Agenda Item 8B

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November 10, 2026
Agenda Item: 8B

DONNER SUMMIT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

TO:	Board of Directors
PREPARED BY:	Steven Palmer, PE, CSDM, General Manager SP
SUBJECT:	Cast Ballot for Placer County LAFCO Special District Alternate Representative

RECOMMENDATION
Board discussion and voting for Special District Alternate Representative to the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

BACKGROUND
Placer County LAFCO is requesting that the member agencies cast a vote for the Regular Voting Special District Representative. The District received the attached LAFCO ballot package requesting that the District cast a ballot before 3 pm on Friday, December 18, 2026.

DISCUSSION
The attached ballot package from LAFCO includes a Statement of Qualifications from each of the following nominees:

1. Robert N. (Nick) Fabian, Jr., Board Member, Tahoe City Cemetery District
2. Gary Flanagan, Board Member, South Placer Fire District
3. Jennifer (Jenny) Knisley, Board Member, Newcastle Rocklin Gold Hill Cemetery District
4. Richard Koffler, Director, Olympic Valley Public Services District

The District Board is asked to vote for one nominee for the alternate position.

FISCAL IMPACT
There is no fiscal impact

CEQA ASSESSMENT
This is not a CEQA Project

ATTACHMENTS
1. LAFCO Ballot Package

Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission
110 Maple Street Auburn, CA 95603 | (530) 889-4097

COMMISSIONERS

Joshua Alpine
(Special District)

Anthony DeMattei
(County)

Whitney Eklund
Chair
(City)

Judy Friedman
(Special District)

Cindy Gustafson
(County)

Stephanie Youngblood
(City)

Susan Rohan
Vice Chair
(Public)

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS

David Bass
(City)

Shanti Landon
(County)

Cherri Spriggs
(*Public*)

Vacant
(Special District)

COUNSEL

Michael Walker
General Counsel

STAFF

Jason Fried
Executive Officer

Amy Engle
Analyst

Electronic Transmittal

November 4, 2026

TO: Independent Special District Presiding Officers
c/o District Clerk

FROM: Colette Santsche, Interim Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Ballot Distribution and Voting Instructions: Special District Seat (Alternate Seat) to Placer LAFCo**

Dear Presiding Officer,

On September 29, 2026, the Placer Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) initiated a call for nominations to fill a vacancy for one of the Alternate Special District Representative on the Commission. The presiding officer (Board Chair/President) of each independent special district were invited to submit nominations for qualified special district board members to fill this open seat.

At the close of the nomination period, LAFCo received a total of four (4) nominations for four (4) candidates, as summarized below (in order received):

Robert N. (Nick) Fabian Jr., Board Member, Tahoe City Cemetery District
Nominated by:
- Tahoe City Cemetery District

Gary Flanagan, Board Member, South Placer Fire District
Nominated by:
- South Placer Fire District

Jennifer (Jenny) Knisley, Board Member, Newcastle Rocklin Gold Hill Cemetery District
Nominated by:
- Newcastle Rocklin Gold Hill Cemetery District

Richard Koffler, Director, Olympic Valley Public Services District
Nominated by:
- Olympic Valley Public Services District

All three candidates are listed on the attached ballot. Also included in your packet for review are the statements of qualifications received by LAFCo.

Voting Instructions

- **Ballot Completion:** Please complete the attached ballot, clearly indicating your selection.
- **Authorized Signature:** To be valid, ballots must be signed by the district's presiding officer, or the presiding officer's alternate as designated by the governing body.
- **Designation of Alternate:** If an alternate has been designated by the governing body, please include a copy of the official meeting minutes or minute order documenting this designation.
- **Quorum Requirement**: A minimum of 19 of the 37 independent special districts in Placer County must submit ballots for the election to be valid.
- **Election Outcome:** The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be appointed as the Special District Representative to LAFCo.

Submission Deadline

Please return your completed ballot via email to lafco@placer.ca.gov no later than Friday, December 18, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

Thank you for your participation and commitment to ensuring that independent special districts remain effectively represented on the Commission. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at (530) 889-4097.

