

**CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EXHIBIT/DOCUMENT LOG**

MEETING DATE & AGENDA NO. 12/09/2025 #28

STAFF DOCUMENTS (Numerical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (Alphabetical)

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SUMMARY OF SUPERVISOR ANDERSON'S ITEM #28 BOARD LETTER TO ALTER THE COUNTY'S SANDAG APPOINTMENT PROCESS



Provided by

SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON

December 9, 2025

Board of Supervisors Meeting



Background

The County's nearly 550,000 unincorporated area residents have advocated for years for better representation at SANDAG. There is currently little, if any, incentive for them to support initiatives proposed by SANDAG, or county wide tax measures, as they have no vote throughout the proposal development process and no say in how money is spent. In 2023, in an effort to improve rural engagement, the County Board of Supervisors worked with the community planning groups in the unincorporated area to advocate for a dedicated unincorporated area seat on the SANDAG Board. The SANDAG Board voted unanimously at that time to add a non-voting advisory seat on the SANDAG board to specifically represent unincorporated area interests. The regular and alternate representatives to this seat are selected by a majority of the County's Community Planning Groups.

In 2025, legislation was introduced in both the State Assembly and the State Senate by legislators representing the unincorporated areas to amend the California Public Utilities Code to change the selection process for one of the two County appointments to the SANDAG board of directors.

These two bills are:

AB 24 (DeMaio) – This bill would transfer one of the Board of Supervisors seats on the SANDAG board to the Association of Planning Groups – San Diego.

SB 240 (Jones) – This bill would replace one of the Board of Supervisors seats on the SANDAG board with a resident of the unincorporated area, selected by a majority of the community planning groups. It would also eliminate the section of the Public Utilities Code that requires one County Supervisor on the SANDAG Board to be a representative of a mostly incorporated district and the other Supervisor to be a representative of a mostly unincorporated district.

Both of these bills are currently pending in the State Legislature and can be moved in the second year of the 2025-26 legislative session.

Supervisor Anderson's Board Letter

Supervisor Anderson proposes that the County support a legislative proposal that would maintain the current appointment process for the County's Primary, Secondary and First Alternate representatives on the SANDAG Board of Directors. These three representatives would continue to be County Supervisors and would be appointed by the Board of Supervisors each year.

Supervisor Anderson is asking the Board to support a change that would allow an elected official residing in the unincorporated area to serve as the Second Alternate representative to the SANDAG Board of Directors.

- "Elected official" would be defined as: school board members, elected representatives from special districts, community planning group members, or any at large county elected official who resides in the unincorporated area.

This change would have no impact on SANDAG's voting structure. The non-weighted and weighted voting structure would remain the same. The only change would be in County's representative the tally vote order as shown below:

Current Tally Vote Order:

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)*

- Aguirre (Seat 1)
- Anderson (Seat 2)
- Montgomery Steppe (Primary Alternate)
- Lawson-Remer (Secondary Alternate)

Tally Vote Order: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Lawson-Remer

Proposed Change:

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)*

- Aguirre (Seat 1)
- Anderson (Seat 2)
- Montgomery Steppe (Primary Alternate)
- ***Unincorporated Elected Official (Secondary Alternate)***

Tally Vote Order: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe,

Unincorporated Elected Official

The annual selection process for this Second Alternate position would consist of each special district and community planning group casting a vote for their desired elected official to represent them at SANDAG each calendar year. The elected official with the most votes becomes the Second Alternate.

- **This process is similar to the process used by Special Districts to select their representatives to LAFCO.**
- The individual selected by a plurality of the special districts and community planning groups will only vote at SANDAG meetings if the County's Primary, Secondary and First Alternate representatives are all not available to attend a SANDAG meeting.

If enacted, this change would provide the opportunity that an individual directly selected to represent the unincorporated area might have the opportunity to vote on issues considered by SANDAG. This change would provide the region's rural communities and residents in the unincorporated area more meaningful engagement in SANDAG decisions.

The following are the unincorporated area population totals for each Supervisorial district:

District 1 – 63,046

District 2 – 210,234

District 3 – 17,101

District 4 – 75,087

District 5 – 174,181

Conclusion

The Board of Supervisors can send a clear message to the County's legislative representatives in Sacramento that they support maintaining the current process for selecting County Supervisors to serve in the Primary, Secondary and First Alternate seats on the SANDAG Board of Directors.

The Board can also support legislation to improve engagement and uplift the approximately half-a-million people living in the County's unincorporated areas by providing them the opportunity to potentially vote on policy and funding decisions considered by SANDAG. The unincorporated area representative serving as the County's Second Alternate will be an elected official and resident of the unincorporated area.