

From: [Rick Padden](#)
To: [Lou Ann Texeira](#)
Cc: [Supervisor Candace Andersen](#); [Cameron Collins](#)
Subject: Contra Costa LAFCO October 14 meeting information Contra Costa County Alamo Police District information
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 9:01:16 AM
Attachments: [Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission \(LAFCO\).docx](#)

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Dear Ms. Texeira,

I am an Alamo resident and have attached my comments regarding the proposed consolidation of Alamo Police Services scheduled for consideration at the October 14 LAFCO hearing.

I respectfully request that my attached letter be distributed to all LAFCO Commissioners and included in the public record for the October 14 hearing.

My primary concern is that before Alamo residents are asked to accept a significant increase in the cost of enhanced police services and an expansion from three to seven dedicated deputies, the County should provide objective data demonstrating the need, the expected improvement in service, and the costs and benefits of alternative staffing levels.

Thank you for your consideration and for distributing my comments to the Commission.

Best regards,

Rick Padden
Alamo Resident

October 4, 2026

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
Supervisor Candace Andersen, District 2
Contra Costa County

Re: Proposed Consolidation of Alamo Police Services into CSA P-5

Dear Commissioners and Supervisor Andersen:

I am writing as an Alamo resident to express serious concerns regarding the proposed consolidation of Alamo's existing police service areas into CSA P-5 and the associated expansion of dedicated police staffing and parcel tax.

I strongly support effective law enforcement and maintaining Alamo as a safe community. However, before residents are asked to accept a significant and ongoing increase in the cost of enhanced police services, I believe the County should first demonstrate that the additional staffing is necessary and that the proposed level of service represents an appropriate and cost-effective response to an identified public-safety need.

Under the current proposal, Alamo would move from its existing structure to a single police district that could support approximately seven dedicated deputies. Property owners currently within P2B who pay \$67 annually would see their assessment increase to \$470 per parcel—an increase of \$403 per year.

That raises a fundamental question:

What documented public-safety problem requires Alamo to more than double its dedicated police staffing?

Alamo is fortunate to be a relatively safe community. Before committing residents to millions of dollars in additional ongoing police expenditures, the County should provide objective data demonstrating the need for this expansion.

At a minimum, residents should be provided with:

1. Alamo's calls for service and crime statistics for the past five years, separated by serious crimes, property crimes, traffic incidents and non-criminal calls for service.
2. Current average and priority response times in Alamo and how those response times compare with established Sheriff's Department service standards.
3. Documentation of instances in which insufficient staffing has resulted in unacceptable response times or an inability to adequately serve Alamo residents.
4. A workload analysis demonstrating why **seven dedicated deputies** is the appropriate staffing level rather than four, five or six.

5. The measurable improvement residents should expect from the additional expenditure, including anticipated improvements in response times, crime prevention and investigative services.

Consolidation and Increased Staffing Are Separate Questions

There may be legitimate administrative reasons to simplify Alamo's current patchwork of P2B, P5, P6 and other police service areas. A single district could potentially provide more uniform administration and coverage.

But administrative consolidation does not, by itself, establish that Alamo requires seven dedicated deputies or that every property owner should therefore pay a \$470 annual assessment.

These should be treated as two separate policy decisions.

If consolidation makes sense, the County should explain why consolidation cannot occur at a lower staffing level and corresponding lower cost.

Residents should be presented with alternatives—for example, consolidation with four, five, six and seven dedicated deputies—with the cost and expected service benefit of each alternative clearly identified.

Alamo Already Receives Law Enforcement Services

It is also important that residents understand that this proposal is not a choice between having police protection and having no police protection.

Alamo already receives baseline law-enforcement services from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. In addition, existing special police districts provide dedicated deputies, and the community has invested in crime-prevention technology, including license-plate recognition cameras.

These resources should be considered when determining the appropriate level of additional dedicated staffing.

Technology, targeted patrols, neighborhood security programs and Sheriff's Department resources may provide opportunities to improve public safety without automatically committing the community to the maximum proposed staffing level.

The Financial Commitment Deserves Careful Scrutiny

The County has estimated the current average cost of a deputy at approximately \$431,000 annually when salaries, benefits and related costs are included.

Increasing dedicated staffing therefore represents a substantial recurring financial commitment.

The relevant question should not simply be whether additional police presence would be beneficial. Additional police presence will almost always provide some benefit.

The appropriate question is:

Does the measurable improvement in public safety justify the additional cost, and has the County demonstrated that seven dedicated deputies represent the appropriate level of service for Alamo?

I do not believe that question has been adequately answered.

Residents Should Have a Meaningful Voice

This proposal would create a long-term restructuring of enhanced police services throughout Alamo and substantially increase the annual assessment for thousands of property owners.

A decision of this magnitude deserves broad community participation and complete transparency.

Residents should not have to demonstrate opposition after the fact simply to obtain an opportunity to vote on a substantial change in how enhanced police services are funded and delivered.

Before LAFCO approves the proposed reorganization, I respectfully request that the Commission require the County to provide residents with a detailed needs assessment, crime and response-time data, alternative staffing models and the corresponding parcel assessment required for each alternative.

If the County can demonstrate through objective evidence that additional staffing is necessary, Alamo residents can then make an informed decision about the level of enhanced police services they want and are willing to fund.

Request to LAFCO

For these reasons, I respectfully ask LAFCO **not to approve the proposed reorganization in its current form at the October 14 hearing.**

Instead, I ask that LAFCO require further analysis and community discussion before moving forward, including:

- A documented public-safety and staffing needs assessment;
- Current and historical crime, calls-for-service and response-time data;
- Alternative staffing levels and their respective costs;
- An explanation of why seven dedicated deputies are necessary;
- Clear identification of the measurable improvements residents should expect for the additional expenditure; and

- A meaningful opportunity for Alamo residents to express their preference regarding both the level of enhanced police service and the corresponding tax burden.

This should not be viewed as opposition to law enforcement. It is a request for **fiscal responsibility, transparency and evidence-based decision-making**.

Alamo residents value the Sheriff's Department and want to maintain a safe community. At the same time, additional taxation and a major expansion of dedicated staffing should be supported by demonstrated need rather than simply the assumption that more staffing is necessarily better.

First demonstrate the need. Then determine the appropriate staffing level. Then allow Alamo residents to make an informed decision about what they are willing to fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Padden
Alamo Resident