



**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

Chair Mohler called the special meeting of September 11, 2023 to order at 9:30 AM.

At the time of roll call, the following Commissioners and staff were present:

Regular Commissioners	Alternate Commissioners	Staff
Margie Mohler, Chair	Joelle Gallagher ( <i>arrived 9:37am</i> )	Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer
Anne Cottrell, Vice Chair	Eve Kahn ( <i>Voting</i> )	Dawn Mittleman Longoria, Assistant Executive Officer
Beth Painter	Mariam Aboudamous	Stephanie Pratt Clerk/Jr. Analyst
Kenneth Leary ( <i>Absent</i> )		Gary Bell, Commission Counsel
Belia Ramos		

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Mohler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Mohler asked if there were any requests to rearrange the agenda. There were no requests.

Upon motion by Commissioner Painter and second by Commissioner Ramos, the Commission unanimously adopted the agenda as submitted:

**VOTE:**

**AYES: MOHLER, COTTRELL, PAINTER, RAMOS, AND KAHN**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: LEARY**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Mohler invited members of the audience to provide public comment. No public comments were received.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a) Commission Workshop on Napa Countywide Water and Wastewater Municipal Service Review Recommendations**

Chair Mohler opened the workshop. Executive Officer Freeman presented a PowerPoint reviewing the recommendations contained within the Napa Countywide Water and Wastewater Municipal Service Review that was adopted in 2020.

Chair Mohler invited members of the audience to provide public comment.

John Ferons, Public Works Director for The Town of Yountville comments: Water Optimization Group formed among water provider staff. Focus on engineer and infrastructure and hope to work with City Managers Group with their results. Working to identify capital improvement projects and how to implement them.

Phil Brun, Utilities Director from City of Napa comments: The MSR is accurate and robust, and the effort and teamwork is appreciated. Collaboration is currently happening and working well. Water systems in Napa County are tied together. The recent drought warranted other discussions. All parties participated in forming a Drought Contingency Plan in an effort to leverage water supplies valley wide. The top three recommendations were all collaborative:

- 1) Looking at Sites Reservoir: American Canyon is already participating. City of Napa is on a waiting list.
- 2) Purified water from wastewater: Feasibility study has begun.
- 3) Valley wide optimization Study: Consider JPAs and countywide options. There are five water treatment plants running in January. Ultimately should be one or two. Engineering questions and cost considerations are needed to understand how to move the water. An engineering consultant is needed to do the modeling and the projected cost is likely \$200,000 to \$300,000 to understand the path to optimization. Recommendations have to make sense to the rate payers.

Lester Hardy, St. Helena City Council member (speaking as an individual); he will also present his statements to the City Council.

- Elected officials need to be able to explain how constituents will be affected.
- The governance structure should come after technical and cost analysis.
- It is important to consider groundwater recharging.
- Happy that LAFCO initiated the study and has sited the urgent need to work collaboratively.

Chair Mohler stated the importance of looking at this issue with a regional approach. LAFCO has a foothold, and she thanked all the public works staff. Water infrastructure is expensive but necessary going forward. Grant funding is possible. She advises starting small and non-controversial and lean on City of Napa and Napa Sanitation District due to their existing developed infrastructure.

Vice Chair Cottrell stated that collaboration and regionalization for municipal water systems are core goals of this study. This MSR is not about groundwater in particular.

Commissioner Painter stressed that the need is to work collaboratively and move forward similar to the Napa County Climate Action Committee (NCCAC).

Commissioner Ramos suggested that perhaps LAFCO may be able to get added to NCCAC to introduce these issues as well as Napa County League of Governments (NCLOG) meetings.

Commissioner Kahn commented that the smaller districts may not have the infrastructure or leadership capability and need encouragement to participate. Perhaps there are ways to encourage them to get together as there is currently no connectivity in place. Lack of services affects property values in the area.

Commissioner Gallagher asked Executive Officer Freeman if it is possible for him to attend jurisdictional meetings to share these recommendations, and also what the cost differences for different communities might be in the future. Executive Officer Freeman concurred he can attend and look at the cost differences and examples from other counties to prepare a basic analysis.

Commissioner Ramos said that Federal appropriation requests begin in February/March and suggested to request a meeting with congressional staff since a multijurisdictional request is more likely to get funded.

Chair Mohler would like a working name for this group as there is more clout with a formally named group. A grass roots approach is working and appears to be the best way forward. LAFCO should keep this on the agenda for quarterly review.

**6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no discussion of this item.

**7. CLOSED SESSIONS:**

a) **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – (Government Code Section 54957(b)(1))**  
Employee: Executive Officer

b) **Conference with Labor Negotiators – (Government Code Section 54957.6)**  
Agency Designated Representative: Commission Chair  
Unrepresented Employee: Executive Officer

There was no reportable action following the closed sessions.

**8. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next regular LAFCO meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

Margie Mohler  
Margie Mohler (Oct 4, 2023 07:14 PDT)

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Margie Mohler, LAFCO Chair

ATTEST:

Brendon Freeman

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Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer

Prepared by:

SP.

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Stephanie Pratt, Clerk/Jr. Analyst










# 10-2-23 Approved Workshop Minutes 9-11-23

Final Audit Report

2023-10-04

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