

PLACER COUNTY
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Electronic Transmittal

COMMISSIONERS:

Cindy Gustafson
Chair (County)

Susan Rohan
Vice Chair (Public)

Joshua Alpine
(Special District)

Shanti Landon
(County)

Sean Lomen
(City)

Tracy Mendonsa
(City)

Rick Stephens
(Special District)

**ALTERNATE
COMMISSIONERS:**

Jim Holmes
(County)

William Kahrl
(Special District)

Jenny Knisley
(City)

Cherri Spriggs
(Public)

COUNSEL:

Michael Walker
General Counsel

STAFF:

Michelle McIntyre
Executive Officer

Amy Engle
Commission Clerk

Date: February 27, 2024
To: Special District Presiding Officer c/o Clerk of the District
From: Michelle McIntyre
Re: Selection of a Special District Representative and Alternate

On January 17, 2024, LAFCO requested the Special Districts Presiding Officers consider nominating one or two special district board member(s) to serve as the Special District and Alternate Special District Representative on LAFCO.

We received several nominations for both seats within the deadline. Some nominees were nominated as the voting and alternate voting members. As a result, we ask you to complete the ballots in the following manner:

Regular Voting Special District Representative Ballot

- Choose one candidate only.

Alternate Special District Representative Ballot

- Choose your *first-choice* candidate by writing the number 1 next to their name.
- Choose your *second-choice* candidate by writing the number 2 next to their name.

We will count the ballots for the Special District Representative before tallying the votes for the alternate voting member seat. We will only use your second-choice candidate for the Alternate Representative if your first choice was selected as the regular voting member.

To be considered valid, ballots must be signed by the presiding officer of a special district, or another board member designated by the board. Ballots from a quorum of the Special Districts must be received for the election to be valid, and the person receiving the most votes for each seat shall be appointed. This memo contains ballots and any submitted Statement of Qualifications from the candidates.

Please return completed ballots via email to lafco@placer.ca.gov no later than **Friday, April 26, 2024, at 4 pm.**

110 Maple Street Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-4097
<https://www.placer.ca.gov/lafco>

Ballot: Selection of Regular Voting Special District Representative on LAFCO

Please choose one candidate:

_____ **H. Gordon Ainsleigh, Auburn Area Recreation and Park District Director**

Nominated by:
Auburn Area Recreation and Park District

_____ **Joshua Alpine, Placer County Water Agency Director**

Nominated by:
North Tahoe Public Utility District
Placer County Water Agency
Tahoe City Public Utility District

_____ **Peter Gilbert, Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District Trustee**

Nominated by:
Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District

_____ **Richard Hercules, Foresthill Fire Protection District President**

Nominated by:
Foresthill Fire Protection District

_____ **William Kahrl, Newcastle Fire Protection District President**

Nominated by:
Newcastle Fire Protection District
Penryn Fire Protection District
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

_____ **Luke Ragan, North Tahoe Fire Protection District Vice President**

Nominated by:
North Tahoe Fire Protection District

_____ **Teresa Ryland, South Placer Fire Protection District Director**

Nominated by:
South Placer Fire Protection District

Name of Special District: _____

Presiding Officer Printed Name

Presiding Officer Signature

Must be received by LAFCO via email at LAFCO@placer.ca.gov no later than Friday, April 26, 2024 by 4pm.

Ballot: Selection of Alternate Special District Representative on LAFCO

Please choose two candidates, numbering your first choice 1 and second choice 2.
Your second choice will be counted in the event your first choice is voted in as the
LAFCO Special District Regular Voting Member.

_____ **H. Gordon Ainsleigh, Auburn Area Recreation and Park District Director**
Nominated by:
Auburn Area Recreation and Park District

_____ **Joshua Alpine, Placer County Water Agency Director**
Nominated by:
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

_____ **Judy Friedman, Tahoe City Public Utility District Director**
Nominated by:
Alpine Springs Community Water District
North Tahoe Public Utility District
Placer County Water Agency
Tahoe City Public Utility District

_____ **William Kahrl, Newcastle Fire Protection District President**
Nominated by:
Penryn Fire Protection District

_____ **Luke Ragan, North Tahoe Fire Protection District Vice President**
Nominated by:
North Tahoe Fire Protection District

_____ **Teresa Ryland, South Placer Fire Protection District Director**
Nominated by:
Newcastle Fire Protection District
South Placer Fire Protection District

Name of Special District: _____

Presiding Officer Printed Name

Presiding Officer Signature

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I am Gordon Ainsleigh, 20-year Board Member of Auburn Recreation District. It has been my fortune, debatably good or bad, to have been president of two boards of directors at a time of crisis.

