



TRUSTEES PRESENT

Henry Aviles (Alhambra)
Robert Gonzales (Azusa)
Emmanuel Estrada (Baldwin Park)
Richard Barakat (Bradbury)
Corey Calaycay (Claremont) – Secretary/Treasurer
Margaret Finlay (Duarte)
Jerry Velasco (El Monte)
Jackie Doornik (Glendora)
Manuel Garcia (Irwindale)
Charlie Klinakis (La Puente)
Meshal Kashifalghita (La Verne) - President
Becky Shevlin (Monrovia)
Rachel Janbek (Pasadena)
Sandra Armenta (Rosemead)
Ryan Vienna (San Dimas)
John Capoccia (Sierra Madre) – Past President
Robert Joe (South Pasadena)
Cynthia Sternquist (Temple City)
Allen Wu (Walnut)
Rosario Diaz (West Covina)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sho Tay (Arcadia)
Patricia Cortez (Covina)
Cory Moss (Industry)
Anish Saraiya (L.A. County)
Joseph Leon (Monterey Park)
Tim Sandoval (Pomona)
Denise Menchaca (San Gabriel) – Vice President

STAFF PRESENT

Jason Farned, District Manager
Cecilia Contreras, Director of Administrative Services
Anais Medina Diaz, Director of Communications
Tristan Hallum, Director of Scientific Programs
Jerry Mireles, Clerk of the Board

GUESTS PRESENT

Connor Farned

1. Call to Order

President Kashifalghita called the meeting to order at 7:03a.m. Connor Farned led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk of the Board Mireles confirmed a quorum and noted absences.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The Board received one public comment. Connor Farned addressed the Board during the public comment period.

3. Consent Calendar

Motion by Trustee Shevlin, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Calaycay and carried by the following vote to approve Items 3.1- 3.8 of the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Aviles, Gonzales, Estrada, Barakat, Calaycay, Finlay, Velasco, Doornik, Garcia, Klinakis, Kashifalghita, Shevlin, Janbek, Armenta, Vienna, Capoccia, Joe, Sternquist, Wu, Diaz
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Tay, Cortez, Moss, Saraiya, Leon, Sandoval, Menchaca



4. Presentation

4.1 2026 Strategic Report

District Manager, Jason Farned provided an overview of the District's strategic planning process, including program evaluation, staff feedback, and development of 2026 priorities and budget considerations. It highlighted results from the 2025 employee survey, which showed a highly positive workplace culture with strong mission alignment, teamwork, and overall staff satisfaction, while also identifying areas for improvement such as staffing, communication, and compensation. Key 2026 strategic priorities include strengthening governance and operations, enhancing vector surveillance and disease detection, reducing vector populations, and increasing public awareness to protect public health. The report also emphasized the importance of a multi-year Proposition 218 outreach and communications plan.

Trustee Barakat inquired about the District's employee turnover rate and Mr. Farned reported that the District had one employee turnover during the year.

Trustee Capoccia asked whether the District conducts surveys to assess its performance. Mr. Farned stated that the District utilizes several surveys and Director of Communications Anais Medina Diaz added that efforts are underway to increase public awareness.

Trustee Barakat inquired whether the District provides residents with outreach materials, such as postcards, to solicit feedback. Mr. Farned responded that outreach materials include a physical mailing address, email address and QR codes for submitting feedback.

Secretary/Treasurer Calaycay requested that District staff notify Trustees when the District is participating in City events, so they are aware and may attend if interested. Mr. Farned confirmed that staff will do so.

Mr. Farned reported on the District of Distinction award program and inquired about the Board's interest in participating. He noted that participation requires at least 14 Trustees and 8 Trustees expressed interest.

Trustee Finlay departed the meeting at 7:32 a.m. and Trustee Wu departed at 7:37 a.m.

5. Consideration of Resolution 2026-03 Legal Services Agreement with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC and Appointment of General Counsel

Mr. Farned reported the District issued an RFP for Legal Counsel Services on January 5, 2026, received eleven timely proposals and after review and interviews, the Ad Hoc Committee unanimously recommended Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC as General Counsel.

