

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: LAFCO Regular Special District Member Election – Ballot Due Tomorrow

Proposed Motions - Choose **one** of the following proposed motions after Board Discussion, listed alphabetically by last name,

Motion A. for Robert Dunlap: I move that the Board direct the President to sign and submit the LAFCO ballot voting for **Robert Dunlap** as the Regular Special District Member.”

Motion B. for Dorinne Lee Johnson: “I move that the Board direct the President to sign and submit the LAFCO ballot voting for **Dorinne Lee Johnson** as the Regular Special District Member.”

Background

Every four years, the independent special districts of Santa Barbara County elect one Regular Special District Member (and one alternate) to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO reviews proposals for new districts, annexations, spheres of influence, and service review issues that directly affect every special district in the county.

The official ballot was mailed to all eligible districts. Our completed ballot must be received by LAFCO **no later than 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, February 19, 2026.**

See additional information on the following pages

Candidates

- **Dorinne Lee Johnson** (Incumbent – Montecito Sanitary District) Current LAFCO Special District Member. Long-time Montecito Sanitary District board member (Treasurer, former President). Professional background in construction management, civil engineering, and environmental design. Strong support from South County elected officials and several water/sanitary district leaders.
- **Robert Dunlap** (Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District) Nominated by the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. Local North County resident and water professional with direct experience in the Santa Ynez Valley water basin—the same basin that supplies much of our district’s water.

Recommendation (see the attached submitted candidate profiles)

Staff recommends the Board vote for one of the following candidates:

- **Robert Dunlap**, a North County voice on LAFCO, is important for balanced representation. The Santa Ynez Valley faces unique groundwater, river, and agricultural water issues that are not always top of mind in South County. Robert Dunlap brings that perspective and is one of our neighboring water districts.
- **Dorinne Lee Johnson** As the incumbent, Dorinne has a proven track record of effective leadership on LAFCO and the Montecito Sanitary District, with strong endorsements from elected officials and special district leaders across the county.

Attached: Candidates' Profiles

INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS SELECTION COMMITTEE
Submit No Later than 5:00 pm, Thursday, February 19, 2026

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Election of Regular Special District Member on Santa Barbara LAFCO
Vote for one of the following **Regular Special District Member** nominees:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Dorinne Lee Johnson, Incumbent – Montecito Sanitary District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Dunlap – Santa Ynez Eiver Water Conservation District

Name of Independent Special District

Signature

Print Name

Title (please check one)

- Presiding Officer of the Special District Board
- Board member alternate designated by Special District Board to vote in this election. (Gov. Code sec. 56332(a).)

Date: _____

Each returned ballot shall be signed by the presiding officer or his or her alternate as designated by the district governing body. (Gov. Code sec. 56332(a) & (c)(5).)

The voting member should submit his or her ballot directly to LAFCO by hand or U.S. mail to Ila Fennell, Santa Barbara LAFCO, 105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407, Santa Barbara CA 93101, or via email to lafco@sblafco.org, or Fax to (805) 568-2249

**SANTA BARBARA
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

**NOMINATION FOR REGULAR SPECIAL
DISTRICT MEMBER**

Return to: Executive Officer
Santa Barbara LAFCO
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara CA 93101
or FAX to (805) 568-2249 or email to lafoo@sblafco.org

LAFCO STAFF USE

Date Received: 12/1/25

Please print in ink or type

POSITION SOUGHT: Regular Special District Member

NAME OF NOMINEE: Dorinne Lee Johnson

NOMINEE'S DISTRICT: Montecito Sanitary District

MAILING ADDRESS:

1042 Monte Cristo Lane

Santa Barbara, CA 93108

π
Phone: Bus. _____ . Cell: 310/850-8808

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR:

Montecito Sanitary District
Name of Independent Special District

Ellwood T. Barrett II
Signature

Ellwood T. Barrett II
Print Name

Nominator Title (please check one)

- Presiding Officer of the Special District Board
- Presiding Officer's alternate as designated by Special District Board to vote or make a nomination in this election. (Gov. Code sec. 56332.)

Date: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: On this form or an accompanying letter, describe the nominee's personal interests, qualifications, experience, education, volunteer activities or community organization memberships that may bear on the nomination for the Regular Special District Member: This information will be distributed to all independent special districts.

