



Solano Local Agency Formation Commission

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Staff Report

DATE: June 9, 2025
 TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
 FROM: Rich Seithel, Executive Officer
 SUBJECT: **Ad-Hoc Committee for Commission Meeting Media**

Recommendation:

Chair APPOINT two (2) Commissioners from the membership for the ad-hoc committee for the purpose of assisting and guiding staff in exploring the possibility of video-recording Commission meetings and/or live-streaming.

Executive Summary:

Per the Commission's By-Laws Article IV, the Chair or Vice Chair may form committees and appoint members to committees as they deem advisable. Ad hoc committees may be created to provide input on specific projects for a short-term period, typically not to exceed 1 year.

Staff is requesting that the Chair or Vice Chair appoint two Commissioners to an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of assisting and guiding staff in exploring the possibility of video-recording Commission meetings and/or live-streaming.

Background:

A member of the public spoke at a few Solano County Board of Supervisors meetings with a request to require Solano LAFCO meetings be video recorded. The same public member also spoke at the April 14, 2025, LAFCO Commission meeting with the same request. The public member stated that his request stems from an expectation that any person speaking at a meeting should be seen and not have anonymity that can come with strictly audio recordings.

Historically, the Solano LAFCO meetings have always been recorded and posted on the Solano LAFCO website, via SoundCloud¹. However, the recordings are limited to audio recordings due to the media sources available to LAFCO. LAFCO is an independent agency (since 2001), not a department or division of the County government. As such, LAFCO pays a user fee for the Solano County Board Chambers.

¹ An affordable audio streaming service and internet community that allows users to upload, promote, and share audio content. It's known for being a platform where independent artists can directly release music and connect with fans, as well as for its focus on user-generated content and niche music genres.

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Unlike the County Board meetings, Solano County Planning Commission meetings, the Airport Land Use Commission, etc., Solano LAFCO is not part of the County's streaming services with Granicus². Additionally, the LAFCO meetings are not set up or programmed into the Board Chambers camera system. Presumably, these decisions were made by the Commission when considering fiscal impacts as Granicus is not considered affordable for all government agencies. The bottom-tier \$1,000 monthly fee, coupled with potential additional costs for advanced features, may be a barrier for some government agencies, particularly those with smaller budgets and smaller needs.

Based on the public request, LAFCO staff began researching the possibility and feasibility of video-recording for subsequent posting in lieu of just audio recording. Additionally, staff began reaching out to Solano County staff for the possibility and feasibility of live-streaming. The Executive Officer offered an early update on staff's progress at the April 14, 2025, Commission meeting. As a result of Commissioner conversation, staff is returning to the Commission to request Commissioner assistance and guidance with the research efforts via an ad-hoc committee.

Conclusion:

LAFCO staff requests the creation of the Commission Meeting Media Ad-Hoc Committee with 2 appointed Commissioners that can offer guidance and directed assistance with the appropriate Solano County staff.

² A cloud-based software company that specializes in digital civic engagement and public sector solutions. They provide a platform for governments to connect with their citizens through various services like communications, digital services, meeting management, and records management.