next block over.” Glendale USD will already realize a significant financial impact once the transfer of the Sagebrush territory takes place on July 1, 2026. When a boundary is changed permanently via a transfer of territory or other school district reorganization, it creates a new border at which additional parcels, homes, students and interests can seek to join the school district that they were distinct from prior to the reorganization but now share a new border with.

If the Three Homes petition is approved, approximately eight additional parcels in the Glendale USD will now share a direct boundary with the La Cañada USD and could potentially seek to transfer their homes into the district.

School district boundaries are considered permanent (until they are changed through the school district organization process, legislation, elections, etc.) because districts require certainty to manage their student/educational responsibilities and to maintain fiscal solvency. Enrollment is deeply indicative of fiscal resources (calculated via Average Daily Attendance and other funding formulas), as are the number, size and value of parcels and their tax burdens, assessed valuation and proximity to school buildings. If the borders of a school district are fluid and change often, it is difficult for a district to maintain solvency and high educational standards.

In his presentation of the Sagebrush petition appeal before the SBE on January 18, 2024, Mr. Tom Smith, the original chief petitioner of that petition and someone who has continued to advise and make presentations on behalf of those chief petitioners throughout the nine year duration of that petition, stated the following:

“Given that Sagebrush has distinct, delineated boundaries and is fully contained within the City of La Cañada, but not within its school district, it’s a unique situation that would not set a precedent for future piecemeal transfers.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btWcie9Ist8&list=PLgIRGe0-q7Safim1TwdTNlcV7aulbigPr> at the 6:08 mark.

As stated earlier, the Three Homes petition area is not within the City of La Cañada. In addition, such a piecemeal transfer is what is called for to approve this Three Homes petition, all within several months of the voter approval of the Sagebrush petition, and even before that Sagebrush territory has been administratively transferred from the Glendale USD territory into the La Cañada USD territory – it is a very long process that is not yet completed as of the writing of this feasibility study. If the Glendale USD is called on to continue to defend against piecemeal transfers of its territory, it will be a disruptive and costly process for them. It remains unclear how many additional territory transfer or permit students the La Cañada USD can accommodate should future petitions be submitted.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is concluded that this transfer would not negatively affect the fiscal management or status of either of the impacted districts. Therefore, it is recommended that the County Committee deem this condition to be substantially met.

IX. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

After examining gathered and presented materials related to this reorganization petition, from the relevant parties and from local or state sources and public events, staff finds that all of the nine conditions have been substantially met. These findings are heavily influenced by the fact that the Glendale USD did not oppose this Three Homes petition.

Under the EC, the number of conditions met does not determine what recommendation or decision staff or the County Committee will make. The County Committee may find all, a majority or some of the conditions met and still vote to deny the petition. Similarly, the County Committee may find that none, few or some of the conditions are met, yet still has authority to vote to approve the petition. The County Committee's authority lies in its assessment of what is best for this specific situation and petition.

Staff concerns about community identity, the refuting of the fact that these three homes were mistakenly left out of the prior Sagebrush petition, disagreeing that these homes are currently on a geographic island, not agreeing that the Glendale USD has educational deficits, and highlighting the concerns about future piecemeal petitions to transfer territory, are all overcome by the facts that the Glendale USD does not oppose the transfer, the La Cañada USD supports the transfer, and the Three Homes students already attend La Cañada USD on permits.

Staff recommends that the petition be approved.

Environmental Review. If the County Committee moves to approve the petition, staff recommends that such approval be categorized as a preliminary approval only. Staff has already begun examining documents related to the required environmental review. After any such preliminary approval, staff recommends that the County Committee, under EC §35706(b), commence its required environmental review required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The review of environmental factors suspends the statutory timeline for completion of the County Committee's review of the petition, under EC §35710. After conclusion of any required CEQA review, staff recommends that the County Committee reconvene and vote on the petition, either to approve or deny it.

After discussion on the petition, the County Committee will vote on preliminary approval or denial of the Three Homes petition, or provide additional direction to staff in processing the petition.

X.

ATTACHMENTS

**PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY FROM THE
GLENDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USO)
TO THE LA CANADA USO
EDUCATION CODE §35700 et seq**

This petition is to transfer 3 lots on Ocean View Blvd—5165 Ocean View Blvd., La Canada, CA 91011, 5167 Ocean View Blvd., La Canada, CA 91011, and 5169 Ocean View Blvd., La Canada, CA 91011 (the “Territory”)—from Glendale Unified School District (“GUSD”) to La Canada Unified School District (“LCUSD”).

