December 19, 2013

TO: Members of the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee)

FROM: Keith D. Crafton, Secretary

SUBJECT: Regular Meeting of the County Committee- Wednesday, January 8, 2014

The next regular meeting of the County Committee will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, in the Board Room of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, located at 9300 Imperial Highway in Downey. Please note the later starting time for this meeting only. Reserved parking spaces will be available on the east side of the building just south of the main entrance for County Committee members.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting of January 8, 2014.

If you have any questions, please call me at (562) 922-6144.

KDC/AD:ah
Attachments
AGENDA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
(COUNTY COMMITTEE)

Regular Meeting

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Board Room
January 8, 2014
11:30 a.m.

I Information
D Discussion
A Action
* Sent to Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Mr. AJ Willmer

II. FLAG SALUTE – Mr. Willmer

III. NOMINATING COMMITTEE—NEW OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Ms. Susan Solomon (Chair),
Mr. Joel Peterson (Vice-Chair), and Mr. AJ Willmer, will submit its
recommendation for chairperson and vice chairperson for 2014. The
County Committee will vote on the nominating committee’s
recommendation. The new officers will assume their duties
immediately.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the County Committee, held on
November 6, 2013, will be submitted for approval.

V. COMMUNICATIONS – Secretary Mr. Keith D. Crafton
**Newspaper Articles**

- A November 19, 2013, article from the Los Cerritos News-“Breaking News: ABC Unified School Board Ends At-Large Voting Elections.” (Attachment 1)

- A November 20, 2013, article from the Press-Telegram-“ABC Unified settles lawsuit, agrees to school board elections by district.” (Attachment 2)

- A November 30, 2013, article from the Modesto Bee-“Plan to split Waterford school board trustee areas gets hearing.” (Attachment 3)

- A December 2, 2013, article from the latimes.com-“Palmdale ordered to hold by-district election for City Council posts.” (Attachment 4)

- A December 5, 2013, article from the latimes.com-“Anaheim hopes to settle suit over alleged Latino political exclusion.” (Attachment 5)

- A December 6, 2013, article from the westsideconnect.com-“Election switch moves forward.” (Attachment 6)

- A December 6, 2013, article from the latimes.com-“Activists seek halt to Whittier’s spring council elections.” (Attachment 7)

- A December 7, 2013, article from the San Diego Union-Tribune-“Mira Costa seeks voting change.” (Attachment 8)

- A December 11, 2013, article from the Press-Enterprise-“CORONA-NORCO: School board to be elected by trustee areas.” (Attachment 9)

- A December 12, 2013, article from the Simi Valley Acorn-“SVUSD may change representation requirements for board members.” (Attachment 10)

- A December 16, 2013, article from The Sun-“Minority Voters get bigger say in community college board.” (Attachment 11)

- A December 17, 2013, article from The Whittier Daily News-“Whittier 2014 election plans proceed despite lawsuit filing.” (Attachment 12)
• A December 17, 2013 article from Imperial Valley Press—“IID board may schedule vote on district election system—Imperial Valley Press Online: Local News.” (Attachment 13)

**Informational Correspondence**

• A November 14, 2013, Local Agency Formation Commission Notice (LAFCO), Notice to Interested Agencies, Annexation No. 293 to County Sanitation District No. 15 (Attachment 14)

• A November 14, LAFCO Notice to Interested Agencies, Annexation No. 739 to County Sanitation District No. 21 (Attachment 15)

• A November 14, LAFCO Notice to Interested Agencies, Annexation No. 1065 to Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. (Attachment 16)

**VI. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  

Any persons present desiring to address the County Committee on any proper matter may do so at this time. (Form must be completed and submitted to the Secretary.)

**VII. UPDATE ON THE PETITION PROPOSING TO FORM A WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (USD)**  
The Secretary will update the County Committee on the petition to form a Wiseburn USD.

**VIII. UPDATE ON THE CALIFORNIA VOTING RIGHTS ACT (CVRA) AND TRUSTEE AREA ISSUES**  
The Secretary will discuss recent developments related to the CVRA and trustee area issues in Los Angeles County.

**IX. UPDATE ON COUNTY COMMITTEE WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**  
The Secretary will give an update on the LACOE-hosted website for the County Committee.
X. UPDATE ON REVIEW OF COUNTY COMMITTEE POLICIES

At the Regular Meeting of the County Committee on November 6, 2013, a policy review subcommittee was appointed by Chair AJ Willmer, consisting of Mr. Joel Peterson, Mr. Frank Bostrom, and Mr. Willmer. The subcommittee may provide an update on their preliminary review of the policies. Staff will provide an update of discussions with County Counsel.

XI. EVALUATION OF THE SECRETARY AND STAFF TO THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

The County Committee will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (e) to discuss the PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. The Evaluation Committee consisting of Ms. Joan Jakubowski (Chair), Mr. Ben Allen, and Dr. Ted Edmiston, will present an evaluation recommendation to the County Committee. The County Committee may take action to either modify the evaluation or to accept the evaluation as presented.

XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

At the end of the closed session, the County Committee will reconvene in open session and report on any action taken.

XIII. REVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Secretary will provide the County Committee with an overview of proposed legislation related to school district organization. The County Committee may take action to support or oppose the legislation or provide comments to the authors. (Attachment 17)

XIV. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY USD REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS

The Secretary will provide the County Committee with an update on school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles USD. (Attachment: "Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals") (Attachment 18)
XV. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS EXCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE LOS ANGELES USD

The Secretary will provide the County Committee with an update on school district reorganization proposals affecting Los Angeles County school districts other than the Los Angeles USD. (Attachment: “Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals [excluding those affecting the Los Angeles USD]”) (Attachment 19)

XVI. ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, CONCERNS, OR ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

XVII. ADJOURNMENT
Attachment 1


LOS CERRITOS NEWS

Breaking News: ABC Unified School Board Ends At-Large Voting Elections

November 19, 2013

By Randy Economy

In a stunning announcement, the ABC Unified School District Board of Education confirmed on Tuesday night that it has settled a civil rights law suit that will end at large voting for trustee elections beginning in 2015.

The decision will now break up the school district into seven different voting districts where board members will be selected in smaller, more compact districts.

This decision ensures that voters in Artesia, Lakewood, and Norwalk will be able to have equitable representation on the influential school board that has traditionally be dominated by members who reside in the City of Cerritos.

Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper has learned that the vote to accept the settlement was 5-2 with school board members Sophia Tse and Lynda Johnson opposing the deal. School Board members Celia Spitzer, Olympia Chen, Armin Reyes, Maynard Law, and James Kang supported the settlement.

It was also announced that the school district will cover more than $143,000 in attorney fees that have been accumulated during the past two years, primarily racked up by a Northern California law firm who was retained by a group of local residents who sought to have the district's longstanding at-large voting practices abolished.