Sincerely,

Jason Fried

Jason Fried
Executive Officer
Placer LAFCo

Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission
110 Maple Street Auburn, CA 95603 | (530) 889-409

Ballot: Selection of Special District Representation on LAFCo

Please choose one candidate:

- ☐ **Robert N. (Nick) Fabian Jr,** Tahoe City Cemetery District
- ☐ **Gary Flanagan,** South Placer Fire District
- ☐ **Jennifer (Jenny) Knisley,** Newcastle Rocklin Gold Hill Cemetery District
- ☐ **Richard Koffler,** Olympic Valley Public Services District

Name of Special District: _____

Name of Presiding Officer: _____

Signature of Presiding Officer: _____

Date: _____

Must be received by LAFCo at our office

or via email at lafco@placer.ca.gov no later than

December 18, 2026 by 3pm

Robert N. (Nick) Fabian

Tahoe City Cemetery District Board

Candidate for Placer County LAFCo Special District Alternate Seat

I am running for the Special District Alternate seat on Placer County LAFCo. I serve currently on the board of the Tahoe City Cemetery District.

I have owned a home in Tahoe City, located in the eastern unincorporated part of Placer County, for 23 years, and I have been a full-time resident for the past 11 years. I moved permanently to California in 2015, after 15 years in higher-education management at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. For the past 7 years, I have worked for Sierra Boat Company, turning a great hobby into gainful employment.

Placer County is a wonderfully diverse place, from its cities and towns to its foothills, mountains, and national forest lands. To support the interests of the many people who live, work, recreate, and vacation here, while simultaneously protecting the rich natural resources that underpin our histories and lifestyles is a challenging undertaking. My interest in LAFCo stems from a desire to see government services function efficiently and effectively for our local communities. Balance, thoughtful stewardship, and informed decision-making will form the basis of creative solutions to the complex issues affecting our future growth and prosperity.

The Special Districts provide services to many different communities across Placer County. As Special Districts Alternate, I will listen, learn, and advocate for the interests of the Special District communities. It is essential that LAFCo consider and address the needs and concerns of our communities and the Special Districts that serve them as Placer County moves forward into the future.

I ask for your vote to serve as the LAFCo Special Districts Alternate. I appreciate both the trust and the responsibility that come with your support.

Candidate Biography (Gary W. Flanagan)

With 25 years of dedicated service as a peace officer with the **Sacramento County Sheriff's Department**, I bring a deeply rooted commitment to public safety, community preservation, and proven leadership to local governance. During my tenure in law enforcement, my most rewarding assignments were serving as a Field Training Officer and a Firearms Instructor, where I took pride in mentoring the next generation of deputies and reinforcing the highest standards of accountability and skill.

My wife Karen and I chose Granite Bay as our home in 1985, and it is where we raised our three children. As a proud local family, all three of our children attended Greenhills Elementary, Eureka Elementary, Cavitt Junior High, and Granite Bay High School. My long-standing involvement in our community includes serving on the **Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Committee, (MAC)** and previously serving as an alternate for the Placer County Grand Jury.

Beyond public safety and civic planning, I am deeply passionate about our local environment. I am the co-founder of two non-profit organizations, including **Friends of Auburn Ravine**, which focuses on the conservation of salmon and steelhead habitats. Additionally, I served on the Placer County Fish and Game Commission for 13 years and spent two terms as president and board member of the Granite Bay Flycasters.

I have a proven track record of listening to residents and cutting through bureaucratic red tape to get results. As Chair of the **Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Committee, MAC,** am proud of being chair of our **MAC Traffic Subcommittee**, where I successfully led the persistence campaign that convinced Public Works to reinstall the westbound left-turn lane on Douglas Boulevard into the Granite Village Shopping Center, collaborating directly with local business owners and Supervisor Jones to restore vital access to our community.

Currently, I serve as a Director on the South Placer Fire Board. I ran for this position with a clear, unwavering mission: to keep our fire department locally controlled, protect our taxpayer dollars, and successfully reopen the two closed fire stations that our neighborhoods rely on for rapid emergency response.

Serving as an alternate on the **Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)** Board would offer me a unique opportunity to shape local community growth, influence municipal boundaries, and gain hands-on civic experience.

Statement of Qualifications

Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
Alternate Special District Representative

Jenny Knisley
4135 Hunters Drive
Loomis, CA 95650
Phone: 916-719-1132
Email: Jenny4Loomis@gmail.com

October 28, 2026

Dear Special District Selection Committee Members:

I am pleased to submit my application for the position of **Alternate Special District Representative to the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)**. Having previously served as the Alternate City LAFCO Commissioner representing the Town of Loomis, I bring firsthand knowledge of the Commission's responsibilities, a strong background in local government, and a commitment to representing the diverse interests of Placer County's special districts.

