

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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September 3, 2026 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

SDRMA Underwriter Approval for Ancillary Benefits for SBLAFCO

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission approve the updated Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding between SDRMA and SBLAFCO.

DISCUSSION:

LAFCO is enrolled as participants in Special District Risk Management Authority's (SDRMA's) Ancillary Coverages for the Delta Dental Low 51+ plan and VSP Option 2 Plan B coverages. At their June 2026 SDRMA Board Meeting, the SDRMA Board of Directors approved amendments to the SDRMA Health Benefits Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The amendments were made to better align the MOU with their pool, Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) MOU and industry norms.

SDRMA advised LAFCO our agency is required to have our governing body to execute the amended MOU and Resolution. To ensure we follow Section 15 of the amended MOU guideline, the original MOU and Resolution must be mailed back to SDRMA by **November 1, 2026 otherwise our entity will be deemed as withdrawn and benefits will be terminated effective January 1, 2027.** The attached documents are needed to retain these benefits.

The costs associated with these ancillary benefits are covered by health benefit contribution up to the maximum allowable with any remaining costs to be paid by employees wanting to enroll. No added costs are charged to LAFCO.

A summary of the changes to the MOU are as follows:

Section	Previous Language	Revised Language	Description of Change
Definitions	Various terms and definitions, some not clearly defined or missing.	Expanded and clarified definitions for "Committee," "Coverage Documents," "Program Participation Agreement," "Program," and "Program Documents."	Improved clarity and specificity of key terms for better understanding and administration.
Entry into Program	ENTITY shall enroll in the Program by making application through SDRMA.	ENTITY shall apply for participation by executing all forms prescribed by SDRMA, subject to approval by the Program's Underwriter.	Clarifies the application process and emphasizes underwriter approval.
Maintenance of Effort	Program provides health benefits to all participants of the ENTITY.	Specifies eligible participants (active employees, retired employees, dependents, public officials) and outlines optional participation for some groups.	Clarifies eligibility and participation requirements.
Premiums	ENTITY will remit monthly premiums based on rates established by SDRMA.	Premiums and rates are set by the Committee; SDRMA adds an administrative fee. Details on billing, penalties for late payment, and termination for non-payment added.	Adds detail on premium calculation, billing, and consequences for late payment.
Benefits	Benefits as set forth in ENTITY's Plan Summary.	Benefits must be agreed upon with employee organizations and approved by the Program underwriter.	Adds requirement for underwriter approval of plan selections.
Assessments & Dividends	Assessments/dividends used sparingly; allocation based on premiums paid.	Committee may impose premium assessments if funds are insufficient; details on liability for withdrawn entities and dividend formula.	Expands on funding adequacy, assessment process, and dividend distribution.

Section	Previous Language	Revised Language	Description of Change
Withdrawal	ENTITY may withdraw with 90 days' notice.	Notice period extended to 120 days prior to January 1; rescission deadline added; 3-year waiting period for re-entry after withdrawal.	Tightens withdrawal process and re-entry requirements.
Arbitration	Not previously specified.	Adds binding arbitration clause for disputes, specifying Sacramento, CA as venue.	Introduces formal dispute resolution process.
Amendment	Amendments require written agreement by both parties.	Clarifies amendment process, including SDRMA's right to terminate if ENTITY does not execute required amendments.	Strengthens amendment and termination provisions.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Authorizing a MOU and Participation in SDRMA Health Benefits Program

Attachment B: MOU between SDRMA and SBLAFCO

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Prater
Executive Officer

RESOLUTION NO. 26-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION
OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AUTHORIZING
PARTICIPATION IN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY'S
HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (the "Governing Body"), a public agency duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California (the "ENTITY"), has determined that it is in the best interest and to the advantage of the ENTITY to participate in the Health Benefits Program offered by Special District Risk Management Authority (the "Authority"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority was formed in 1986 in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code 6500 *et seq.*, for the purpose of providing risk financing, risk management programs and other coverage protection programs; and

WHEREAS, participation in Authority programs requires the ENTITY to execute and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which states the purpose and participation requirements for the Health Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS, all acts, conditions and things required by the laws of the State of California to exist, to have happened and to have been performed precedent to and in connection with the consummation of the transactions authorized hereby do exist, have happened and have been performed in regular and due time, form and manner as required by law, and the ENTITY is now duly authorized and empowered, pursuant to each and every requirement of law, to consummate such transactions for the purpose, in the manner and upon the terms herein provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ENTITY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The ENTITY's Governing Body hereby specifically finds and determines that the actions authorized hereby relate to the public affairs of the ENTITY.