John Paul Drayer, who is an elected member of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, told Hews Media Group-Community Newspaper in an interview on Tuesday night that he was “excited that the settlement was reached and now smaller district elections will now become a reality.”

Drayer said that the ABC School Board will now “have representatives from the entire district, not from just one city within the district.”

“This decision gives candidates in Hawaiian Gardens, Artesia, Lakewood and Norwalk the opportunity to finally get a voice on the school board,” Drayer said.

“This law firm sues school districts up and down the state. That settlement cost taxpayers more than $140,000. This is a shame,” said Richard Hathaway, a longtime member of the ABC Federation of Teachers. Hathaway made his comments during the school board meeting.
Amid a lawsuit alleging violations of the California Voting Rights Act, the ABC Unified School District will change the way it holds school board elections, switching from an at-large model to a by-district model.

The school board voted 5-2 this week to make the shift, settling a lawsuit filed earlier this year by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Oakland law firm Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho that alleged ABC’s at-large school board elections violated the California Voting Rights Act by diluting Latino voting power.

“We’re very happy that the district decided to settle the case,” said Laura Ho, a partner of Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho. “We think that the school district should be commended for putting a new system in place that allows all community members to have a chance to be represented on the school board.”

Celia Spitzer, president of the board, said that ABC decided to settle the suit because of financial concerns.

“We did not want to spend millions of dollars of school district money to give money to attorneys,” she said. “The focus of everybody in the school district is student achievement.”

Mary Sieu, superintendent of ABC Unified School District, said the board made the appropriate decision. She said school officials worried that lengthy litigation could put the school’s resources for students at risk. But Spitzer and Sieu both denied the board took part in any wrongdoing.
“We feel there’s no evidence of the board having violated the California Voting Rights Act,” Sieu said.

The suit filed against the district points out that no Latinos serve on the school board despite the fact that Latinos comprise almost a quarter of the voting-age population in the district, which spans across several cities, including Artesia, Cerritos, Lakewood and Hawaiian Gardens. Sixteen years have passed since the last Latino sat on the school board.

Mexican-American Olga Rios, one of three plaintiffs in the suit and a mother of two children enrolled in ABC schools, tried to change that pattern when she applied to be placed in an open seat on the school board in 2011. The board ultimately decided to wait until the next school board election to appoint a new member, despite the fact that Rios, a Lakewood resident, has a master’s degree in education from Harvard University.

Today, two whites and five Asian-Americans sit on the school board, but its racial makeup may change now that the board has agreed to hold by-district elections rather than at-large elections.

In at-large races, candidates aren’t required to reside in a particular part of the district and voters can back any candidate throughout the area, regardless of where in the district the voter lives. In contrast, the by-district election model divides a voting area into zones, giving residents a better chance to elect candidates who represent their interests and cultural background.

As a result of the settlement, ABC must create at least seven districts, one of which must have a majority Latino constituency, by its November 2015 school board race. A demographer will help the district create the seven districts, or trustee areas.

Rios, who’s pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at USC, welcomes the move.

“I’m definitely excited,” she said. “I think what this means is that Latinos will have a voice as well as residents from outside of Cerritos.”

At present, every member of the school board resides in Cerritos, but the district’s Hispanic population is largely concentrated in places such as Hawaiian Gardens, where Rios, 42, grew up. She said that the by-district system will allow Latinos to elect candidates who represent their interests and issues.

“This is a great opportunity,” she said. “Students benefit greatly when they have someone who represents their social needs.”

Rios said she would absolutely consider running for the ABC school board but would have to weigh that decision against her duties as a parent and graduate student.
Spitzer said she’s unsure what effect the by-district election system will have on the school board.

“I just hope whoever runs when the [districts] are decided upon are quality people who have the interests of the entire district at heart and not just the area in which they live,” she said.

Contact Nadra Nittle at 562-499-1291.
MODESTO BEE

Plan to split Waterford school board trustee areas gets hearing

Bee Staff Reports, November 30, 2013

WATERFORD — To head off potential allegations that it is violating California’s Voting Rights Act, Waterford’s school board is proposing that future trustees be elected from five different neighborhoods rather than from the school district as a whole.

A public hearing on that plan is scheduled Dec. 10 by the Stanislaus County Committee on School District Organization.

The Waterford Unified School District includes the city of Waterford, plus rural regions to the west, north and east of the city. A map of how the 1,900-student district would be divided will be considered.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data, 51 percent of Waterford’s residents are non-Latino whites and nearly 47 percent are Latino. But that ethnic diversity is not reflected on the existing school board.

The five current trustees are Lisa Hawkins, Matt Erickson, Sheila Collins, Timothy Bomgardner and Jim Weaver, all of whom were elected by voters in at-large elections. An at-large election means every registered voter living anywhere in the school district can vote for any school board candidate.

That would change if this new plan is approved. Instead, each of the five future school board members would have to reside in and be elected by voters living in a different part of the district.

In theory, electing trustees from different neighborhoods will help diversify the school board.

The Dec. 10 public hearing will begin at 4:45 p.m. at the school district office, 219 S. Reinway Ave.
A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, who earlier this year found the city of Palmdale to be in violation of the California Voting Rights Act, has ordered the city to hold a new by-district election for its four City Council posts.

In a ruling dated last week and received by the involved parties over the weekend, Judge Mark V. Mooney ordered that the special election, to replace the balloting for council seats held last month, is to be conducted June 3, the same day as the California primary.

Future elections are to be held in November of even-numbered years, to dovetail with state and federal balloting, in the expectation that such coordination will increase voter turnout.

The judge allowed Palmdale to continue to elect its mayor by voters throughout the city. That means Mayor James Ledford's recent reelection will not be affected by the ruling.

A Palmdale official on Monday reaffirmed the city's intention to appeal the trial court's finding that the practice of electing council members at large, rather than by geographic district, deprives minorities of an opportunity to elect candidates they feel can best represent them.

"We're still analyzing the opinion and our options," Assistant City Atty. Noel Doran said Monday. "We've needed this ruling ... so we can appeal the entire matter."

As yet unclear is what, if any, effect a pending appellate court decision on whether to certify last month's election will have on the case.

The city's election system has been under attack since last year, when several minority residents filed suit claiming that the method of electing officials from across the city diluted their ability to participate in government. About two-thirds of residents are minorities, but voters had chosen only one Latino for office since its 1962 incorporation.
Last month, Palmdale elected its first African American council member, whose status, along with that of his three council colleagues, has been thrown into doubt by the court’s edict. Mooney ruled that none of the current council members can serve past July 9, 2014, presumably allowing enough time for the special election to be conducted and the results certified.

The judge rejected the city's proposed new districts in favor of a plan offered by the plaintiffs, which will give the city two Latino-majority districts and another with substantial numbers of black and Latino residents.