These three houses are within the “Sagebrush” area of La Canada, on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon. These three parcels were *inadvertently omitted* from the map affixed to the territory transfer petition filed by Thomas G. Smith, Nalini Lasiewiez, and Nick P. Karapetian on June 29, 2016 date (“Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer”) that was recently approved and is scheduled to take effect. Mr. Smith and Mr. Karapetian have confirmed this was a mistake and that they intended to include the Territory in the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer. As a result of this mistake, these three parcels will now be on an “island” separated by Pickens Canyon from the remainder of GUSD and adjoined by parcels within LCUSD.

This proposal would complete the Sagebrush transfer by transferring these 3 parcels from GUSD to LCUSD. These three parcels are in the middle of the Sagebrush area, and would be left on an island, as the only houses on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon that are not part of LCUSD, if they are not transferred.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

This petition seeks to address an issue with the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer in that it inadvertently omitted three parcels on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon. Thus, this petition would complete the unification begun by the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer and strengthen a fractured community by granting all La Canada Flintridge (LCF) addresses the same opportunity to attend their hometown public schools and to benefit from the same social and educational resources currently enjoyed by all of the other LCF families.

This transfer is the final piece to resolve definitively and equitably a deeply emotionally-charged conflict that has festered for more than 50 years as evidenced by multiple petitions, legislative proposals and lawsuits that have pitted neighbor against neighbor with negative consequences to students and their families. Furthermore, GUSD could avoid significant financial expenditures and staff time from continuous negotiations and litigation.

The following are the compelling reasons for petitioning for this change and all of the registered voters living on these 3 parcels have signed this Petition demonstrating their support for the proposed transfer by affixing their signature to this Petition:

- 1. All registered voters within the Territory have signed this Petition.** All registered voters within the Territory have signed this Petition and agree that they

should be part of LCUSD. They have no desire to be left on a “island” as the only homes on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon or Ocean View Blvd that are still in GUSD.


2. **The Territory was supposed to be part of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer.** The proponents of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer have confirmed that the Territory was inadvertently omitted from the map affixed to the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition. As was detailed in the briefs and written materials submitted in support of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition, the intention was to transfer everything on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon from GUSD to LCUSD. Indeed, many of the maps they affixed in their presentation materials showed the Territory being part of the transfer. However, because the three homes within the Territory are within their own voting precinct (and within the City of La Canada’s sphere of influence; not its city limits), they were inadvertently excluded. Had this mistaken been discovered earlier it would have been corrected, but there is no reason to leave these parcels in GUSD.
3. **To permit current students to continue in the school district they currently attend.** All of the school aged children residing in the Territory currently attend LCUSD on Sagebrush permits and were released from GUSD. They should continue attending LCUSD like all the children who are part of the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer.
4. **To ensure that three parcels on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon on Ocean View Blvd. with La Canada zip codes are not left on an island in a different school district than all the houses that surround them and separated from any house GUSD by a body of water.** The Education Code requires school district boundaries to be contiguous. It is questionable whether leaving these three lots, by themselves, on the other side of Pickens Canyon would comply with the Education Code. However, transferring the Territory to LCUSD would remedy any potential problem and ensure that the boundaries of GUSD and LCUSD are properly contiguous.
5. **To nurture and promote student achievement.** All of the children within the Territory are currently attending LCUSD. Their neighbors and friends are within Sagebrush and it would be damaging to their mental health and educational achievement for them to move schools because the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer inadvertently left these parcels off the map that was affixed to the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer petition. They have no connection to anyone on the other side of Pickens Canyon, whose houses despite being *600 feet* away require traveling *1.2 miles* to access because Pickens Canyon cannot be traversed.
6. **To eliminate educational disparity and inequality.** Territory residents, limited to 3 households are a minority of LCF families, are consigned to a neighboring school district due to an 1880s survey that ignored prominent well-defined natural land features and the fact that they were inadvertently omitted from the Original Sagebrush Territory Transfer. Leaving three parcels on the La Canada side of Pickens Canyon out of LCUSD unfairly isolates the students living on these three


parcels.

7. **To respect and honor the voice of Territory residents.** Territory residents have all signed this Petition, establishing unanimous support for the territory transfer.

PROPONENT INFORMATION: Designation of Chief Petitioners - Education Code §35701

The undersigned proponent(s) of this petition are registered voter(s) in said district.

1. Mara D. Curtis
Printed Name
5167 Ocean View Blvd.
Residence Address
La Canada Flintridge, California 91011
City or Town and Zip Code

Signature and Date
1/26/2025
(831) 428-2973
Phone Number

2. Kasey Curtis
Printed Name
5167 Ocean View Blvd.
Residence Address
La Canada Flintridge, California 91011
City or Town and Zip Code

Signature and Date
1/26/2025
(530) 210-6320
Phone Number

3. _____
Printed Name

Residence Address

City or Town and Zip Code

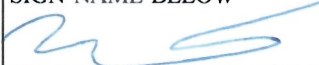

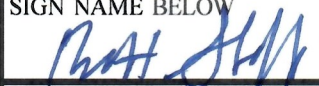
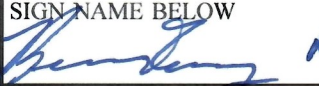
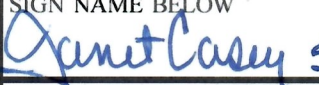
Signature and Date