Please address this request directly to
Mrs. Dorinne Lee Johnson, Thank you.

**Dorinne Lee Johnson
Santa Barbara, CA 93108**

December 30, 2025

Re: LAFCO Special District Election

Dear Special District Board of Directors and Friends:

I want to take the opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported me during my last election to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for the term 2025-26. Your trust, encouragement, and dedication to effective local governance have been invaluable. Serving alongside committed community leaders in shaping the future of Santa Barbara County has been both an honor and a privilege, and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Special District Commissioner.

As my current term concludes, I am writing to express my continued commitment and strong interest in serving as a Special District LAFCO commissioner for the upcoming four-year term of 2026 through 2030. I am deeply dedicated to maintaining transparency, accountability, and collaboration, while representing the vital interest of our special districts and the communities they serve.

Our special districts are the backbone of local service delivery. I have learned that good governance depends on respecting other perspectives, building bridges across lines, and making decisions based on the merit rather than politics. My priorities remain straightforward to support transparent processes, fostering genuine cooperation among special districts and County agencies, and safeguarding the services our residents and ratepayers rely on. I will continue working to ensure balanced decisions that strengthen local services.

I would be truly honored to have the support of your vote for the LAFCO Special District Commissioner position once again in this upcoming election.

Thank you again for your past confidence. I have enclosed a brief bio and letters in support of remaining your Special District Commissioner for the next four years.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Dorinne Lee Johnson
Santa Barbara County LAFCO



Montecito Sanitary District

(<https://www.montsan.org/>)

[Pay Online \(/online-payments\)](#)

[Emergencies: \(805\) 881-2024 \(/emergencies-805-881-2024\)](#)

Search...	Search
-----------	--------

THIS ITEM APPEARS ON

[BOARD MEMBERS \(/BOARD-MEMBERS\)](#)

Dorinne Lee Johnson

Position: Treasurer

Former

Board President 2020-2022

Term: 2024-2028



Dorinne ran for and was elected to the Montecito Sanitary District Board in 2020 because she believes in protecting our ratepayers with honesty, clear communication, and transparency; she feels it is more crucial than ever to protect, preserve and enhance our semi-rural community and maximize our natural environment and resources for our future generations of Montecito.

Dorinne Lee Johnson grew up in Northern California and moved to Montecito in 2003 with her husband George. Dorinne has extensive experience with over 25 years in construction and fabrication technology. She had her own certified WBE, a "women-owned business enterprise" specializing in construction management, civil

engineering, and environmental design. She earned her BFA degree from CCA in Environmental Design with an emphasis on Architectural Design and is a post-graduate alumnus of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. Her award winning projects and designs range from

government to corporate facilities nationwide. A partial list of her past clients includes: Caltrans, Harris Engineering and Associates, Toyota Motor USA, Northrop Grumman, Chicago Merchandize Mart, and the University of Oregon.

Public service has been a large part of Dorinne's career. She has a strong and dedicated commitment to Montecito and has helped her community by serving on the Montecito Association Board of Directors and as their Chair of the Land Use Committee, which reviewed major infrastructure projects throughout Montecito before and after the debris flow of 2018. She was appointed by former Santa Barbara County Supervisor, Salud Carbajal, to serve on the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Commission (HLAC) in 2012 and the Montecito Board of Architectural Review (MBAR) in 2014. She was appointed by the (late) Senator Roberti to serve on the California State Public Procurement Committee and was appointed by the former State Treasurer, Matt Fong, to serve on the Caltrans Minority Advisory Board for the Architects and Engineers for the State of California. She was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors as a Special District Representative for the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

COPYRIGHT © 2026 MONTECITO SANITARY DISTRICT

1042 MONTE CRISTO LANE CA 93108

TELEPHONE (805) 969-4200

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](#)

[DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY \(TRANSPARENCY.HTML\)](#)

[WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT \(ACCESSIBILITY.HTML\)](#)

POWERED BY STREAMLINE ([HTTP://WWW.GETSTREAMLINE.COM/](http://www.getstreamline.com/)) | SIGN IN

