

**SSWD-DPMWD Combination
New Frequently Asked Questions
FINAL—January 28, 2025**

NEW! Frequently Asked Questions About the LAFCo Process

What is the process for LAFCo's review and decision?

- **Application Submission:** The process began when SSWD and DPMWD adopted substantially similar resolutions of application for reorganization, which consists of dissolving DPMWD and transferring its assets, liabilities, and obligations to SSWD on terms and conditions agreed to by the Boards of Directors of the two districts. The districts submitted a Plan for Services and Application to LAFCo on December 23, 2024. .
- **Application Review:** LAFCo has 30 days from submission to review the application and determine if it is complete. During this period, LAFCo notifies affected local agencies and initiates the property tax revenue exchange agreement process. Since SSWD and DPMWD do not currently receive any portion of the property tax revenue generated in the county, and instead utilize water rate charges to operate and fund services, it is anticipated that no property tax revenue will be transferred as part of this proposed reorganization.
- **Public Notice:** Once the application is deemed complete, LAFCo will notify both districts and schedule a Public Hearing during a regularly scheduled LAFCo Commission meeting. A 21-day Public Notice will be given in advance of the Public Hearing, and the staff report along with supporting documentation will be posted on the LAFCo website. Members of the public may provide written comments in advance of the Public Hearing or attend the hearing in person or virtually.
- **LAFCo Application Hearing:** The LAFCo Commission is tentatively scheduled to hold the Public Hearing on **March 5, 2025**, where the subject agencies, any affected local agencies, and the public can provide comments on the proposed reorganization. The LAFCo staff report, findings and recommendation will be provided.
- **LAFCo Commission Action:** After reviewing the LAFCo staff report and recommendation, considering public comments, and deliberating on the reorganization proposal, the LAFCo Commission shall approve, or conditionally approve, the proposed reorganization or continue the Public Hearing. LAFCo may adopt terms and conditions for approval. However, LAFCo will not make material changes without notifying the subject agencies (G.C. §56853). Since this application is consistent with prior LAFCo actions, there will be no protest hearing (G.C. §57077.1(c)).
- **Reconsideration:** Approval triggers a 30-day reconsideration period, during which any person or affected local agency may submit a request for reconsideration.

LAFCo is hosting a Public Hearing on February 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. on a combination-related item. What is that hearing about?

- **LAFCo is conducting a Public Hearing on February 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** to amend the Spheres of Influence (SOI) for DPMWD and SSWD. These amendments are required in anticipation of a potential reorganization involving both districts.

The Public Hearing will address:

1. **Adopting a “Zero” Sphere of Influence for DPMWD:** This indicates that the district is anticipated to be dissolved and will no longer provide services independently after reorganization.
 2. **Expanding SSWD's Sphere of Influence:** The SOI for SSWD would be amended to include the area currently served by DPMWD, aligning with the anticipated reorganization plan.
- **What is a Sphere of Influence (SOI)?**
An SOI is a planning boundary that identifies the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by LAFCo. Adjustments to an SOI are required to ensure that any future reorganization aligns with LAFCo’s long-term planning goals.
 - **Will this affect customers right now?**
No immediate changes to services or rates are expected from these SOI amendments. They are part of the administrative and planning steps required by LAFCo to proceed with the reorganization process.
 - **For more information:**
Visit www.saclafco.org or call Sacramento LAFCo at (916) 874-6458.

What should we expect at the Application Hearing (tentatively scheduled for March 5, 2025)?

At the LAFCo Application Hearing, here's what you can expect:

- **Introduction:** The Application Hearing will begin with an introduction and opening remarks by the LAFCo Chairperson.
- **Staff Report Presentation:** LAFCo staff will present a staff report summarizing the application, the findings, and the recommendations.
- **Applicant Presentation:** Representatives from SSWD and DPMWD will have the opportunity to present their case, including the benefits and details of the proposed reorganization.
- **Agency Input:** Representatives from affected local agencies (e.g., County departments) will also have the opportunity to provide their input and comments on the proposal.
- **Public Testimony:** Members of the public will be invited to provide comment. Individuals can speak in favor of or opposition to the proposal, ask questions, or provide other relevant comments.
- **Commission Deliberation:** The LAFCo Commissioners will discuss the proposal, consider the staff report, applicant presentation, public testimony, and agency input. They may ask questions to the staff, the subject agencies, or the public to clarify any points.
- **Decision:** After deliberation, the LAFCo Commissioners will take an action to approve with or without conditions the application. The decision may include specific conditions that need to be met for the reorganization to proceed. Alternatively, the LAFCo Commission may choose to continue the Application Hearing to another date.

What are the opportunities for the public to provide input during the LAFCo process?

- The LAFCo process provides multiple opportunities for public input. At the Public Hearing (tentatively scheduled for March 5, 2025), community members can provide written comments in advance or attend the hearing to share their support, voice opposition, or ask questions about the proposal.
- It's important to note that time limits for public testimony might be in place to ensure everyone has a chance to speak. Additionally, members of the public can submit written comments ahead of the Public Hearing. These written submissions will be included in the official record and considered by the LAFCo Commissioners as part of the decision-making process.

How many Public Hearings are part of the LAFCo process?

- There are typically two hearings: the LAFCo Application Hearing and a subsequent Protest Hearing, if required. However, **since both agencies adopted substantially similar Resolutions of Application, and the proposed reorganization is consistent with prior LAFCo actions, no Protest Hearing will be held for this application.** The LAFCo Application Hearing, tentatively scheduled for March 5, 2025, is for the LAFCo Commission to review and take action on the proposed reorganization.

Is an election required to approve the reorganization?

- No. Since the proposed reorganization is consistent with prior LAFCo actions, including the Resolution of Intent to Initiate Dissolution of DPMWD adopted on May 1, 2024, no Protest Hearing will be held and no election is required (G.C. §57077.1(c)). Additionally, since DPMWD and SSWD adopted substantially similar Resolutions of Application, LAFCo shall approve or conditionally approve the proposed reorganization (G.C. §56853).

How does a member of the public submit a protest to Sacramento County LAFCo?

- Since a Protest Hearing will not be held for this application, no official protest forms can be submitted to LAFCo. However, the public is invited to provide written or verbal comments as part of the Public Hearing (tentatively scheduled for March 5, 2025). All constructive comments, either for or against the proposed reorganization, will be accepted and considered by the LAFCo Commission.

For more detailed information, you can visit the [Sacramento County LAFCo website](#).