One was with Midway Heights County Water District in the late 1980s, when the EPA chose us as the first-in-the-nation community water district to attack, and force into chlorination. So in spite of the fact that the head of the National Cancer Institute had recently bragged about the new science showing that chlorinated water caused bowel and bladder cancer, and in spite of our Board's stance that we wanted to pursue ozonation for clean water, the Court went with the statement of the California State Health Officer that chlorinated water did not cause cancer, and we were forced to comply, trading the present giardia risk for a future bowel and bladder cancer risk. Our two small victories were that the EPA started with a proposed \$500,000 fine, and we maneuvered them down to \$37,500, and that we found a way to get the chlorinated water lines installed for less than half of the government-recommended approach, on a time-payment plan that was easy for our customers. It was a tempestuous time. I had taken the Presidency when the hall was full of angry customers, our past president was being unjustly prosecuted, and no one else was willing to sit behind the microphone. I changed the way meetings were handled, and two months later we had a peaceful nearly-empty hall, and could get on with business.

When I got elected to ARD, our organization was the least-trusted and most criticized special district in the Auburn Area. I was the only one who saw what the problem was. ARD had gone through 4 nightmare District Administrators in 10 years. All were wizards at resumes and interviews, but were either inept or dishonest, or both, at managing our recreation district. I also saw what no one else saw: that Placer High School District and Sierra College had also prospered as long as they hired people from within who had proven they were trustworthy and talented; but when they did a national search to get THE BEST, disaster struck. Sierra College paid out \$600,000 to a female librarian who had been bullied by their new wonder administrator, and Placer High School District had to pass a \$23,000,000 local bond to pay for the new high school in Foresthill, because their wonder administrator had deliberately not applied for 1994 State School Bond money that would have built Foresthill High School. Why? Because Mr Wonderful needed passage of a local bond in his resume to get the top job at wealthy Acalanes HSD, which pays twice as much as Placer HSD, and require superintendents with a proven record of bond passage, who can persuade their wealthy citizens in Orinda and Moraga and Lafayette to pass the many bonds and parcel taxes that support their elite school system. I saw that we had to hire from within, and that we had a bright, hard-working, honest young man with a degree in Recreation Management from Northern Colorado University named Kahl Muscott who could save us from disaster. For two month in a row, the rest of the ARD Board ridiculed me because Kahl didn't have the experience. Finally, I got together with the consultant who was doing the nationwide search, and we came up with a plan: hire the new Wonder Administrator for 6 months to teach Kahl how to do the job. Our new wonder administrator was so good that he left after 3 months to build a park from the ground up at decommissioned El Toro Marine Airbase, but Kahl knew enough by then to carry on. And ARD is now a model of success among special districts.

It seems likely that LAFCO could use a person like me on the Board, to see the problems that others don't see, and to formulate solutions that others don't comprehend. That's what I have done, repeatedly. My priorities are simple: to make sure that every LAFCO decision benefits the quality of life of the people who can be affected by that decision.

Joshua Alpine

District 5 Director, Placer County Water Agency | Special District Member, Placer LAFCo

Joshua Alpine is the District 5 Director for Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), where he oversees the Agency's vital efforts to provide an affordable, reliable, and sustainable water supply to the people, environment, and economy of Placer County and the region.

Joshua currently serves on the Placer Local Agency Formation Commission (Commission); he was elected in 2016 to represent Special Districts. He also served on the Commission from 2011-2012, including a term as Chair representing the City of Colfax.

As current President of the Board of Directors for Project GO, Inc., Joshua is engaged in providing affordable housing and energy efficiency programs for low- and moderate-income working families and senior citizens in our area.

Joshua recently served on the Placer County Economic Development Board and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Board, serving as Chair of ACWA's Region 3 Board from 2015-2023 (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, and Tuolumne Counties). He also serves from time to time as a member of numerous other committees and task forces.

Prior to serving as a Director for PCWA, Joshua served on the Colfax City Council from 2003-2012, including two terms as Mayor. During that time, he was very involved in wastewater, regional water, and land planning issues.