([HTTPS://WWW.MONTSAN.ORG/USERS/SIGN_IN?DESTINATION=%2FDORINNE-LEE-JOHNSON](https://www.montsan.org/users/sign_in?destination=%2FDORINNE-LEE-JOHNSON))

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037
(916) 319-2037

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649

1111 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 101
SANTA MARIA, CA 93454
(805) 346-1237

EMAIL: Assemblymember.Hart@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 7
ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

December 30, 2025

Dear Special District Board Members,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Dorinne Lee Johnson's candidacy to continue to serve as a special district representative on the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Dorinne is an experienced, knowledgeable, and deeply engaged local official who brings thoughtful, community-focused leadership to this important role.

As Treasurer of the Montecito Sanitary District—and former Board President—Dorinne has consistently demonstrated her commitment to fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and public transparency. Her approach to governance is grounded in collaboration, long-term planning, and a deep respect for the unique character of our region.

Dorinne brings over 30 years of professional experience in construction management, civil engineering, and environmental design. Her background offers valuable perspective on infrastructure, land use, and regional development—all central to LAFCO's mission. Beyond her professional expertise, Dorinne has a distinguished record of public service in Santa Barbara County, including appointments to the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, Montecito Board of Architectural Review, and as Chair of the Montecito Association's Land Use Committee.

Dorinne's dedication to good governance and her deep understanding of the needs and priorities of special districts make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve on LAFCO. I respectfully urge your full consideration of her candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregg Hart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "H".

Assemblymember Gregg Hart

ROY LEE
First District Supervisor



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 1, 2025

Subject: Support for Dorinne Johnson

Dear Special District Board Members,

I am pleased to support Dorinne Johnson for continued service as a special district representative on the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Dorinne approaches public service with a clear understanding that good governance is about outcomes—reliable services, responsible growth, and long-term stability for our communities. She brings a steady, practical perspective to complex regional issues and a strong respect for the role LAFCO plays in protecting the public interest.

In her leadership roles with the Montecito Sanitary District, including service as Treasurer and former Board President, Dorinne has shown fiscal oversight, transparency, and an ability to balance infrastructure needs with environmental stewardship. She understands the operational realities facing special districts and the importance of careful planning and accountability.

Dorinne's professional background in civil engineering, construction management, and environmental design gives her valuable insight into land use and infrastructure decisions that are central to LAFCO's mission. Her long record of community service—through the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, the Montecito Board of Architectural Review, and leadership on the Montecito Association's Land Use Committee—reflects a sustained commitment to our local community.

Dorinne Johnson is well-qualified to continue serving on LAFCO, and I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Roy Lee
Supervisor, First District
Santa Barbara County

January 1, 2026

Mike Prater, Executive Officer

Santa Barbara LAFCO

105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Dorinne Lee Johnson Recommended for LAFCO Board

Dear Mr. Prater,

My purpose in writing to you is to wholeheartedly endorse Dorinne Johnson, to continue as the Regular Special District Member of LAFCO.

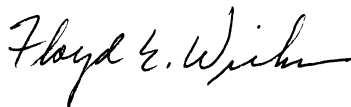
LAFCO's Mission Statement is quite succinct and is presented here for the purpose of focusing on the role of a Special District Member:

The Local Agency Formation Commission is committed to serving the residents of Santa Barbara County and the State of California by discouraging urban sprawl and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based on local conditions and circumstances.

For several months now, Dorinne Johnson has been serving the County as a LAFCO Commissioner. However, she has actually been engaged in fulfilling the LAFCO Mission for many years, in her former role as Chair of the Montecito Association's Land Use Committee. She took on this leadership position with great enthusiasm and the Montecito community is the beneficiary of her tenacity and professionalism. Further, Dorinne currently is also a Board member of the Montecito Sanitary District, having been elected to the MSD Board in 2020 and served as Board President during her first term. She was re-elected to the Board in 2024. Dorinne has a special interest in not only the Sanitary District, as she has attended numerous meetings of the Montecito Water District, where I'm serving in my 3rd term on the MWD Board.

Dorinne Johnson was recently elected by the Special Districts to serve as LAFCO Commissioner, representing the Special Districts' interests. In addition to being highly qualified, she is a genuinely nice person and well connected throughout the entire County of Santa Barbara.