"The current members of the Palmdale City Council were elected through an unlawful election," Mooney wrote. "The citizens of the city of Palmdale are entitled to have a council that truly represents all members of the community."

City officials have maintained throughout the court process that its election system does not hinder minorities. They blamed a lack of experience, community involvement or a viable campaign for minorities' failure to win office.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs said they were "generally pleased" with the ruling, although they had sought to create a fifth council district and have the mayor's post rotate among the members rather than elected separately.

"I think this is going to have a huge impact on Palmdale city government," plaintiffs' attorney Kevin I. Shenkman said.

Shenkman said he hopes other cities battling voting rights lawsuits "look at what has transpired in Palmdale and think better of it. It doesn't benefit anyone to carry on this sort of fight."

The ruling makes Palmdale the first California city to have its election system upended in court under the 12-year-old state Voting Rights Act. Many other local governments with significant minority populations but few or no minority representatives have switched voluntarily to elections by geographic district or have done so to settle lawsuits.

A handful of others, including Anaheim and Whittier, are facing trials after deciding to defend their practice of electing council members citywide.

jean.merl@latimes.com

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Anaheim hopes to settle suit over alleged Latino political exclusion

Trial over ACLU accusations that Anaheim's at-large voting process excludes Latinos from office may be unnecessary if accord is reached.

By Paloma Esquivel and Adolfo Flores

10:56 PM PST, December 5, 2013

Anaheim is in talks to settle a lawsuit filed by the ACLU accusing the city of effectively excluding Latinos from holding political office and violating the California Voting Rights Act.

The case is set to go to trial in March but key hearings and depositions have been delayed because the parties appear to be moving toward a deal, according to court records and a plaintiff.

"For me, certainly, any settlement talks are about the city agreeing toward the direction of establishing districts, authentic districts, where the representatives are voted for by the residents of those districts," said Jose Moreno, a plaintiff in the suit.

The ACLU filed the case on behalf of Moreno and two other Latino residents of Anaheim last year in an effort to end the city's at-large elections. Anaheim is the largest city in California that still elects its leaders at large rather than by districts.

Latinos make up nearly 53% of the city's population but less than half of eligible voters. Only a few Latinos have ever been elected to the City Council.

A Los Angeles Times analysis in 2012 showed the city is deeply segregated along ethnic and economic lines.

In July, the Anaheim City Council rejected a recommendation by a council-appointed citizens commission to allow voters to decide whether to create council districts. Instead, it adopted an election model that maintained at-large voting but imposed residency requirements. The plaintiffs rejected that model, saying it did not address their concerns.

Cities and boards across the state have been under growing pressure to abandon at-large voting and adopt districts.
A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge last week ordered the city of Palmdale to hold new elections after he found the city's at-large election system to be unlawful. Earlier this year, the Anaheim Union High School District agreed to abandon at-large voting in favor of districts for its board of trustees.

Anaheim City Atty. Michael Houston declined to comment on the pending litigation and an attorney for the ACLU did not respond to an email and phone call requesting comment.

In mid-October, the plaintiffs asked the court to delay hearings and depositions because lawyers on both sides had entered into discussions "that could lead to a resolution of the case," according to court records.

In November, Anaheim asked to further delay hearings, saying the parties were engaged in discussions that could make the hearings moot.

The city's charter requires significant changes to its election system to be approved by voters, meaning that any settlement moving toward district-based voting would likely require the city to put the question on the ballot.

paloma.esquivel@latimes.com

adolfo.flores@latimes.com

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NEWMAN – A proposal to switch from at-large school board elections to trustee-area balloting moved closer to reality last week, when the Stanislaus County Committee on School District Organization approved the change.

The Newman-Crows Landing Unified School District had requested the election switch after receiving a letter from the Hispanic Community Roundtable of Stanislaus County threatening legal action if the district did not do away with at-large elections, which the group contends is in violation of the California Voter Rights Act.

A local public hearing and approval by the county committee is required as part of that process.

Just one member of the public turned out to speak to the issue when the committee convened in the McConnell Adult Education Center.

Mary Moore told committee members that trustee-area voting, in which the school district is divided into five zones, which will each have their own elections, was a violation of her right to vote for her candidate of choice in future board races.

“I cannot vote for the people on the other end of town, and I think that discriminates against me,” Moore told the committee, adding that many people don't even realize the election change is taking place.

Committee members acknowledged that the shift is a fundamental change in how the district will elect its board members.

In the at-large elections of the past, any qualified candidate residing anywhere in the school district could run, and the outcome was decided by voters of the district as a whole.

Under the trustee-area elections, candidates can run only in the zone in which they reside – and only residents of that geographic zone can vote in what essentially becomes a smaller-scale election.
The goal, committee members said, is to ensure equal representation from throughout the district as a whole.

In the at-large balloting, committee member Stephen Stroud commented, a board might be comprised of influential residents who all live in the same part of town.

“This is supposed to prevent that, so there is a representative from all walks of life, hopefully,” Stroud said, adding that the trustee zones also prevent de facto segregation.

Some suggested that running in the smaller geographic zones would be less daunting to potential challengers than having to campaign throughout the district, in turn increasing participation.

But County Superintendent of Schools Tom Changnon said that hasn’t necessarily been the case among districts which have switched election formats.

In at-large elections, he explained, a pool of candidates is competing for two or three seats on the board – and not necessarily “against” any other candidate.

But in trustee-area elections, Changnon pointed out, candidates are going head-to-head in a race for a specific board seat.

The issue, he said, is one of legal exposure to the district if it does not make the change.

Local school board member Paul Wallace agreed.

Moore’s concerns are valid, he agreed, but the district can ill afford to wage a costly legal fight. Based on other precedents, officials have said, the district would most certainly lose that legal battle.

That doesn’t make the change palatable, Wallace stated.

“It was a ‘hold your nose and vote for the lesser of two evils,’” he said of the board’s decision to switch to trustee area elections, which will start next November.

Committee member Joan Vargas of Newman agreed that school districts are finding themselves with few options in the matter.

“This is going to happen to everybody, unfortunately,” she commented. “It is a change that we all have to accept, like it or not.”

Approval by the county committee nearly completes the reorganization process, district Superintendent Ed Felt previously explained.

The request will go to the state school board early next year for final approval.
Activists seeking a change in how Whittier voters select members of the City Council have asked the court to halt the city's April municipal election.

Attorneys for three Latino Whittier residents are seeking a preliminary injunction to stop the election, which calls for voters across the city to choose among candidates for the City Council.

 Critics of the at-large method of selecting council members, including the Whittier residents who are suing the city under the California Voting Rights Act, want it to change to a system of electing officeholders by geographic district.

 At-large elections undercut minorities' opportunities to elect a candidate they feel can best represent them, activists contend in separate cases brought against cities, school districts and other local government bodies with substantial minority populations but few or no minority elected representatives.