Trustee Vienna, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, thanked the Committee for its involvement in the process and highlighted the reasons for selecting the firm. Trustee Shevlin added that the firm was the most qualified.



Motion by Trustee Barakat, seconded by Trustee Shevlin and carried by the following vote to: 1) Adopt Resolution 2026-03 approving the Legal Services Agreement with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC.; 2) Authorize execution of the agreement on behalf of the District; 3) Authorize the District Manager to provide formal notice terminating the existing agreement with Fennemore

AYES: Estrada, Barakat, Calaycay, Velasco, Doornik, Garcia, Klinakis, Kashifalghita, Shevlin, Janbek, Armenta, Vienna, Capoccia, Joe, Sternquist, Diaz

NOES: Aviles, Gonzales

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Tay, Cortez, Finlay, Moss, Saraiya, Leon, Sandoval, Menchaca, Wu

6. Consideration Vote on Ballot for Special District LAFCO Voting Member

Mr. Farned reported the District was notified of a vacancy for the Special District (LAFCO) Voting Member position for a term expiring in May 2030, with nominations closing on March 6, 2026 and candidate information provided.

After further discussion, the Board nominated Robert Lewis to fill the vacant position.

Motion by Trustee Capoccia, seconded by Secretary/Treasurer Calaycay and carried by the following vote to nominate Robert Lewis as the Special District (LAFCO) Voting Member.

AYES: Aviles, Gonzales, Estrada, Calaycay, Velasco, Doornik, Garcia, Klinakis, Kashifalghita, Shevlin, Janbek, Armenta, Vienna, Capoccia, Joe, Sternquist, Diaz

NOES: Barakat

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Tay, Cortez, Finlay, Moss, Saraiya, Leon, Sandoval, Menchaca, Wu

7. Compliance with Assembly Bill 2561: Public Hearing on Job Vacancies, Recruitment, Process and Retention Efforts

Mr. Farned presented the annual AB 2561 report detailing 2025 job vacancies, recruitment, and retention efforts, as required under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. The District reported one vacancy filled with one turnover and highlighted ongoing efforts in training, professional development and employee engagement.

Prior to Board input, President Kashifalghita opened the Public Comment period and inquired if any speaker requests have been received, hearing none, President Kashifalghita closed the Public Comment period.

The Board received and filed this report.

8. District Administration

8.1 Committee Meeting Notification

District Manager Farned announced that the Personnel & Policy Committee would begin immediately following the adjournment of the board meeting.



8.2 District Update

Mr. Farned reported that the District hired 13 seasonal employees this year, including 11 in the Operations Department and 2 in Communications. He stated that the solar project has been completed, permits have been submitted to Southern California Edison and the District is awaiting permission to operate. He also noted his attendance at the AMCA Annual Meeting and indicated that sunshine reports are included in the agenda packet for additional information. He reported that the SDASGV Chapter meeting scheduled for June 15 will feature Congressman Gil Cisneros and that he will provide the Board with an update as the event approaches.

Mr. Farned also addressed the black fly issue, noting high abundance levels in the San Gabriel Valley, particularly in foothill areas. He stated that the District is providing treatment at maximum capacity and is actively addressing the issue, with expectations that populations will decrease over time.

Trustee Doornik reported that she raised the issue with the SGVCOG EENR Committee and provided an update on the matter.

9. Committee Reports

None

10. Trustee Report

Trustee Capoccia reported that Anais Medina Diaz delivered a presentation to the City of Sierra Madre and commended her for the presentation, noting that both the City Council and the community were impressed.

Secretary/Treasurer Calaycay reported on a code enforcement matter in the City of Claremont involving a resident with standing water and noted that the process for issuing notices and providing updates to the District is efficient and functioning effectively.

Trustee Vienna reported the passing of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Levi Vargas during the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup relay race and requested that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

11. New Business

None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 a.m. in memory of Levi Vargas.