



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

**Item Arose After  
Agenda was Posted**

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager  
DATE: April 8, 2026  
SUBJECT: Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats Election

### RECOMMENDATION

Authorize President Marice H. DePasquale as the voting delegate and Vice President Shawn Dewane as the alternate for the Orange County Local Agency Formation Special District Member Seats Election.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.  
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.  
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.  
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.  
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.  
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

### DISCUSSION

The term of office for the regular and alternate special district voting member seats on the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) expire on June 30, 2026. The election process for special district member seats is governed by California Government Code Section 56332 and the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws. In accordance with the statute and bylaws, the appointment process will be conducted by mailed ballot.

The Declaration of Qualification to Vote was transmitted electronically via email to each independent special district presiding officer and general manager and is due to OC LAFCO electronically or by USPS mail by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026.

Ballots will be emailed to each special district presiding officer/designee on Monday, May 4, 2026 and are due to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2026.

Election results will be announced on Monday, June 15, 2026, and the Oath of Office will be administered at the regular OC LAFCO meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Staff recommends the Board authorize President DePasquale as the voting delegate and Vice President Dewane as the alternate for the OC LAFCO Special District Member Seats Election.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: OC LAFCO Correspondence

Attachment B: Declaration of Qualification to Vote

**REGULAR MEMBERS**

CHAIR  
**Wendy Bucknum**  
City Member

VICE CHAIR  
**James Fisler**  
Special District Member

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
**Donald P. Wagner**  
County Member

**Douglass Davert**  
Special District Member

**Peggy Huang**  
City Member

**Derek J. McGregor**  
Public Member

**VACANT**  
County Member

**ALTERNATES**

**Kathryn Freshley**  
Special District Member

**Carol Moore**  
City Member

**Lou Penrose**  
Public Member

**VACANT**  
County Member

**STAFF**

**Luis Tapia**  
Executive Officer

**Scott Smith**  
General Counsel

March 9, 2026

**TO:** Independent Special District, Presiding Officer  
**(Delivered by email: c/o Clerk of the District)**

**FROM:** Luis Tapia, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Nomination Period and Appointment Process for the OC LAFCO  
**Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats**

The nomination period for the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member seats is now open. The OC LAFCO Executive Officer will accept nominations for these seats from **March 9 through April 13, 2026**. The current term for these seats expires June 30, 2026.

The appointment process for the OC LAFCO special district seats is governed by Government Code Section 56332 and the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws. In accordance with the statute and the Committee's Bylaws, the appointment process is conducted by mailed ballot, and attached to this notification are the following:

(1) The **"Declaration of Qualification to Vote"** for designating the authorized regular voting member and alternate voting member, if applicable, of your district for this appointment process. These forms must be returned to OC LAFCO no later than **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026**. Please note, in accordance with the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws, if OC LAFCO does not receive the forms by this date, your district will be ineligible to vote; and

(2) The **"2026 Nomination Forms"** for submitting a candidate's name for the OC LAFCO **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member seats. If your district is nominating a candidate, the form must be filled out completely and returned to OC LAFCO by **4:00 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026**. Candidate resumes or other supplemental information may be attached to the nomination form, and these materials will be distributed with the ballot.

Completed declaration and nomination forms may be submitted to OC LAFCO electronically or by USPS mail at:

**Electronically:**

Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)

**USPS Mail:**

Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
 Attention: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin, Commission Clerk  
 2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

For your reference, the schedule of key dates for the appointment process is shown below:

<i>Appointment Process Schedule for OC LAFCO Regular and Alternate Special District Member Seats</i>	
ACTION	DATE
LAFCO Executive Officer emails notification letters with nomination and Declaration of Qualification to Vote forms to independent special district presiding officers (c/o district clerk) and general managers.	<b>March 9, 2026</b>
Deadline for submitting nomination and declaration forms to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.*	<b>April 13, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
Ballots emailed to special district presiding officers/designees (c/o district clerk).	<b>May 4, 2026</b>
Ballots due to OC LAFCO by 4:00 p.m.	<b>June 8, 2026 (4 PM)</b>
OC LAFCO staff (or designee) tabulates ballots and announces results.	<b>June 15, 2026</b>
Oath of Office Administered.	<b>July 8, 2026 (Commission Hearing)</b>
<i>* Pursuant to Government Code Section 56332(c)(1), if only one candidate is nominated for a vacant seat, that candidate shall be deemed selected with no further proceedings.</i>	

Should you have any questions on this matter, you may contact OC LAFCO Commission Clerk Cheryl Carter-Benjamin at (714) 640-5100 or by email at [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org).

Attachments:

1. Declaration of Qualification to Vote
2. 2026 Nomination Form – **Regular and Alternate** Special District Member Seats

cc: Special District General Managers

**DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATION TO VOTE**

*Marice H. Depasquale, Presiding Officer*

*Mesa Water District*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \* hereby attest that  
\_\_\_\_\_ \*\* has been authorized by the Board of  
\_\_\_\_\_ to vote in the OC LAFCO Special  
District Selection Committee election as the regular voting member.

The Board also designated \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* as the alternate voting  
member.

**Name and Title\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Declaration **MUST** be completed and signed by either Board President or Board Secretary.

\*\* Must be a member of the Board.

**In accordance with the Independent Special District Selection Committee Bylaws, completed declarations must be received by OC LAFCO by 4:00 PM, Monday, April 13, 2026. Declarations may be submitted electronically by email or USPS mail at:**

(1) Email: [ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org](mailto:ccarter-benjamin@oclafco.org)

(2) USPS Mail: Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  
2677 North Main Street, Suite 1050  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
Attn: Cheryl Carter-Benjamin