

Members

Ayn Wieskamp, Vice Chair
Special District Member

Nate Miley
County Member

John Marchand, Chair
City Member

Sblend Sblendorio
Public Member

Ralph Johnson
Special District Member

Scott Haggerty
County Member

Jerry Thorne
City Member

Alternates

Georgian Vonheeder-Leopold
Special District Member

Wilma Chan
County Member

David Haubert
City Member

Tom Pico
Public Member

Executive Officer

Mona Palacios

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2016

Contact: Mona Palacios, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCo (510) 272-3894 or mona.palacios@acgov.org

November 7th Meeting in San Leandro to Solicit Public Input on Special Study of Eden Health District

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) will hold the third of three special meetings on November 7, 2016 at 5:30 pm at San Leandro City Council Chambers, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro, to solicit public input to help in the development of a special study of the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD), also known as the Eden Health District. The Commission already held two meetings in October, one in Castro Valley and the other in Hayward with about 30 people attending each meeting.

The special study will review the services the District currently provides, its financial position including any future obligations, and a fiscal analysis of various governance options, including dissolution. LAFCo has called the public meetings to obtain information from the District's constituents regarding their views about the value of the Eden Township Healthcare District to the public; what, if any, specific needs and priorities the District should address; and whether the District's functions should continue to be provided by another entity.

ETHD was formed in 1948 to finance, construct and operate Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, but no longer owns and operates the hospital. Currently ETHD provides grant funding to health-related organizations, oversees its investment fund, and owns three office buildings where it leases office space to various healthcare providers. The District covers Eden Township, which includes the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo, and the cities of Hayward and San Leandro. It collects no tax revenues, and derives its revenue from net income from its office buildings. More information about the district can be found at <http://ethd.org/>.

In recognition of the need for a more coordinated and efficient public service structure to support California's anticipated growth, the State Legislature established local agency formation commissions (LAFCos) in the mid-1960s. Among other duties, LAFCos are responsible for periodically reviewing the municipal services provided by local agencies under LAFCo jurisdiction. These service reviews, known as "Municipal Service Reviews" (MSRs), are intended to be an informational tool to help LAFCo, other agencies and the public better understand the municipal service structure. In 2013, Alameda LAFCo completed an MSR of ETHD which concluded that the District should continue in its current form.

Critics, including the Alameda County Grand Jury, have recently asserted that ETHD should be dissolved. Earlier this year, legislation was introduced in the State Assembly affecting the District including one bill signed into law (AB 2737) that imposes spending requirements on healthcare districts such as ETHD. At the July 2016 LAFCo meeting, the Commission approved a request from the City of Hayward to prepare a "Special Study" to help determine the future of ETHD. More information about Alameda LAFCo and the special study can be found at www.acgov.org/lafco.