Section 2. Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding, to be executed and entered into by and between the ENTITY and the Authority, in the form presented at this meeting and on file with the ENTITY's Secretary, is hereby approved. The ENTITY's Governing Body and/or Authorized Officers ("The Authorized Officers") are hereby authorized and directed, for and in the name and on behalf of the ENTITY, to execute and deliver to the Authority the Memorandum of Understanding.

Section 3. Program Participation. The ENTITY's Governing Body approves participating in the Special District Risk Management Authority's Health Benefits Program.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are severable.

Section 5. Other Actions. The Executive Officer of the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (the "Authorized Officer") of the ENTITY are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents which are necessary in order to consummate the transactions authorized hereby and all such actions heretofore taken by such officers are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Section 6. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20____ by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

Name

Title, Chair

ENTITY Secretary/Clerk

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (HEREAFTER "MEMORANDUM") IS ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (HEREAFTER "SDRMA") AND THE PARTICIPATING PUBLIC ENTITY (HEREAFTER "ENTITY") WHO IS SIGNATORY TO THIS MEMORANDUM.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2006, SDRMA in its capacity as a member of Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) and having executed the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) governing PRISM, was appointed administrator for the purpose of enrolling small public entities into the (PRISM) Health and/or Employee Benefits Small Group Program (hereinafter "Program"); and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the PROGRAM as well as benefit coverage, rates, assessments, and premiums are governed by the PRISM Health Committee and/or PRISM Employee Benefits Committee for the Program (the "Committee") and not SDRMA; and

WHEREAS, ENTITY desires to enroll and participate in the Program, acknowledging that SDRMA acts solely in an administrative capacity and does not establish Program terms.

NOW THEREFORE, SDRMA and ENTITY agree as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this MEMORANDUM, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms when capitalized have the respective meanings set out below and are applicable to the singular as well as to the plural forms of such terms and to the masculine as well as to the feminine and neuter genders of such terms.
 - a. "Committee" means the PRISM Health Committee and/or PRISM Employee Benefits Committee for the Program.
 - b. "Coverage Documents" means, except as otherwise provided herein, coverage documents from each carrier outlining the coverage provided, including terms and conditions of coverage, are controlling with respect to the coverage of the Program and will be provided by SDRMA to each ENTITY. Documents will be made available through the online SDRMA Portal and be accessible to approved users of the ENTITY.
 - c. "Program Participation Agreement" means the agreement issued by PRISM/AUS Underwriting to the Entity that details the final terms of acceptance and any special exceptions or terms that have been made a part of the underwriting approval and is required to be completed and executed in order to constitute full acceptance as a member of the PRISM Small Group Program.

d. "Program" or "PRISM" means the Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) Health and/or Employee Benefits Small Group Program.

e. "Program Documents" means the following: SDRMA Program Administrative Guidelines, SDRMA Resolution, Program Underwriting application and any required underwriting documents, Program approval, Program Underwriting & Eligibility Rules and Program Participation Agreement.

2. PURPOSE. ENTITY is signatory to this MEMORANDUM for the sole purpose of enrolling in the Program.
3. ENTRY INTO PROGRAM. ENTITY shall apply for participation in the Program by executing and all forms prescribed by SDRMA. SDRMA shall submit the completed forms to the Program's Underwriter who has the authority to accept or reject Entity's application in its sole discretion based on the Program's governing documents and in accordance with the Program's eligibility guidelines.
4. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT. Program provides health benefits to all active employees, retired employees, dependents of an active or retired employee and public officials of the ENTITY who satisfy requirements for participation. ENTITY public officials may participate in the Program only if they are currently being covered and their own ENTITY's enabling act, plans and policies allow it. ENTITY must contribute at least the minimum percentage required by the eligibility requirements
5. PREMIUMS. ENTITY agrees and acknowledges that premiums and rates for the Program are set by the Committee and that SDRMA's Administrative Fee is set by SDRMA For each billing cycle. ENTITY will remit the total monthly amount billed by SDRMA for each category of participants and the census of covered employees, public officials, dependents and retirees. PREMIUMs are based on a full month, and there are no partial months or prorated PREMIUMs. Enrollment for mid-year qualifying events and termination of coverage will be made in accordance with the SDRMA Program Administrative Guidelines.