Best regards,



Floyd Wicks

Montecito Water District Board Member

July 13, 2025

Mike Prater, Executive Officer

Santa Barbara LAFCO

105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mike,

The purpose of this letter is to support the candidacy of Dorinne Lee Johnson for Regular Special District Member for Santa Barbara LAFCO.

I have worked closely with Dorinne for the last 7 years, initially on the team supporting her election campaign for the Montecito Sanitary District. After her election, we have collaborated on matters of joint interest to Montecito Sanitary and Montecito Water District, where I am a Director.

Dorinne is intelligent, hard-working, and unfailing in doing the research and gaining deep understanding about all matters involving her position on the Montecito Association (including chair of the Land Use Committee) or the Montecito Sanitary District. She works tirelessly in the best interests of the community, and I believe she will be an excellent member of the Commission.

Thank you for considering Dorinne for this position.

Kenneth Coates

From: Robert C Hazard Jr <bobhazard@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 12:31 PM
To: lafco@sblafco.org
Cc: Bob Hazard
Subject: Endorsement Letter for Dorinne Lee Johnson as a Nominee for the Special District Vacant Seat on LAFCO Santa Barbara County

To: Mike Pater, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara County LAFCO

LAFCO Commissioners: **City Members: James Kyriaco, Alice Patino**, Chair, and **James Mosby**, *Alternate*; **County Members: Joan Hartmann, Bob Nelson**, and **Roy Lee**, *Alternate*; **Special District Members: Vacancy, Craig Geyer** and **Jorge Magana**, *Alternate*; **Public Members: Shane Stark**, Vice-Chair and **Jim Richardson**, *Alternate*

Date: July 17, 2025

Subject: Endorsement Letter for Dorinne Lee Johnson as a Nominee for the Special District Vacant Seat on LAFCO Santa Barbara County

The mission of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is to serve the residents of Santa Barbara County and the State of California by encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based on local conditions and circumstances, while protecting against the development of urban sprawl.

I cannot conceive of a more worthy or qualified candidate for the position of Special District Member on the LAFCO Santa Barbara County Commission than **Dorinne Lee Johnson**. I have known Mrs. Johnson for some 20 years during my service as Associate Editor of the Montecito Journal focusing on community and agency consolidation issues in Montecito and Santa Barbara County.

Throughout the years I have had the opportunity to observe Mrs. Johnson's strong leadership, relationship-building, conflict resolution and political skills in a variety of local settings. She is consistently a careful listener, seeking points of agreement and/or collaboration between differing factions within the community while consistently encouraging the exploration of solutions that give all parties a sense that their opinions have been heard and recognized.

Mrs. Johnson's long history of no-nonsense, fact-based service to her community, her County and its constituents has benefitted a host of regional organizations, both public and private such as elected representatives, SBCAG, Caltrans planning for the 101, County Planning and Zoning and the County Board of Supervisors over the years.

Her leadership talents have been evident in her service at the Montecito Sanitary District Board (MSD); plus her ongoing study of the potential mutual interests of the Montecito Water District and the Summerland Sanitary District. Her interests in cooperative water security solutions to difficult regional cooperation has been extended to the Carpinteria Sanitary District and Water District, as well as the City of Santa Barbara's Water and Sanitary operations. Her community leadership has also strengthened the Montecito Association through her service as Chair of the Land Use Committee, service on the Historic Landmark Committee and service on the Architectural Review Board (MBAR).

Among her many leadership talents, Mrs. Johnson is a natural problem solver. Her continued search for a better way often leads to potential solutions that have not been considered by others. The Santa Barbara County community should be grateful for her guidance and her ability to work collaboratively with County staff, the County Board of Supervisors, the eight incorporated cities in Santa Barbara County and the 32 Special Districts.