"The at-large election process in the city of Whittier dilutes the Latino vote, which results in the polarization of voters," former state Democratic state Sen. Richard Polanco said in a statement announcing the filing of the injunction Thursday.

"This form of discrimination is wrong and should not be allowed," added Polanco, author of the voting rights act, which was signed into law in July 2002.

Whittier officials will ask voters at a special election in June whether to change to by-district elections, but activists say the change should come before any more municipal elections are held.

"We believe that it is imperative that the city of Whittier suspend all council elections until the voter rights violations are resolved," said Angie Medina, chair of the Whittier Latino Coalition.

Whittier officials said they cannot make a change in the elections system without voter approval, according to the city's charter.
Seeking to halt the regularly scheduled election is "aggressive action to thwart the opportunity for local voters to participate in the upcoming election," city officials said in a written statement released by City Manager Jeffrey W. Collier.

The activists' bid to stop the April election further illustrates their questionable motives to manipulate voter rights in Whittier--all the while running up extensive legal costs at the expense of local tax paying residents," the statement continued.

A Superior Court judge recently overturned the recent at-large council election in Palmdale, which he had earlier found to be in violation of the voting rights act. The city plans to appeal.

jean.merl@latimes.com

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MiraCosta College wants to change its election system from an “at large” voting method to a format where voters in specific areas elect their own trustees, with the goal of better reflecting changing demographics in North County and complying with state and federal voting laws.

It also plans to adjust its trustee-area boundaries to make them more equal.

The board voted 5-0, with two members absent, to adopt the changes at its Nov. 5 meeting after reviewing 2010 census data and considering three boundary map configurations. The revised map creates new representative areas that rebalance populations. Under the current boundaries, one area has more than 77,000 residents while another has 30,300.

The revisions ultimately must be approved by the California Community Colleges' board of governors. If that final clearance happens, the revamp would take effect by the November 2014 election.

Board president David Broad said the changes should make the board’s seven trustees more accountable to the areas they represent by strengthening the connection they have to voters. Trustees for the MiraCosta College District represent the communities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Cardiff, Olivenhain, Leucadia, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar and parts of Carmel Valley.

Broad also said the board wanted to be proactive and make sure it was following state and federal election laws.

No one from the public spoke during the public hearing.

Across California, a growing number of cities have changed how they elect their city councils to ensure compliance with the 11-year-old California Voting Rights Act. Escondido is the first one in San Diego County to do so.

People seeking greater minority representation said council members should be elected by geographic district because minority votes can be diluted in at-large elections.
Under the state’s Voting Rights Act, voters have the right to sue over allegedly discriminatory election practices.

Cities as well as community college and school districts have been reviewing census data to ensure their election systems and boundaries comply with the federal and state voter laws.

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District voted in December 2011 to switch to area elections for its five board members. That was the process that was in place for the June 2012 elections.

The San Diego Community College has long had district-only primaries, with the top two vote-getters per seat running in a citywide general election. Last year, the board made minor boundary adjustments in two districts after reviewing census data.

Some districts have kept the “at large” method, though.

Southwestern Community College has numbered board seats and its candidates declare for a particular seat but campaign and are elected districtwide.

The Palomar Community College District retained its at-large system after reviewing the issue in 2011. Although census data showed that district’s Hispanic population was about 30 percent, only 15 percent to 16 percent of those voting-age residents were U.S. citizens, said district spokeswoman Laura Gropen. Also, the district’s voters have elected three Hispanic board members in recent years.

“There did not appear to be a strong indicator that the college district should change its electoral system” based on the data gathered, Gropen said.

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Amid concerns about dividing communities and creating turf wars, Corona-Norco school board members Tuesday, Dec. 10, narrowly approved a map splitting the district into five trustee areas.

The board voted 3-2 for a map that keeps the cities of Norco and Eastvale together and puts Corona principally in three trustee areas. Board members Cathy Sciortino and Jose Lalas voted no. The board considered three maps prepared by Corona-Norco Unified School District officials and a consulting firm.

Board member Bill Newberry urged colleagues before the vote to continue serving all the district’s students and schools.

“Regardless of which map is approved, there is a conscious effort we need to make as a board to represent all areas of the district,” Newberry said.

As in the past, Lalas questioned the rationale for changing the election system.
Sciortino said she disagreed with trustee area elections.

“It’s an outstanding school district, yet we are restructuring it,” Lalas said. “We don’t know that by dividing a very successful school district, it will become better.”

Superintendent Michael Lin said the decision was needed to comply with the California Voting Rights Act and to avoid costly potential lawsuits if the district were to keep its system of at-large elections, in which any district voter can vote for any board candidate.
The 2001 law prohibits at-large elections when they hinder the ability of a “protected class” of people such as Latinos, to elect candidates from their community. When districts are divided into smaller areas, Latino or other minority communities can elect a representative from their own neighborhoods, supporters of the law say. Latinos and other minorities make up a majority of the district’s 53,000 students.

District officials have said they don’t think minority voters are disenfranchised, though only one Latino has served on the board – in the 1960s and 1970s. Lalas is Filipino but has a Spanish surname.

Lin said the district is one of a few left in Riverside County that has not converted to trustee area elections.

Board member Michell Skipworth said the three maps were “racially balanced” and complied with the law. The alternative that was selected reflects the wishes of the majority of people who spoke at community meetings in October, she said.

Virginia Coriddi, a 32-year Corona resident, told the board that initially the map that was later approved “looked like a turf war because there was no overlapping of communities.”

Overall, Coriddi said she was pleased with the change and that Latinos now have representation where they live. The Norco City Council voted unanimously Dec. 4 to recommend the map later approved by the board.

“It’s the best of three not great options,” said Councilman Kevin Bash, who spoke at the board meeting.

The upside, he said, is the city has “a real opportunity to have a home-grown Norco person” on the school board. Though no current board members live in Norco, they are doing “a really good job” representing the city and its constituents, Bash said Wednesday, Dec. 11, by phone.

The change to trustee area elections still must be approved by the Riverside County Committee on School District Organization and the state Board of Education. If that happens, Corona-Norco board members would have to live in the area they represent and be elected by voters in that trustee area starting in November 2014.
In the near future, trustees for Simi Valley Unified School District will likely represent specific districts and be elected by the voters within that district.

Currently, voters elect trustees on an at-large basis, meaning the top vote-getters win the open seats regardless of where they live in the city.

SVUSD attorney Bob Thurbon informed the board Tuesday that school districts in the state have been sued for under-representing “protected classes” under the California Voting Rights Act.

Thurbon told the board it’s a matter of time before all school districts will need to change because the courts have supported by-district over at-large representation in school board elections.