Late Payment Penalties. ENTITY shall pay all PREMIUM invoices as billed to SDRMA, regardless of any changes to eligibility or adjustments to PREMIUMs that may occur during the billing month and not reflected in the PREMIUM invoice. SDRMA shall issue PREMIUM invoices to ENTITY prior to the coverage month in which they are due. PREMIUM invoices are due by the due date stated on the invoice and considered delinquent thirty (30) calendar days from the due date. In addition to the outstanding balance due for any unpaid invoice, ENTITY shall be liable to SDRMA for a late payment penalty of 1% of the outstanding balance of any unpaid portion of such invoice effective (30) calendar days after the invoice due date. SDRMA reserves the right to terminate the

MEMORANDUM and ENTITY'S Participation Agreement, including immediate cessation of all services under the Program, any time after it provides written notice to ENTITY of its failure to pay the amount due of any invoice.

6. **BENEFITS.** Benefits provided to ENTITY participants shall be as set forth in ENTITY's Plan Summary for the Program and as agreed upon between the ENTITY and its recognized employee organizations as applicable. Not all plan offerings will be available to ENTITY, and plans requested by ENTITY must be submitted to Program underwriter for approval.
7. **ASSESSMENTS AND DIVIDENDS.** The Program annual premium, as approved by the Committee will be established at a level which is anticipated to provide adequate overall funding. The Program will directly manage surpluses and deficits. Premiums are targeted to fund expected claims (including incurred-but-not-reported (IBNR) and run-out), reinsurance (if any), Program/administrative expenses, and any reserve or margin adopted by the Committee.

If Program funds are insufficient (including funding IBNR), the Committee may impose premium assessments on all applicable participating Entities, consistent with the JPA, including ENTITY signing this MEMORANDUM. Entities that have withdrawn from the Program are liable for assessments attributable to plan year(s) in which they participated.

After appropriate reserves and obligations are funded and any Committee-approved margin is achieved, the Committee may declare a dividend or premium credit, using a formula recommended by the Program Underwriters and actuary.

8. **WITHDRAWAL.** ENTITY may withdraw from this MEMORANDUM and terminate its Program Participation Agreement for a subsequent calendar year subject to the following condition: ENTITY shall notify SDRMA in writing of its intent to withdraw from this MEMORANDUM and terminate its Program Participation Agreement at least 120 days prior to January 1st of the subsequent calendar year in which it shall be effective. No withdrawal shall become effective until December 31 of the year that notice of termination is received. ENTITY may rescind its notice of intent to withdraw and terminate no later than October 1st. Once ENTITY withdraws from the Program, there is a 3-year waiting period to come back into the Program, and the ENTITY will be subject to underwriting approval.
9. **ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES.** To the extent permitted by law, all controversies between the ENTITY and SDRMA that may arise out of or relate to any of the services provided by SDRMA under the MEMORANDUM, or the construction, performance or breach of this or any other agreement between the ENTITY and SDRMA, whether entered into prior to, on or subsequent to the date hereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in the City of

Sacramento, California, under the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. Judgment upon any award rendered by the arbitrator(s) shall be final and may be entered into any court having jurisdiction.

10. GOVERNING LAW. This MEMORANDUM shall be governed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.
11. VENUE. Venue for any dispute or enforcement shall be in the City of Sacramento, California.
12. ATTORNEY FEES. The prevailing party in any dispute shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees.
13. COMPLETE AGREEMENT. This MEMORANDUM together with the related Program Documents constitutes the full and complete agreement of the ENTITY.
14. SEVERABILITY. Should any provision of this MEMORANDUM be judicially determined to be void or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect any remaining provision.
15. AMENDMENT OF MEMORANDUM; WAIVER. This MEMORANDUM may not be modified, nor shall any provision hereof be waived or amended, except in a writing duly signed by authorized representatives of SDRMA and ENTITY. The failure of either Party to enforce at any time any provision of the MEMORANDUM shall not be construed to be a waiver of such provision, nor in any way to affect the validity of the MEMORANDUM or the right of either party thereafter to enforce each and every such provision. If ENTITY fails or refuses to execute an amendment to this MEMORANDUM by the deadline included in written notice of SDRMA'S execution of said amendment, SDRMA reserves the right to terminate this MEMORANDUM and ENTITY'S Program Participation Agreement effective as of the next annual renewal date.
16. EFFECTIVE DATE. This MEMORANDUM shall become effective on the later of the first date of coverage for the ENTITY or the last date of signing of this MEMORANDUM by the Chief Executive Officer or Board President of SDRMA and the authorized person for the ENTITY.
17. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS. This MEMORANDUM may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original, all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned have executed the MEMORANDUM as of the date set forth below.

Dated: _____

By: _____

Special District Risk
Management Authority

Dated: _____

By: _____

ENTITY Name