

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
ALAMEDA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

Castro Valley Library, Community Room, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, CA

October 17, 2016

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Wieskamp called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Roll Call.**

Roll was called. A quorum was present of the following commissioners:

County Members: Nate Miley

City Members: None

Special District Members: Ayn Wieskamp, Ralph Johnson and alternate Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold

Public Members: Sblend Sblendorio

Not Present: City Members John Marchand, Jerry Thorne, and alternate David Haubert; Tom Pico, alternate Public Member; and County Members Scott Haggerty, and alternate Wilma Chan

Staff present: Mona Palacios, Executive Officer; Andrew Massey, Legal Counsel; and Sandy Hou, Clerk

3. **Public Comment**

Vice Chair Wieskamp invited members in the audience to address the Commission on any matter not listed on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Commission. There were no comments.

4. **Eden Township Healthcare District**

Vice Chair Wieskamp provided introductory remarks concerning the purpose of the meeting – for the Commission, which had initiated a special study of the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD), to receive input from the public and other stakeholders concerning the District – and requested that speakers focus their remarks in line with the following (as noted on the meeting agenda):

- What value, if any, does the ETHD provide to the public?
- For those who find value in the District, what specific needs and/or priorities should the District address:
- For those who do not find value in the District, should the District's functions continue to be provided by another entity?

LAFCo Staff, Executive Officer Mona Palacios, provided information on Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCos), how and why they were established and what some of their main functions are, and explained the background leading up to today's meeting concerning the ETHD.

Project Consultant Richard Berkson spoke about the purpose and focus of the special study of the District. He explained that the purpose was to conduct an objective, independent review of the District's governance, services and funding and to provide information to LAFCo, other affected jurisdictions and decision makers, establishing a foundation for decisions that could be made concerning the District's future. He discussed what the study would include, what it would not include, and noted that the comments given tonight would be incorporated in the study. He mentioned that the Commission would consider a public review timeline for the study at their regular November meeting, and expected that a draft report would be available by mid to late November. He concluded his remarks with a very brief overview of the District that included its founding, its boundaries and past and current service focus.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following people offered comments.

- Elke Sommer – Castro Valley resident, spoke in support of the district, which she considers a wonderful asset to the community, and expressed concerns about the negative repercussions that might occur if the district were disbanded.
- Bruce King – Castro Valley resident, concurred with remarks from the previous speaker and praised the District's focus on preventative health services.
- Roxann Lewis – Castro Valley resident, and ETHD Board Member, spoke in support of the district's focus on providing preventative health services and expressed concerns that if the district was dissolved and its assets given to two hospitals, the funds would be used up within a very short period of time.
- Jonnie Banks – Castro Valley resident, spoke in support of the district, noting that its community health programs concerning glaucoma, diabetes and mental health had received positive comments from the participants. Sharing her family's personal story, she also emphasized the need, in general, for more mental health services in the community, especially for youth.
- Colette Lee – Castro Valley resident, spoke in support of the district, praising its collaborative work in diabetes and mental health with a variety of health care partners. She stated that it was the voters that established the district and it should be the voters who decide the district's future.
- Susan Rouse – Castro Valley resident, expressed concerns that hospitals were not serving the community well. She also supports decisions being made by the voters.
- Dr. Itoco Garcia – Principal of Cherryland Elementary School, had high praise for the district's support of that school's implementation of an annual health fair that had far reaching positive impacts for the school and the community.
- Chris Higgins – Fairview resident, said he was undecided about his support of the District, but supportive of decision making locally rather than in Sacramento. He expressed disagreement with the District possibly providing services to Dublin, when the residents there don't financially support the District through any taxes.
- Phyllis Moroney, R.N., NP – Castro Valley resident, expressed agreement with the Grand Jury Report that the District should be dissolved, noting that the report had said that only 12 percent of the district's budget is used for grants, scholarships and health care services.
- William Yale – Castro Valley resident, Quartermaster of VFW Post 9601 expressed appreciation for the District's grant of \$5000 for veterans in need.
- Tom Lorentzen – Lifelong Castro Valley resident and ETHD Board Member for approximately two years, emphasized a principal value of the District is in its commitment to improve health outcomes.
- Assembly Member Bill Quirk – explained that he had held up his legislation concerning dissolving the district in favor of LAFCo conducting a special study of the district, which would allow local public input. Staff and the project consultant responded to his concerns about the approach of the special study as he understood from the explanation provided earlier by the consultant, clarifying that the study would include looking at various governance options for the District and what each option would entail and require of LAFCo. Staff explained that, in the event of dissolution, LAFCo would appoint a successor agency that would determine where the assets go.

- Michelle Robles – Livermore resident, Sr. Accountant for the district, spoke in support of the district and expressed disappointment in the actions taken by Assembly Member Quirk in introducing the legislation, which she felt was done without proper understanding of the district and LAFCo.

Commissioner Comments/Discussion

Commissioner Sblendorio, referencing that comments had been made by a speaker concerning taxes and the city of Dublin, requested that staff look into and clarify if the district pays property tax on the buildings in Dublin and whether business or licensing taxes were paid to Dublin.

Commissioner Miley thanked members of the public for attending and for offering their comments. In response to his question, Counsel responded that LAFCo could condition dissolution of the District on a vote. To his question concerning who would pay for a vote involving dissolution, Staff responded that the funds would come from the District's assets.

Commissioner Vonheeder-Leopold praised the people for attending the meeting. She expressed disappointment that during LAFCo's recent Municipal Service Review of the District, not many people had come to voice their concerns about the District, and urged people who have questions concerning the District to go the District's Board meetings.

Chair Wieskamp offered closing words, expressing appreciation for being able to listen to thoughtful input from the people served by the District. She noted that there would be another public meeting the next evening – October 18th - and a third one on November 7th. Staff provided the time and location of the meetings (see item 6 below.)

5. Adjournment of Special Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

6. Next Meetings of the Commission - Special Meetings concerning Eden Township Healthcare District

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:30 pm at Hayward City Council Chambers

Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at San Leandro City Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Hou, Commission Clerk

These minutes were approved by the Commission on November 10, 2016.

Attest:



Mona Palacios, LAFCo Executive Officer