Thurbon said that every school district that has used at-large representation and defended it in court has lost when sued. He said the losing district had to pay not only its legal fees but that of the plaintiff.

Judges have also determined the individual district boundaries rather than the school district, which would also have to pay all the consultant costs associated with the change.

A district in Northern California was the first to defend the at-large election format when sued and ultimately had to pay $6 million when it lost its case.

“No one has won,” Thurbon said.

He told the board it has two choices—take either the catalyst or the proactive approach. The catalyst approach means the district waits until someone sues, and it then has a chance to change the election format or defend itself in court. The proactive approach requires the board to change to district elections before it’s sued.
Trustees indicated during Tuesday’s board meeting they favor being proactive. Thurbon said he will finish preparing information on how to proceed and present it to the board at its January meeting.

The SVUSD board has five elected trustees. Under the bydistrict format, the board would divide the city into five districts, and only someone living in a respective district would be able to run and be elected to that seat.

The map would have to be approved by the California Department of Education.

The next school board election is in November 2014, when seats held by Arleigh Kidd and Jeanne Davis are up for vote.

It’s unclear if the change to a district format would be in place before then, which means it may not be in effect until three seats are up for election in 2016.

In other action at Tuesday’s meeting, the board voted unanimously to approve adding a public relations and resource development coordinator position to the district.

The position would include informing the public about school and district programs with the hopes of either retaining Simi students or appealing to families outside the district to counter SVUSD’s declining enrollment.

The employee holding the position would also be responsible for grant writing.
Minority voters get bigger say in community college board

By Jim Steinberg, The Sun

Posted: 12/16/13, 8:16 PM PST

SAN BERNARDINO >> Minority voters in the San Bernardino Community College District say that the new redistricting plans recently approved by the board will dramatically improve minority representation.

“We are glad that they voluntarily took on the task,” said Walter Hawkins, who serves in leadership roles in both Westside Action Group and the San Bernardino branch of the NAACP.

Both groups supported the redistricting plan adopted by the board during a meeting last week.

“A majority of the members of the board felt that Plan 1 best complied with both the spirit and intent of the Voting Rights Acts,” said Donna Ferracone, board president.

The adopted plan maintains “the natural geographic and socio-economic communities of interest that currently exist, without gerrymandering the districts and by creating the fewest splits. We have a very large service area, and there were numerous issues to consider,” Ferracone said.

At-large voting districts have been under attack in California since the 2002 passage of the California Voting Rights Act.

The law makes it easier for the state’s minority groups to prove their votes are being diluted by at-large elections, including all the voters in the municipality or district’s boundaries.
Cities and agencies across California have been pressured to move to voting by geographic districts, including Whittier, which is facing a lawsuit over the issue.

The at-large system which had been in place isolated and excluded black residents living in what Hawkins called the “Ebony Triangle” - land between the 10, 15 and 215 freeways and extending about a mile out in each direction.

The realities of at-large campaigns was that it favored more affluent applicants, Hawkins said.

About the Author
Jim Steinberg covers the city of Fontana for The Sun and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin. Reach the author at Jim.Steinberg@inlandnewspapers.com or follow Jim on Twitter: @FontanaNow.
Elections

Whittier 2014 election plans proceed despite lawsuit filing

By Peter Fullam, Whittier Daily News

Posted: 12/17/13, 6:50 PM PST

WHITTIER >> The city will continue making plans for a municipal election in April 2014 despite a recent court filing by the Whittier Latino Coalition seeking to halt the election.

“At this point, we’re just following through with the requirements under our city charter to proceed with the election,” said City Manager Jeff Collier. “I have to proceed assuming that the election is still on until the judge takes an action otherwise.”

That means the meter is on for the city, with election expenses accruing for services rendered, until Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael M. Johnson makes his ruling on whether Whittier is in violation of the California Voting Rights Act. The plaintiffs claim the current city council elections using at-large voting systems are racially polarizing, or favor one race over another, rather than districted voting systems. The hearing is set for March 18, 2014, but the attorney for the Whittier Latino Coalition said he expects it will be moved to January.

Right now, the city is in the process of taking a number of actions to prepare for an April election, including publishing election notices, preparing election handbooks, and a voter outreach effort.

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution calling for a general municipal election on April 8, 2014, requesting election services from Los Angeles County, setting candidate statement rules and authorizing City Clerk Treasurer Kathryn Marshall to hire Martin & Chapman Co. to provide election services for an amount not to exceed $95,000.

The first step in gearing up for elections is forming a Voting Rights Act Advisory Group to advise the city on providing election materials, information and assistance to limited English voters, according to the city’s website.

The City Clerk’s Office also sends sample ballot pamphlets and polling place information to all registered city voters.
Marshall said the city usually gets its first bill from Martin & Chapman in early spring after her office knows how many candidates are in the election.

Even if the city is ordered to halt the election, “We have to pay them for any services incurred, and right now we’re in the midst of taking a number of steps as required” by the city charter and state law, said Marshall.

But Collier said the filing in the lawsuit doesn’t have any effect on election planning or spending at this point.

“Obviously, we take notice,” he said. “The bottom line is we have to proceed under the requirements of the charter adopted by the citizens of Whittier, and short of a judge taking an action otherwise, we continue forward.

“If the judge makes another decision, then we’re going to comply with that,” he said. The two City Council seats up for election in April are currently held by Mayor Bob Henderson and Councilman Fernando Dutra. Henderson, 73, said he will seek re-election, and Dutra, who was appointed to fill an the unexpired term of former Councilman Greg Nordbak, who retired, also said he will run for election.

At the Dec. 10 City Council meeting, members of the Whittier Voters Coalition, a recently formed group that includes the Whittier Latino Coalition, Whittier Voice, Whittier Hills Oil Watch, and the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition, made statements urging the city to halt the April 2014 elections and enter a stipulated judgment in the lawsuit agreeing to court-ordered district elections. The group also wants the elections in November to coincide with national and general statewide elections.

Miguel Garcia, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, urged the council “to enter into negotiations so there doesn’t have to be a court decision,” which he suggested could be less favorable to the current City Council than a negotiated settlement.

The first day for candidates to file to run in the election was Dec. 16.

The following are other important dates for the election:

• Jan. 10: Last day for candidates to file;
• March 10-April 1: Mail-in ballots issued;
• March 24: Last day to register to vote.
The Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors will consider submitting to voters a proposal to change IID elections from “at-large” to “by district.”

The action item comes two weeks after the board was briefed about the impact of the state Voting Rights Act of 2001 has had on “at-large” voting systems.

The CVRA is designed to safeguard the political and election rights of minorities.

The Coachella Valley Water District in November switched from an at-large voting system to a district-based election system after lawyers accused it of violating the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 and threatened to sue.

In “at-large” systems, voters anywhere in the region can elect representatives, regardless of which division they live in. The IID is the only agency in Imperial County that uses an “at-large system.”

