



2024 Members

First Supervisorial District: John Nunez, John Quintanilla  
Second Supervisorial District: Estefany Castaneda, 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

March 1, 2024

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, March 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the County Committee will be held at **9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. 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 March 6, 2024.

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

AD/EH:vb  
Attachments



Agenda No. 2 – Calendar Year 2024

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 call Ms. Victoria Bernstein at (562) 922-6110 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](mailto:Bernstein_Victoria@lacoe.edu) or you may record a voicemail with your comments by calling: (562) 922-6110.

- 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  
March 6, 2024  
9:30 A.M.**

*I Information  
D Discussion  
A Action*

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ms. Solomon	<b>I. CALL TO ORDER – 9:30 A.M.</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ms. Solomon	<b>III. ROLL CALL</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>V. ORDERING OF THE AGENDA</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>VI. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</b> - Enclosure January 10, 2024	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Cervera	<p><b>VII. CLOSED SESSION</b>                      CLOSED SESSION MATTERS CS-1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9)</p> <p>Glendale Unified School District v. Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles Central District, Case No. 19STCP04704</p> <p>This case involves a challenge brought under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in relation to a petition before the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization to transfer certain territory from the Glendale Unified School District (USD) to the La Canada USD.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo	<p><b>VIII. COUNTY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS</b>                      The Chair may address Communications.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<p><b>IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON OPEN SESSION ITEMS</b>                      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.</p>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo	<b>X. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo	<b>XI. CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XII. PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS / COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XIII. CONSENT CALENDAR</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XIV. PRESENTATIONS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XV. REPORTS / STUDY TOPICS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo Mr. LaPlante Ms. Cervera Dr. Deegan	A. Policies Subcommittee: The Policy Subcommittee Chairperson may provide an update.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XVI. RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XVII. HEARINGS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon	<b>XVIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo Ms. Cervera Dr. Deegan	<b>A. UPDATE ON PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY FROM THE GLENDALE USD TO THE LA CANADA USD</b>  An update may be provided to the County Committee on the status of the petition.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo Dr. Deegan	<b>B. UPDATE ON PETITION TO FORM A MALIBU USD FROM TERRITORY WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD</b>  An update may be provided to the County Committee on the status of the petition.	<i>I, D, A</i>
Ms. Solomon Mr. Castelo Ms. Cervera Dr. Deegan	<b>C. PETITION TO IMPLEMENT TRUSTEE AREA VOTING IN THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD)</b>  The County Committee may decide if it will render a	<i>I, D, A</i>

Speaker	Item	Notes
	<p>decision on the petition.</p>	
<p>Ms. Solomon                      Mr. Castelo                      Dr. Deegan                      Mr. Hass</p>	<p><b>D. CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA)</b>                      An update will be provided to the County Committee on activities locally and statewide related to the CVRA.</p>	<p><i>I, D, A</i></p>
<p>Ms. Solomon                      Mr. Castelo                      Dr. Deegan                      Mr. Hass</p>	<p><b>E. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b> Enclosure                      An update will be provided to the County Committee on legislation that may impact the school district organization process.</p>	<p><i>I, D, A</i></p>
<p>Ms. Solomon                      Mr. Castelo                      Dr. Deegan</p>	<p><b>F. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES USD (LAUSD) REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS</b> Enclosure                      An update will be provided to the County Committee on recent activity related to school district organization proposals pertaining to LAUSD.</p>	<p><i>I, D, A</i></p>
<p>Ms. Solomon                      Mr. Castelo                      Dr. Deegan</p>	<p><b>G. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS EXCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE LAUSD</b> Enclosure                      An update will be provided to the County Committee on recent activity related to school district organization proposals pertaining to districts other than LAUSD.</p>	<p><i>I, D, A</i></p>
<p>Ms. Solomon                      Mr. Castelo                      Dr. Deegan</p>	<p><b>H. COUNTY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS, MEETING SCHEDULE, ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING TIMES, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, FOLLOW UP</b>                      The Chair may provide a reminder about the County Committee’s next meeting and any other matters.</p>	<p><i>I, D, A</i></p>

Speaker	Item	Notes
Ms. Solomon	<b>XIX. ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>I, D, A</i>



Enclosure

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

<b>BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:</b> Assembly Bill 453 / Cervantes	<b>INTRODUCTION DATE:</b> 02/06/23	<b>LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:</b> 05/10/23: Referred to Senate committees.
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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.

