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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2017

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Special Meeting Regarding the Eden Township Healthcare District

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) will hold a special meeting in Castro Valley next week regarding the Special Study of Governance Options for the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD). LAFCo will receive the final draft of the special study report, consider whether the study is complete and provide direction to staff regarding next steps which may include preparation of materials for a sphere of influence amendment or other Commission-initiated action. The draft final special study, which incorporates public comments received by LAFCo on the public review draft of the special study and also includes the project consultant's responses to those comments, is available for review on the Alameda LAFCo website, www.acgov.org/lafco. The special meeting agenda and related materials are also available on LAFCo's website. The special study reviews the services ETHD currently provides, its financial position including any future obligations, and a fiscal analysis of various governance options, including dissolution.

LAFCo will hold the special meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6 pm at the Castro Valley Library located at 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley. Please contact Mona Palacios, LAFCo Executive Officer, at mona.palacios@acgov.org or via US Mail at: 1221 Oak Street, Room 555, Oakland, CA 94612 if you have any questions.

ETHD was formed in 1948 to finance, construct and operate Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, but the District 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 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 its July 2016 meeting, LAFCo approved a request from the City of Hayward to prepare a "Special Study" to help determine the future of ETHD.