There are other items on the agenda.

The election of board officers for the 2014 calendar year is also scheduled for Tuesday’s meeting.

The engineering firm hired to update the IID’s delayed system conservation program and to perform a feasibility study for the lining of the East Highline Canal will present its findings Tuesday.

The board will consider a request to sponsor a SCORE International off-road racing event planned for April 2014 in the Superstition Mountain area.

At the end of the open-session meeting, the board will hold a budget workshop to discuss a 2014 budget proposal.

If you go

What — Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors meeting
Where — W. R. Condit Auditorium, 1285 Broadway St., El Centro

When — 1 p.m. Tuesday

Staff Writer Antoine Abou-Diwane can be reached at 760-337-3454 or aaboudiwane@ivpressonline.com
NOTICE TO INTERESTED AGENCIES

Distribution:
LA County Board of Supervisors (Fifth District)
LA County Library
LA County Public Works
LA County Fire Department
United States Department of the Interior-Bureau of Reclamation
Los Angeles County Office of Education
City of Arcadia
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

LAFCO File: Annexation No. 293 to County Sanitation District No. 15

Notice is hereby given that an application for the proposed annexation listed above has been received by the Local Agency Formation Commission. The application proposes to annex 0.650± acres to the district. The subject territory is located on Highland Oaks Drive approximately 500 feet southeast of its intersection with Highland Vista Drive, all within the City of Arcadia.

The proposal application and map are attached for your review. Please submit comments, if any, to the LAFCO office by Monday, December 16, 2013.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please contact this office at (626) 204-6500.

Date: November 14, 2013

Paul A. Novak
Executive Officer
APPLICATION TO INITIATE PROCEEDING FOR CHANGE OF ORGANIZATION/REORGANIZATION/
SPECIAL REORGANIZATION
(Pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000,
Division 3, Title 5 Commencing with Section 56000, of the Government Code)

LAFCO PROPOSAL DESIGNATION NO.: A-15-293

AFFECTED AGENCIES
(Cities and/or Special Districts)  RELATED JURISDICTIONAL CHANGES
(Annexation, Detachment, Sphere of Influence Amendment, etc.)

1. County Sanitation District No. 15 of Los Angeles County

2._______________________________

1. Annexation

2._______________________________

PROPOSAL INITIATED BY: ☑ RESOLUTION ☐ LANDOWNER/REGISTERED VOTER PETITION

APPLICANT: Grace Robinson Chan

TITLE: Chief Engineer and General Manager  CITY/DISTRICT/CHIEF PETITIONER: County Sanitation District No. 15 of Los Angeles County

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4998  CITY: Whittier  STATE: CA  ZIP CODE: 90607-4998

DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON: Donna Kitt  TELEPHONE: (562) 908-4288 ext. 2708

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dkitt@lacsd.org

By submitting this Application to Initiate Proceedings, the applicant acknowledges receipt of the "Instruction for Filing Application for Change of Organization/Reorganization/Special Reorganization" and agrees to be bound by same, including, but not limited to the provisions contained therein regarding filing and processing fees, and defense and indemnification of the Commission.
5. What is the proximity of the subject territory to other populated areas?
   N/A

6. What is the likelihood of significant growth in the area; and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas within the next ten years?
   N/A

7. Number and type of existing dwelling units:
   one single-family home

8. Give a summary of regional housing needs and to what extent will the proposal assist in achieving its fair share of regional housing needs as determined by SCAG?
   N/A

9. To what extent will this proposal promote "environmental justice" (fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income) with respect to the location of public facilities and provision of public services?
   N/A

LAND USE AND ZONING

1. What is the assessed land valuation of the subject territory (give source and date of information)?
   The assessed valuation per the Assessor's current tax roll is $621,746.

2. What is the current land use and zoning designation within the subject area?
   The present land use is residential. The current zoning is Single-Family Residential on 10,000 sq.ft. lots [R-1-10000].

3. What is the proposed planned land use of the subject area?
   The proposed land use is residential.

4. Describe any proposed change in land use and zoning as a result of this proposal (including, if applicable, pre-zoning by an affected city):
   N/A

5. What is the land use in the surrounding area? Be specific.
   The land use in the surrounding territory is residential and open space.

6. If annexation to a city is involved as a part of this proposal, what is the city's general plan designation for the area?
   N/A

7. Is the proposal consistent with city or county general plans, specific plans, and or other adopted land use policies?
   Yes

8. Will this proposal result in development of property now or in the near future? Describe the type of development proposed (type of business or industry, single-family or multi-family residential, etc., and number of units or facilities).
   N/A
3. If the proposal includes incorporation, formation, or annexation, what will be the effect of this proposal or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the proposed area and adjacent areas?

N/A

4. If, as a result of this proposal, increased service demand exceeds the existing capacity, describe what will be done by the service provider to increase capacity of services.

The current permitted capacity of the JOS is 592.7 mgd. On July 12, 1995, the Board of Directors of District No. 2 approved the 2010 Master Facilities Plan and certified the associated EIR. The 2010 Plan addresses the sewerage needs of the JOS service area through the year 2010 and the services planned to meet those needs. The 2010 plan allows the capacity of the JOS to increase to 630.2 mgd by 2010.

5. List any assessments, fees, or other charges to be levied as part of this proposal and or that may be levied in the near future. The property owner will be paying a service charge for the Districts services.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Provide the following information if the proposal requires a sphere of influence amendment.

1. Is the proposed area within the existing sphere of influence of the annexing agency?

Yes ☑ Name of Agency: County Sanitation District No. 15 of Los Angeles County No ☐

2. List any communities of social or economic interest within the proposed area or immediately adjacent. To what extent will any of those communities of interest be affected by the proposal?

N/A

BONDED INDEBTNESS

1. Do the agencies whose boundaries are being changed have any existing bonded debt?

Yes. The District only has outstanding revenue bonds. These are not general obligation bonds subject to taxation.

2. Will the proposal area be liable for payment of its fair share of this existing debt?

Because all of the District’s existing bonded indebtedness is in the form of revenue bonds, liability for payment of the debt is apportioned to and collected from every parcel pursuant to the terms of the District’s Service Charge Program and not as a separate property tax levy. The District’s Master Service Charge Ordinance provides that local governmental parcels are exempt as long as they continue to be used for local governmental purposes. Likewise, the Ordinance provides an exemption for parcels that are not connected to the sewerage system (e.g. open space) until such time as they connect to the sewerage system.

3. To what extent will landowners within the proposal area be liable or remain liable for any existing indebtedness of the city or district? Until revenue bond is paid in full.

4. In the case of detachment requests, does the detaching agency propose that the subject territory continue to be liable for existing bonded debt?

N/A
NE 1/4 SEC. 15.