<b>BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:</b> Assembly Bill 1004 / Ta	<b>INTRODUCTION DATE:</b> 02/15/23	<b>LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:</b> 02/01/24: Bill died in Committee
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**DESCRIPTION OF BILL**

Would establish a process for a voter whose recall petition signature is rejected to submit a statement to verify the signature. If the elections official determines the signature on the petition possesses multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics when compared to all signatures in the voter's registration record, the bill would require the elections official to mail a notice to the voter, on or before the next business day or as soon as practicable, of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. The bill would require the notice and signature verification statement to contain specified text, and would require the voter to return the statement no later than 30 days from the date of the notice.

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

School districts with an active recall petition could have some signatories engage with the County Registrar of Voters to accept their signature in the event it is rejected. If that occurred, the petition's signature verifications timeline would automatically be extended at least an additional 30-40 days.

**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.



<b>BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:</b> Assembly Bill 3140 / Hoover	<b>INTRODUCTION DATE:</b> 02/16/24	<b>LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:</b> 02/17/24: May be heard in committee March 18.
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**DESCRIPTION OF BILL**

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Education to approve proposals for the reorganization of school districts if the state board has determined, with respect to the proposal and the resulting school districts, that specified conditions are substantially met, except as otherwise provided for exceptional situations. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

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

The impact will depend upon how bill is amended as it proceeds, but initial bill's impact appears to be negligible insofar as it relates to the evaluation of petitions.

**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.

<b>BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:</b> Senate Bill 248 / Newman	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <b>DATE:</b> 01/26/23	<b>LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:</b> 09/01/23: Assembly Committee on Appropriations held first hearing.
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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.

### 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) 922-6110.



Enclosure

**Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals**

**March 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 February 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 / September 2021

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.



Enclosure

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

**March 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 February 21, 2024.

**PETITION TO IMPLEMENT TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING  
IN THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD**

On January 6, 2022, Chief Petitioners who are residents in the Santa Monica-Malibu USD submitted a petition to implement trustee areas and trustee area voting within the district. The petition with the requisite number of signatures, and a map, was introduced to the County Committee on February 2, 2022, and a public hearing will follow. However, following the introduction of this petition, legal action was taken against the County Committee, delaying the review of the petition. Representatives for the SMMUSD and the petitioners negotiated for several months but did not reach any agreement. Most recently, representatives of both the trustee area petition and the petition to form a Malibu USD stated that the petitions should be resolved together. These representatives met recently (in November of 2023) to discuss, among other issues, using special legislation to achieve the aims of both petitions. However, the representative of the petitioners, attorney Kevin Shenkman, recently communicated his doubts about achieving any proposed special legislation in 2024. In a November 29, 2023 letter from attorney Larsen (for the SMMUSD trustee area petition submitted by residents of Malibu) 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 during those months, 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 this petition is not linked to the petition to form a Malibu USD. He also stated that the claims by the SMMUSD that they are not available are not operative and he wants to proceed with an examination of this petition. The County Committee conducted public hearings in Malibu on Wednesday, January 31, and in Santa Monica on Saturday, February 10, 2024. The County Committee may consider rendering a decision at its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Status: County Committee conducted public hearings on Jan. 31 and Feb. 10, 2024.

Status Date: February 21, 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 thus far:

**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 or not, but she did not comment.

**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.

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’ termsheet.

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 are 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 this petition is not linked with the petition to create a Malibu USD. When a full review of the petition is agendized, staff will present a feasibility study.

Status: Parties negotiating while feasibility study continues.

Status Date: February 21, 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. The CEQA litigation is ongoing in Los Angeles.

In September of 2022, CDE/SBE notified County Committee staff that they are 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 at its meeting on January 18, denied the appeal, and selected the transfer area as the election area.

Status: Election preparations underway / litigation update pending

Status Date: February 21, 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 isa 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 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.

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.

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Status Date: March 20, 2007

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date

- Inner City USD / February 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

- El Monte City SD / August 2022
- Monrovia USD / March 2022
- San Marino USD / April 2022
- Walnut Valley USD / May 2016

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.