Joshua works effectively with elected officials and agencies at the local, state, and federal levels, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board, developing solutions to water and land use policies that affect our region. At the federal level, he has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Joshua has a B.S. in Information Systems Management and holds a California State Hydro Power System Operator certification. He worked as a Hydro System Operator from 2003-2009 for Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) operating the Bear, South Yuba, and the American Middle Fork river systems; he is currently a Lead System Operator for PG&E's electric transmission system. Joshua is also a member of the Placer County Historical Society and Colfax Lions Club. Joshua lives in Colfax.

Judy Friedman
Director, Tahoe City Public Utility District
Candidate for Placer County LAFCO Special District Alternate Seat

Judy Friedman has been a full-time resident of Tahoe City, located in the unincorporated area of Placer County, for over 50 years.

Friedman was elected to the Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) Board of Directors in 2008 and is currently serving her 4th publicly elected term. In addition to serving as a director for TCPUD, Friedman has served a variety of community organizations over the years, both as a volunteer and Board member. She is currently the President of Sierra Senior Services and is a small-business owner. Friedman has experience in both the public and private sectors and appreciates the fiduciary responsibility that comes with the office she seeks.

In her role as a public servant, Friedman makes decisions based on sound financial principles and respect for the needs and concerns of residents and the business community.

There has been tremendous growth in Placer County. LAFCO is charged with helping identify ways to organize, simplify, and streamline government and make sure that services are provided efficiently and economically. That requires thoughtful and creative solutions and well-informed decision makers.

Tahoe City was a small town in the '70s. The issues were modest, and the quality of life was hard to beat. As Placer County continues to grow, Friedman believes we need to work hard to balance quality of life while meeting growing service challenges. Friedman is fully committed to serving the citizens of Placer County in this effort, in a collaborative and transparent manner.

Judy Friedman is asking for your support to serve as Special District Alternate Commissioner and appreciates the trust that comes with your vote.

PETER GILBERT

peter-gilbert@sbcglobal.net

Current Chair, Lincoln Planning Commission

Former Councilman/Mayor. City of Lincoln

Former Councilman/Mayor. City of Foster City

Current Board Member, Placer County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Former President/Treasurer, Lincoln Hills Comm. Assoc.

Current member Lincoln Hills Foundation, Board of Directors

Former member Placer County Grand Jury

Former President – League of California Cities Peninsula Division

33 Cities in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

Former Chair, San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council

San Francisco State University – Speech Major -Radio/TV

U S Army Intelligence Corp. Sgt., E-6 Honorable Discharge

San Mateo County Safety Man of the Year for efforts funding a major highway project. (92/101 highway interchange)

Executive management experience. I have managed groups as large as 5,000 employees.

Statement of Qualifications for Election to Placer LAFCO

Richard Hercules, President, Foresthill Fire Protection District

The Opportunity for Placer County

It is certain that the special districts within Placer County will have new challenges in their opportunities and manner in which they provide unique services to the public. These serviced communities need to be bound together to develop organizational solutions for the County. These may be that is different than what exists, but again, to the benefit of the public. New state laws will also affect those districts, governments, and their purposes.

Placer County has been affected by the increased rate of development in most all areas. Special districts will be affected, but are largely managed by elected volunteers and staff that focus on the operations of that district. It is apparent that there are separations between the larger urban districts and the more remote districts, but some effort is expected to better align these groups for the issues of the County. LAFCO, with staff and support from Placer County officials, the special district volunteers and local city officials, can evaluate impacts of growth and development on these districts and urban communities and effect change. Appropriately, citizens of Placer County have expectations of services at many levels, particularly those funded by property taxes and assessment measures.

My Background

Much of my career in private industry was the development, operation of new businesses and organizations to deliver a service or product to a wide range of users. In almost all cases, my skills in these efforts required knowledge in long term planning, policy development, defined organizational structure, and legislative and financial management. Accordingly, conflict resolution and the need to manage negotiations for those opportunities is part of that environment. Further, my experience in mergers and acquisitions has broadened my perspectives in finding solutions beneficial to those parties involved, however disparate.