CITY
CANYON RD

TR.

NO. 23144

OF

CITY
CITY OF

ANNEX. NO. 293

ARCADIA
MONROVIA

VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE

M.B. 624,

ARCADIA

T. 1 N. R. 11 W. S.B.M.

TR.

COURSE DATA
L1 S57°23'57"E 256.89'
L2 S26°31'53"W 65.00'
L3 S59°45'22"W 99.54'
L4 N33°48'29"W 218.14'
L5 N47°14'31"E 46.18'
C6 R=200', L=39.03', D=11°10'55"

ANNEXATION NO. 293 shown thus
Boundary of Sanitation District No. 15 prior to Annexation No. 293 shown thus
Prior Annexations shown thus
Area of Annexation 0.650 Acres

COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 15
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIF.
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER
GRACE ROBINSON CHAN
CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER
ANNEXATION NO. 293
TO
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 15
Recorded:
T.G. 53T. E7
NOTICE TO INTERESTED AGENCIES

Distribution:
LA County Board of Supervisors (Fifth District)
LA County Library
LA County Public Works
LA County Fire Department
United States Department of the Interior-Bureau of Reclamation
Los Angeles County Office of Education
City of La Verne
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

LAFCO File:   Annexation No. 739 to County Sanitation District No. 21

Notice is hereby given that an application for the proposed annexation listed above has been received by the Local Agency Formation Commission. The application proposes to annex 27.050± acres to the district. The subject territory is located west of the extended Wheeler Avenue between Arrow Highway and Puddingstone Drive, all within the City of La Verne.

The proposal application and map are attached for your review. Please submit comments, if any, to the LAFCO office by Monday, December 16, 2013.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please contact this office at (626) 204-6500.

Date:  November 14, 2013

Paul A. Novak
Executive Officer
APPLICATION TO INITIATE PROCEEDING FOR CHANGE OF ORGANIZATION/REORGANIZATION/ SPECIAL REORGANIZATION

(Pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Division 3, Title 5 Commencing with Section 56000, of the Government Code)

LAFCO PROPOSAL DESIGNATION NO.: A-21-739

AFFECTED AGENCIES
(Cities and/or Special Districts)

1. County Sanitation District No. 21 of Los Angeles County
2. County Sanitation District No. 21 of Los Angeles County

RELATED JURISDICTIONAL CHANGES
(Annexation, Detachment, Sphere of Influence Amendment, etc.)

1. Annexation
2. Sphere of Influence Amendment

PROPOSAL INITIATED BY:  ☒ RESOLUTION  ☐ LANDOWNER/REGISTERED VOTER PETITION

APPLICANT: Grace Robinson Chan

TITLE: Chief Engineer and General Manager  CITY/DISTRICT/CHIEF PETITIONER: County Sanitation District No. 21 of Los Angeles County

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4998  CITY: Whittier  STATE: CA  ZIP CODE: 90607-4998

DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON: Donna Kitt  TELEPHONE: (562) 908-4288 ext. 2708
E-MAIL ADDRESS: dkitt@lacsd.org

By submitting this Application to Initiate Proceedings, the applicant acknowledges receipt of the "Instruction for Filing Application for Change of Organization/Reorganization/Special Reorganization" and agrees to be bound by same, including, but not limited to the provisions contained therein regarding filing and processing fees, and defense and indemnification of the Commission.
5. What is the proximity of the subject territory to other populated areas?
N/A

6. What is the likelihood of significant growth in the area; and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas within the next ten years?
N/A

7. Number and type of existing dwelling units:
0

8. Give a summary of regional housing needs and to what extent will the proposal assist in achieving its fair share of regional housing needs as determined by SCAG?
N/A

9. To what extent will this proposal promote "environmental justice" (fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income) with respect to the location of public facilities and provision of public services?
N/A

LAND USE AND ZONING

1. What is the assessed land valuation of the subject territory (give source and date of information)?
The assessed valuation per the Assessor’s current tax roll is $3,350,815.

2. What is the current land use and zoning designation within the subject area?
The present land use is vacant. The current zoning is Business Park [BP] and Specific Plan [SP].

3. What is the proposed planned land use of the subject area?
The proposed land use is commercial.

4. Describe any proposed change in land use and zoning as a result of this proposal (including, if applicable, pre-zoning by an affected city):
N/A

5. What is the land use in the surrounding area? Be specific.
The land use in the surrounding territory is vacant and commercial.

6. If annexation to a city is involved as a part of this proposal, what is the city's general plan designation for the area?
N/A

7. Is the proposal consistent with city or county general plans, specific plans, and or other adopted land use policies?
Yes

8. Will this proposal result in development of property now or in the near future? Describe the type of development proposed (type of business or industry, single-family or multi-family residential, etc., and number of units or facilities).
The territory is being developed to include a proposed athletic park.
3. If the proposal includes incorporation, formation, or annexation, what will be the effect of this proposal or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the proposed area and adjacent areas?

N/A

4. If, as a result of this proposal, increased service demand exceeds the existing capacity, describe what will be done by the service provider to increase capacity of services.

The current permitted capacity of the JOS is 592.7 mgd. On July 12, 1995, the Board of Directors of District No. 2 approved the 2010 Master Facilities Plan and certified the associated EIR. The 2010 Plan addresses the sewerage needs of the JOS service area through the year 2010 and the services planned to meet those needs. The 2010 plan allows the capacity of the JOS to increase to 630.2 mgd by 2010.

5. List any assessments, fees, or other charges to be levied as part of this proposal and or that may be levied in the near future.

The property owner will be paying a service charge for the District's services.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Provide the following information if the proposal requires a sphere of influence amendment.

1. Is the proposed area within the existing sphere of influence of the annexing agency?

Yes ☐ Name of Agency: County Sanitation District No. 21 of Los Angeles County ☒ No ☒

2. List any communities of social or economic interest within the proposed area or immediately adjacent. To what extent will any of those communities of interest be affected by the proposal?

N/A

BONDED INDEBTNESS

1. Do the agencies whose boundaries are being changed have any existing bonded debt?

Yes. The District only has outstanding revenue bonds. These are not general obligation bonds subject to taxation.

2. Will the proposal area be liable for payment of its fair share of this existing debt?

Because all of the District's existing bonded indebtedness is in the form of revenue bonds, liability for payment of the debt is apportioned to and collected from every parcel pursuant to the terms of the District's Service Charge Program and not as a separate property tax levy. The District's Master Service Charge Ordinance provides that local governmental parcels are exempt as long as they continue to be used for local governmental purposes. Likewise, the Ordinance provides an exemption for parcels that are not connected to the sewerage system (e.g. open space) until such time as they connect to the sewerage system.

3. To what extent will landowners within the proposal area be liable or remain liable for any existing indebtedness of the city or district?

Until revenue bond is paid in full.