Phone Number

The number of qualified registered voters in the district shall be determined pursuant to the most recent report submitted by the county elections official to the Secretary of State under Section 2187 of the Elections Code.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA:

In accordance with §35700(a) of the Education Code (EC), State of California, we, the undersigned, who are one hundred percent of the qualified registered voters residing in the proposed transfer area, do hereby present a proposal to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, Los Angeles County, State of California, to transfer certain territory from the Glendale USD to the La Canada USD. This proposal may be presented to the electors of the district at the next succeeding election, before which the County Committee shall conduct one or more public hearings on the proposal.

		FOR COUNTY USE	
NAME (AS REGISTERED)	RESIDENCE ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP	PRECINCT	
1. PRINT NAME BELOW Kasey Curtis	STREET ADDRESS 5167 Ocean View Blvd		
SIGN NAME BELOW 	DATE BELOW 11/26/25	CITY La Canada CA	STATE ZIP 91011
2. PRINT NAME BELOW Mara Curtis	STREET ADDRESS 5167 Ocean View Blvd		
SIGN NAME BELOW 	DATE BELOW 11/26/25	CITY La Canada, CA	STATE ZIP 91011
3. PRINT NAME BELOW ROBERT STAUFFER	STREET ADDRESS LA CANA CA 91011 5165 OCEAN VIEW RD		
SIGN NAME BELOW 	DATE BELOW MAY 14 2025	CITY LA CANADA CA	STATE ZIP 91011
4. PRINT NAME BELOW Bernard Casey	STREET ADDRESS 5169 Ocean View La Canada CA 91011		
SIGN NAME BELOW 	DATE BELOW MAY 15 2025	CITY La Canada CA	STATE ZIP 91011
5. PRINT NAME BELOW Janet Casey	STREET ADDRESS 5169 Ocean View		
SIGN NAME BELOW 	DATE BELOW 5/15/2025	CITY La Canada CA	STATE ZIP 91011
6. PRINT NAME BELOW	STREET ADDRESS		
SIGN NAME BELOW	DATE BELOW	CITY	STATE ZIP

AFFIDAVIT OF THE CIRCULATOR

I circulated this petition and saw all the appended signatures being written; all the signatures on this section were made in my presence, and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

All signatures to this document were obtained between Jan. 26 2025 and May 15 2025
Month and Day *Month and Day*

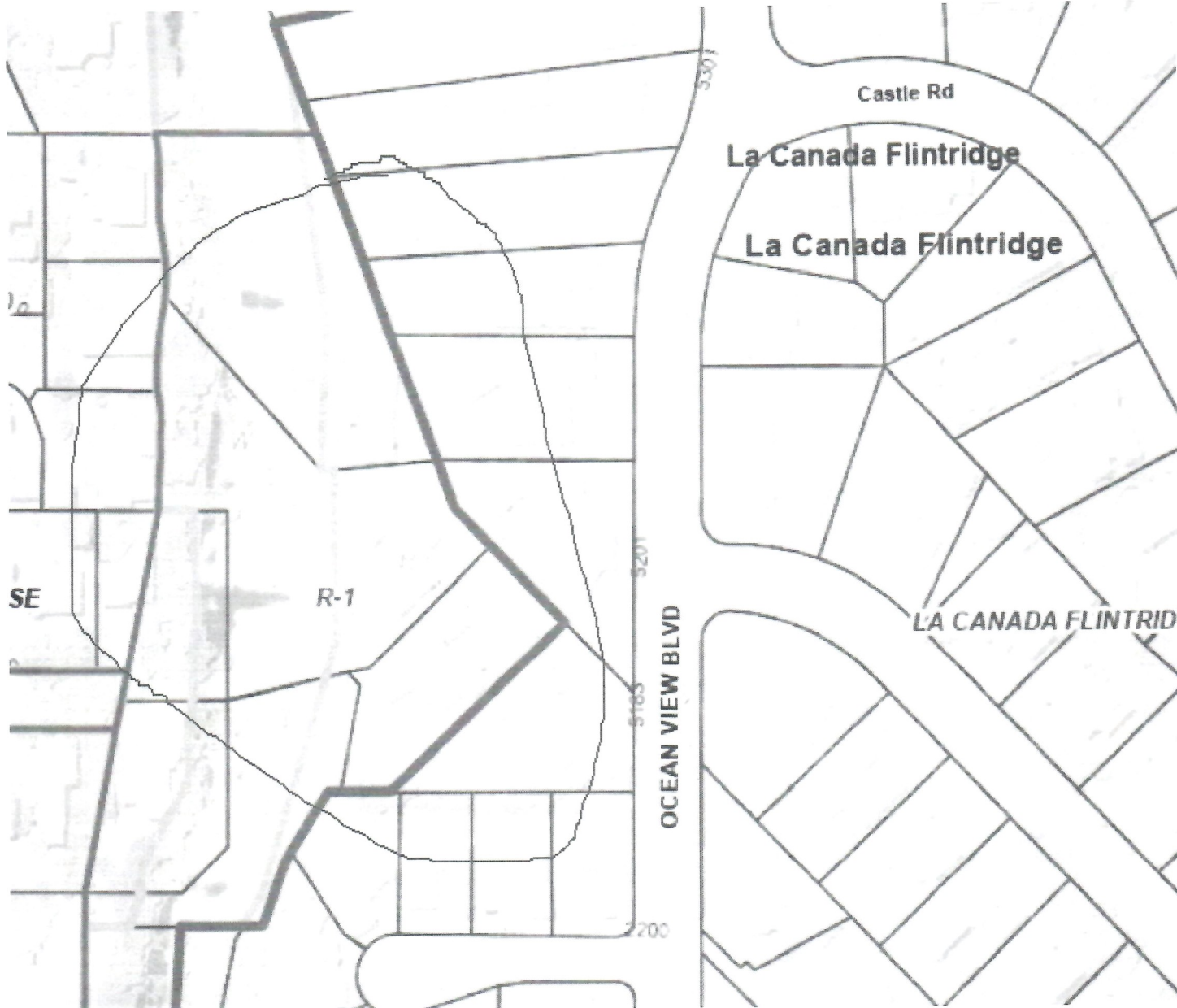
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 15, 2025 at La Canada, California.
Date *Place of Signing*