During my previous service as the Alternate City LAFCO Commissioner, I maintained consistent attendance at Commission meetings, remained actively engaged in its work, and stayed informed and prepared to serve when called upon. My participation in CALAFCO conferences and training opportunities further strengthened my understanding of LAFCO's role in responsible growth, governmental efficiency, and the delivery of essential public services. This experience has provided me with a strong foundation to contribute effectively to the Commission.

My current service as a board representative for the **Newcastle, Rocklin, and Gold Hill Cemetery District** has given me firsthand experience with the responsibilities and challenges facing special districts. From governance and fiscal oversight to long-term planning and public accountability, I understand the importance of ensuring that special districts have a voice in regional decisions. My additional experience serving on the **South Placer Fire Oversight** Committee has reinforced the value of collaboration among public agencies and the need to balance community needs with available resources.

My broader public service background includes serving as Mayor and Council Member for the Town of Loomis, as well as Executive Director of the Loomis Basin Chamber of Commerce and Interim CEO for the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce. These roles provided opportunities to work closely with special districts, local governments, businesses, and community organizations throughout Placer County. I have consistently supported thoughtful growth, fiscal responsibility, economic development, and partnerships that strengthen our communities.

My professional qualifications include an Economic Development Certificate through the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED), Institute for Organization Management certification, completion of Leadership Rocklin and the Western Association of Chamber Executives Academy, and leadership in developing the Loomis Leadership Program. I have also contributed to community initiatives, including efforts supporting the rebuilding of the Loomis Library and Community Learning Center. My nearly three decades of involvement with Soroptimist International reflect my longstanding commitment to community service and leadership development.

I recognize that Placer County's special districts provide a wide range of essential services, each with unique responsibilities, financial considerations, and community needs. I believe effective representation requires listening, understanding different perspectives, and making informed decisions that consider both individual districts and the broader interests of Placer County.

My previous LAFCO experience, combined with my current special district board service, provides a valuable perspective that I would bring to this position. I understand the importance of being prepared, attending meetings, reviewing materials, and remaining engaged, even when not serving in a voting capacity. I am committed to being an active, dependable, and knowledgeable Alternate Special District Representative.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to have the opportunity to return to the Placer County LAFCO Commission, this time representing the special districts that provide such important services to our communities.

Sincerely,

Jenny Knisley

Applicant for Special District Alternate Commissioner
Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission

RICHARD KOFFLER

Olympic Valley Public Service District, Board member and chair of the Finance Committee
Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company, Board member and treasurer

I welcome the opportunity to support Placer County LAFCO's mission to foster orderly growth, protect open space, and ensure reliable, cost-effective public services across the county.

I offer direct governance experience within both a LAFCO-regulated special district and a mutual water company, underpinned by more than four decades of executive leadership in finance, corporate governance, and complex negotiations.

Local roots and special district service

An Olympic Valley full-time resident whose family has owned a home in the Valley since 1965, I am deeply engaged in how our community's essential services are structured, funded, and delivered:

Olympic Valley Public Service District. Board member, chair of the Finance Committee, and member of the committee overseeing water, sewer, fire and EMS services for the Alterra/Palisades Tahoe Village expansion.

Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company. Board Member and Treasurer, directly overseeing financial strategy, capital reserve planning, and California statutory compliance.

Holding concurrent leadership roles on both boards provides me with direct, practical insight into the core tenets of LAFCO's mandate—including service boundary determinations, coordination between public and private providers, municipal service reviews, and evaluating the long-term financial viability of service agencies.

Executive leadership and board governance

Across a 40-year career as chief executive officer in high technology, life sciences, and healthcare, I have held ultimate operational and fiduciary responsibility for capital raising, financial management, corporate restructuring, and contract negotiations with partners, investors and customers. Moreover, my service across numerous corporate and non-profit boards has centered on rigorous fiscal oversight, strategic alignment, and executive accountability.

Value brought to Placer County LAFCO

Thorough financial due diligence: The ability to scrutinize the fiscal durability of proposed annexations, reorganizations, and service extensions.

Disciplined governance: A fair, transparent approach to balancing competing stakeholder interests and statutory requirements.

Regional insight: Knowledge of eastern Placer County's distinct infrastructure, environmental, and community challenges.