



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Chair Painter called the special meeting of September 21, 2026 to order at 3:01 PM.

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

Regular Commissioners	Alternate Commissioner	Staff
Beth Painter, Chair	Joelle Gallagher (<i>absent</i>)	Brendon Freeman, Executive Officer
Belia Ramos, Vice Chair	Eve Kahn (<i>voting until 3:06pm</i>)	Gary Bell, Commission Counsel
Anne Cottrell	David Oro	Stephanie Pratt, Staff Analyst
Paul Dohring		Charlie Livingston, Commission Clerk
Jeffrey Crosswhite (<i>3:06pm arrival</i>)		

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Painter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. DISCLOSURES UNDER POLITICAL REFORM ACT/LEVINE ACT

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Painter invited members of the audience to provide public comment at 3:04 PM.

Sam Clerici: Requested information regarding the evaluation and selection process for the Executive Officer and Interim Executive Officer positions.

Joel Fennie: Spoke in support of the Executive Officer and requested transparency from the Commission.

Jim Hinton: Requested transparency regarding the discussion and reporting of personnel items from the previous Special Meeting.

Eaton Jeffords: Spoke in support of the Executive Officer retaining his position.

Chris Tholke: Commented on the Executive Officer's professionalism regarding a current application and expressed concerns regarding the timing of the personnel changes.

Leanne Tholke: Requested information regarding the authorization, delegation, and legal review of executive duties during the September 11, 2026 Conducting Authority Proceedings.

5. CLOSED SESSION: 3:20 PM

a) Public Employee Dismissal/Release (Gov. Code, § 54957.)

b) Public Employee Appointment (Gov. Code, § 54957.)

Meeting reconvened at 4:13 PM. General Counsel Gary Bell reported that the Commission voted 5-0 to dismiss Mr. Freeman from his appointment of Executive Officer and that the Commission voted 4-1, with Commissioner Dohring voting no, to appoint David Key as Interim Executive Officer.

6. ADJOURNMENT at 4:14 PM TO NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Monday, October 5, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. at the Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, CA 94559.

Beth Painter
Beth Painter (Oct 6, 2026 11:32:58 PDT)

Beth Painter, LAFCO Chair

ATTEST:

David Key
David Key (Oct 6, 2026 12:11:54 PDT)
David Key, Interim Executive Officer

Prepared by:

Charlie Livingston
Charlie Livingston, Commission Clerk