

Mono County

Local Agency Formation Commission

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Staff Report

June 2, 2021

To: Mono County LAFCO

From: Gerry LeFrancois, Executive Officer
Kelly Karl, Associate Planner

RECOMMENDATION

Open the Public Hearing, review the rollover budget (from FY 2020-21) and approve the fiscal year 2021-22 budget.

BACKGROUND

This is a public hearing item. The Budget for fiscal year 2021-22 must be at least equal to the budget adopted for the previous fiscal year unless the Commission finds that reducing staffing or program costs will still allow the LAFCO to fulfill the purposes and requirements of the Act. Employee expenses are pretty consistent. This past year, time accounting has been implemented through existing County software programs.

Budget funding is from yearly apportionment of LAFCO members totaling \$11,114. The LAFCO rollover budget from 2020-21 is expected to be \$17,686 plus or minus final expenses through the end of the fiscal year. Government Code § 56381(a) requires LAFCO to adopt a proposed budget by May 1, and final budget by June 15 of each year.

ALTERNATIVE APPORTIONMENT

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH) establishes methods for apportioning LAFCO staffing and program costs among the County, Town and Special Districts. The law allows alternative apportionment methods, which Mono LAFCO has used to avoid impacting financially constrained special districts. Prior to using an alternative apportionment method, LAFCO costs were fully borne by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County. In recent years, the Commission applied an alternative apportionment method consisting of a third from Mono County; a third from the Town of Mammoth Lakes; and a third from special districts, with the special district share provided exclusively from the Southern Mono Healthcare District and the Mammoth Community Water District, rather than from all independent special districts.

The proposed preliminary budget reflects this same alternative budget apportionment method, which consists of a third (\$3,714.67) from Mono County; a third (\$3,714.67) from the Town of Mammoth Lakes; and a third (\$3,714.67) from the special districts. Instead of all independent special districts in Mono County contributing, this alternative apportionment consists of \$1,857.33 from Southern Mono Hospital District and \$1,857.33 from the Mammoth Community Water District.

FY 2021-22 BUDGET

The attached Preliminary Budget for fiscal year 2021-22 maintains a status-quo funding level. This level of funding has been sufficient for LAFCO activity this past year. These work tasks or activities included:

- ✓ Review of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act;
- ✓ Reviewing current Wheeler Crest Community Services District (CSD) district boundaries;
- ✓ Work on resolving the property tax exchange on the Snowcreek Annexation;
- ✓ Preliminary discussion on the Mammoth Mountain exchange and service provider considerations; and
- ✓ A special district inquiry about a boundary change and services provided into Reds Meadow (Madera County).

Anticipated work tasks for 2021-22 include:

- ✓ Work on updating municipal service reviews of fire and special districts;
- ✓ Respond to future application activity, and special district inquiries;
- ✓ Attend staff training;
- ✓ Assess water service providers, including irrigation services, as a part of the Walker River Water Transfer Study and EIR;
- ✓ Respond to future application activity (MMSA and MLFPD) and
- ✓ Review plans, projects, and environmental documents for LAFCO concerns.

This expected level of activity is similar to last year. One exception will be grant funding for Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) which is not reflected in the attached FY 2021-22 Budget.