I have many strengths to work and balance improvements of these services through separation, consolidations or restructuring. While these activities are within the purview of LAFCO, I would apply the reality of the needs of the County and its citizens. In the last 5 years of my work with the Foresthill Fire Protection District board, I can offer that the district is better managed in this period than some of its previous history, and with better engagement and appreciation by the community it serves. This is the type of energy and commitment I would apply to this appointment. I look forward to discuss and understand the particular issues your district is experiencing. I can be reached through the Fire District web site or by telephone.

**STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
PLACER LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
WILLIAM KAHRL**

My name is Bill Kahrl. For the last 24 years, my wife Kathleen and I have been working together with local community leaders, business owners, elected officials, friends and neighbors to protect and, where possible, to enhance the quality of life we all enjoy in Placer County.

In that connection, I am just beginning my fourth term as President of the Newcastle Fire Protection District. We've accomplished a lot. In 2023, we opened the new fire station in Newcastle that had been delayed for more than ten years. And we're enjoying considerable success with the Joint Operating Agreement we negotiated with the Penryn and Placer Hills Fire Protection Districts. As a result, we have been able to reduce the administrative costs for all three districts while at the same time improving service, reducing response times, while enhancing overall fire safety throughout central Placer.

It's not just the taxpayers who benefit. These improvements mean more opportunities for training and advancement for our firefighters and a better chance that all the communities we serve will be able to meet the increasing demands of the future.

I believe that closer cooperation, practical coordination, and innovative efficiency are essential to ensure that all our special districts will be able to continue delivering the quality of service the public has come to expect. The Placer LAFCO can be the key to making that happen. But it will require leadership. And it will require better communications among the special districts represented on the commission.

I have a long and detailed familiarity with how the LAFCO process works – and where it can sometimes fall short. In my professional life in government and business, I have worked for Democrats and Republican leaders, held key positions on the staff of the Governor and the Speaker of the Assembly, and advised several of California's major corporations as well as its largest water districts and forestry companies. As a journalist, award-winning editor and author, I've been able to focus on several of the state's major natural resource issues. Some of my proudest accomplishments in this area include the creation of the California Wild and Scenic River System, the acquisition of Point Reyes National Seashore, the preservation of Headwaters National Forest, and initiating the creation of the conservation easement that now protects more than 80,000 acres of pristine coastal lands around Hearst Castle.

The point is, I know how to get things done. And, with respect, I would like to ask for your support so that I can continue working on behalf of all our special districts on Placer LAFCO. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the issues your district is facing, please do not hesitate to call me at 916-663-0785.

William Kahrl, President
Newcastle Fire Protection District
Board of Directors

Luke Thomas Ragan
P.O. Box 1793
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530.308.5098
ragan@ntfire.net

My name is Luke Thomas Ragan. My family is fifth generation Tahoe City. I currently serve on the North Tahoe Fire Protection District Board. I have been the Vice President on that Board for the past four years and have served on the Board since 2016. I also serve on the Boards for North Tahoe Little League and the Tahoe City Recreation Association. I am currently the President of Pacific Built, Inc. and sole owner of Ragan Snow Removal in Tahoe City. I graduated from North Tahoe High School and am currently the head junior varsity football coach and work with the varsity team as well.

I am interested in this position to make a difference and protect the interests in Placer County. I appreciate your consideration to be nominated for a seat on the Placer County LAFCO Board.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

STATEMENT OF NOMINEE FOR
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE

Name: Teresa R Ryland, CPA, CFE

Special District: South Placer Fire Protection District

I am excited with this opportunity to serve the County on the LAFCO. This committee work would capitalize on my extensive experience in serving government agencies in Placer and allow for future decisions and conversations that benefit all residents of the County.

I have lived in South Placer for 34 years and am proud to have served as a South Placer Fire Protection District Director for over a decade. Through strategic planning, careful budgeting, and efficient operating practices we have been able to maximize our funding, thereby continuing to provide top notch service. I am committed to working with all agencies in the County to assure our strong, continued operation in support of our community and the entire County.

Professionally, I have spent 37 years working with and for California public agencies in planning, finance and facilities arenas, including the last 20 as a local, small business owner in Placer County. My business has involved working with most of the school districts in the County, several cities, the County of Placer, PCWA and of course fire districts.

I served on the fire board as we worked with Loomis Fire on an administrative and support MOU, then through the actual consolidation of the two districts. I am currently working with two other counties' LAFCOs (school district version) – Los Angeles and Sacramento county - as we work through potential school district unification projects.

It would be an honor to represent SPFD on the Placer County LAFCO.