 Maria Cortis
Signature of Petition Circulator *Printed Name of Petition Circulator*

Residence and voting address 5167 Ocean View Blvd, La Canada, CA 91011

Precinct



SE

R-1

OCEAN VIEW BLVD

200

5163

5201

5301

Castle Rd

La Canada Flintridge

La Canada Flintridge

LA CANADA FLINTRID



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

Attachment

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON
SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (COUNTY COMMITTEE)
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – JANUARY 2026**

There are no new bills to review this month. However, please review the following links to explore additional information about updates to the Brown Act, signed by the Governor in October of 2025. These documents were developed by the Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rudd, and Romo law firm.

SB 707 Expands and Modernizes Open Meeting and Teleconferencing Requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act: <https://www.aalrr.com/newsroom-alerts-4182>

Attorney General Opinion Allows Board Members to Attend Meetings Remotely as an ADA Accommodation: <https://www.aalrr.com/newsroom-alerts-4063>

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



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

Attachment

Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

January 2026

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 December 17, 2025.

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.



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

Attachment

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

January 2026

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 December 17, 2025.

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

On May 15, 2025, LACOE received a petition pursuant to EC §35700, to transfer certain territory from the Glendale USD to the La Cañada USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Mara Curtis and Kasey Curtis, residents in one of three parcels requesting transfer along with three other signatory residents of the other two parcels. On June 23, 2025, the Registrar-Recorder completed signatures verifications, deeming all five signatures valid.

The petition was introduced to the County Committee at its regular meeting on September 3, 2025, after which public hearings were scheduled in both school districts. On October 15, 2025, a public hearing was conducted in the La Cañada USD, and on October 23, a public hearing was conducted in the Glendale USD. County Committee staff conducted a feasibility study which will be presented to the County Committee at the next meeting.

Status: Petition will be reviewed at the January 7, 2026 County Committee meeting and a feasibility study will be presented.

Status Date: December 17, 2025

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE USD TO THE LA CAÑADA 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 Cañada 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 Cañada 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. The election was held on November 5, 2024; the local measure passed and the election results were determined on December 3, 2024, and officially certified on December 17, 2024.

Status: Staff is working to effectuate the changes with both school districts and agencies at the state, county, municipal, and local levels.
Status Date: December 17, 2025

FORMATION - PROPOSAL TO CREATE A MALIBU USD OUT OF TERRITORY CURRENTLY 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 - PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN ALTADENA USD OUT OF TERRITORY CURRENTLY 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 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.
Status Date: December 5, 2011

FORMATION - PROPOSAL TO CREATE A MALIBU USD OUT OF TERRITORY CURRENTLY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: February 21, 2008

FORMATION - PROPOSAL TO CREATE A LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD) OUT OF TERRITORY CURRENTLY 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

Lapsation Proposals / Last Activity Date

- Mountain View USD / October 2025

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

- El Monte City SD / March 2024
- Montebello USD / September 2025
- San Marino USD / April 2022
- Walnut Valley USD / May 2016

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.