Sincerely,

Bob Hazard
Retired Associate Editor of the Montecito Journal

From: Doug Black <db@nblaw.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 2:34 PM
To: lafco@sblafco.org
Subject: Consideration of Dorinne Lee Johnson for LAFCO Board

Dear Mr. Prater,

It is my pleasure to offer my strong and unequivocal support for Ms. Dorinne Johnson as a Regular Special District Member of LAFCO.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Ms. Johnson for over five years through the Montecito Association. During that time, she has consistently demonstrated tireless dedication to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the semi-rural character of our community. Her collaborative spirit and deep understanding of local conditions make her uniquely effective when working with local agencies.

As current President of the Montecito Association, I personally asked Ms. Johnson to Chair our Land Use Committee. Without hesitation, she responded, "Just let me know what I can do to help." Since then, she has far exceeded all expectations, offering thoughtful leadership, proactive engagement, and unwavering commitment to the responsibilities of the role.

Ms. Johnson is highly qualified and deeply respected within our community. I am confident she will be a valuable asset to LAFCO as a Regular Special District Member, and I recommend her without reservation.

All the best,

Doug Black
President, Montecito Association



Douglas M. Black
NORDSTRANDBLACKPC
33 W. Mission Street, Suite 206
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
T. 805.962.2022
F. 805.962.5001
E. db@nblaw.us
Website: www.nordstrandlaw.com

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This E-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Sections 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. This information is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of



Montecito Sanitary District

1042 Monte Cristo Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

A Public Service Agency

PHONE: (805) 969-4200

www.montsan.org
brahrer@montsan.org

July 17, 2025

Santa Barbara LAFCO
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Via Email

Dear Sir/Madam:

It gives me great pleasure to provide my highest recommendation for Dorinne Lee Johnson as a candidate for the LAFCO Regular Special District Member on the Commission.

I have known and worked closely with Dorinne for nearly three years, and I have learned that she is a dedicated and loyal public servant with the highest level of integrity.

I worked most closely with Dorinne in her capacity as the District's Treasurer and for her role as chair for the Joint Strategic Planning Committee with the Montecito Water District. This group worked closely together on behalf of the broader community to study and consider broad subjects such as water resources, recycling opportunities, new and emerging technologies, and consolidation. Dorinne has also taken the time to personally introduce me to key leaders in the community continually since my hiring as general manager.

These experiences demonstrate Dorinne's intellect, skills, and judgement in her interaction with others, and I believe that Dorinne is well-prepared to take on the new and exciting role of Special District Member on the LAFCO commission. Dorinne's objective of contributing to the broader good of the region is clear and determined, and she possesses the natural team leadership ability, commitment and passion that we all hope to see in our government leaders. Therefore, please know that Dorinne has my **strongest possible** recommendation for Special District Member at LAFCO.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone at (D) 805-695-4210 or via email at jweigold@montsan.org

Sincerely,

General Manager

**SANTA BARBARA
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

<p style="text-align: center;">NOMINATION FOR <u>REGULAR</u> SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Return to:</i> Executive Officer Santa Barbara LAFCO 105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407 Santa Barbara CA 93101 or FAX to (805) 568-2249 or email to lafco@sblafco.org</p>	<p>LAFCO STAFF USE</p> <p>Date Received: <u>12/23/25</u></p>
<p>Please print in ink or type</p>	
<p>POSITION SOUGHT: Regular Special District Member</p>	
<p>NAME OF NOMINEE: <u>Robert Dunlap</u></p>	
<p>NOMINEE'S DISTRICT: <u>Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District</u></p>	
<p>MAILING ADDRESS:</p> <p><u>1136 West. Barton Ave.</u></p> <p><u>Lompoc, CA 93436</u></p>	
<p>Phone: Bus. _____ Cell: <u>805-705-7586</u></p>	
<p>SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR:</p> <p><u>Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District</u> Name of Independent Special District</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Signature</p> <p><u>Larry Lahr</u> Print Name</p> <p>Nominator Title (please check one)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presiding Officer of the Special District Board</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Presiding Officer's alternate as designated by Special District Board to vote or make a nomination in this election. (Gov. Code sec. 56332.)</p> <p>Date: <u>12/16/2025</u></p>	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: On this form or an accompanying letter, describe the nominee's personal interests, qualifications, experience, education, volunteer activities or community organization memberships that may bear on the nomination for the Regular Special District Member: This information will be distributed to all independent special districts.

[Faint, illegible text and markings on a grid background, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]