4. In the case of detachment requests, does the detaching agency propose that the subject territory continue to be liable for existing bonded debt?

N/A
City Boundary shown thus.
Annexation No. 739 shown thus.
Boundary of Sanitation District No. 21 prior to Annexation No. 739 shown thus.
Prior Annexations shown thus.
Area of Annexation 27.060 Acres.
NOTICE TO INTERESTED AGENCIES

Distribution:
LA County Board of Supervisors (Fifth District)
LA County Library
LA County Public Works
LA County Fire Department
United States Department of the Interior-Bureau of Reclamation
Los Angeles County Office of Education
City of Santa Clarita
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
Castaic Lake Water Agency

LAFCO File:  Annexation No. 1065 to Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County

Notice is hereby given that an application for the proposed annexation listed above has been received by the Local Agency Formation Commission. The application proposes to annex 5.539± acres to the district. The subject territory is located at the northwest corner of Magic Mountain Parkway and Bouquet Canyon Road, all within the City of Santa Clarita.

The proposal application and map are attached for your review. Please submit comments, if any, to the LAFCO office by Monday, December 16, 2013.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please contact this office at (626) 204-6500.

Date:  November 14, 2013

Paul A. Novak
Executive Officer
APPLICATION TO INITIATE PROCEEDING FOR CHANGE OF ORGANIZATION/REORGANIZATION/
SPECIAL REORGANIZATION
(Pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000,
Division 3, Title 5 Commencing with Section 56000, of the Government Code)

LAFCO PROPOSAL DESIGNATION NO. : A-SCV-1065

AFFECTED AGENCIES
(Cities and/or Special Districts)  RELATED JURISDICTIONAL CHANGES
(Annexation, Detachment, Sphere of Influence Amendment, etc.)

1. Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County

2.____________________________________________________________________

1. Annexation

2.____________________________________________________________________

PROPOSAL INITIATED BY: ☒ RESOLUTION ☐ LANDOWNER/REGISTERED VOTER PETITION

APPLICANT: Grace Robinson Chan

TITLE: Chief Engineer and General Manager  CITY/DISTRICT/CHIEF PETITIONER: Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4998  CITY: Whittier  STATE: CA  ZIP CODE: 90607-4998

TELEPHONE: (562) 908-4288 ext. 2708

DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON: Donna Kitt

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dkitt@lacsd.org

By submitting this Application to Initiate Proceedings, the applicant acknowledges receipt of the "Instruction for Filing Application for Change of Organization/Reorganization/Special Reorganization" and agrees to be bound by same, including, but not limited to the provisions contained therein regarding filing and processing fees, and defense and indemnification of the Commission.
5. What is the proximity of the subject territory to other populated areas?
   N/A

6. What is the likelihood of significant growth in the area; and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas within the next ten years?
   N/A

7. Number and type of existing dwelling units:
   0

8. Give a summary of regional housing needs and to what extent will the proposal assist in achieving its fair share of regional housing needs as determined by SCAG?
   N/A

9. To what extent will this proposal promote "environmental justice" (fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income) with respect to the location of public facilities and provision of public services?
   N/A

**LAND USE AND ZONING**

1. What is the assessed land valuation of the subject territory (give source and date of information)?
   The assessed valuation per the Assessor’s current tax roll is $1,278,948.

2. What is the current land use and zoning designation within the subject area?
   The present land use is vacant. The current zoning is Community Commercial [CC].

3. What is the proposed planned land use of the subject area?
   The proposed land use is commercial.

4. Describe any proposed change in land use and zoning as a result of this proposal (including, if applicable, pre-zoning by an affected city):
   N/A

5. What is the land use in the surrounding area? Be specific.
   The land use in the surrounding territory is commercial.

6. If annexation to a city is involved as a part of this proposal, what is the city’s general plan designation for the area?
   N/A

7. Is the proposal consistent with city or county general plans, specific plans, and or other adopted land use policies?
   Yes

8. Will this proposal result in development of property now or in the near future? Describe the type of development proposed (type of business or industry, single-family or multi-family residential, etc., and number of units or facilities).
   The territory is being developed to include a proposed car wash (recycle).
3. If the proposal includes incorporation, formation, or annexation, what will be the effect of this proposal or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the proposed area and adjacent areas? N/A

4. If, as a result of this proposal, increased service demand exceeds the existing capacity, describe what will be done by the service provider to increase capacity of services.

The current permitted capacity of the SCVJSS is 28.1 mgd. On January 29, 1998, the Boards of Directors of Districts Nos. 26 and 32 (the two Districts that subsequently consolidated to form Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District) approved the 2015 Plan and certified the associated EIR. The 2015 Plan addresses the sewerage needs of the SCVJSS service area through the year 2015 and the services planned to meet those needs. The 2015 Plan allows the capacity of the SCVJSS to increase to 34.1 mgd by 2015.

5. List any assessments, fees, or other charges to be levied as part of this proposal and or that may be levied in the near future.

The property owner will be paying a service charge for the Districts services.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Provide the following information if the proposal requires a sphere of influence amendment.

1. Is the proposed area within the existing sphere of influence of the annexing agency?

   Yes ☑ Name of Agency: Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles County
   No ☐

2. List any communities of social or economic interest within the proposed area or immediately adjacent. To what extent will any of those communities of interest be affected by the proposal?

   N/A

BONDED INDEBTNESS

1. Do the agencies whose boundaries are being changed have any existing bonded debt?

   Yes. The District only has outstanding revenue bonds. These are not general obligation bonds subject to taxation.

2. Will the proposal area be liable for payment of its fair share of this existing debt?

   Because all of the District’s existing bonded indebtedness is in the form of revenue bonds, liability for payment of the debt is apportioned to and collected from every parcel pursuant to the terms of the District’s Service Charge Program and not as a separate property tax levy. The District’s Master Service Charge Ordinance provides that local governmental parcels are exempt as long as they continue to be used for local governmental purposes. Likewise, the Ordinance provides an exemption for parcels that are not connected to the sewerage system (e.g. open space) until such time as they connect to the sewerage system.

3. To what extent will landowners within the proposed area be liable or remain liable for any existing indebtedness of the city or district? Until revenue bond is paid in full.

4. In the case of detachment requests, does the detaching agency propose that the subject territory continue to be liable for existing bonded debt?

   N/A
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION (COUNTRY COMMITTEE)
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW - JANUARY 2014

BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR:
Assembly Bill 450/
Jones-Sawyer

INTRODUCTION DATE:
02/19/13

LAST ACTIVITY/DATE:
05/24/13: In committee, set for a second hearing.

DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would require the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to establish seven trustee areas by July 1, 2014, with vacancies filled at subsequent elections via trustee-area voting. Four of the seats will expire June 30, 2015, and the other three seats will expire June 30, 2017.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Given the significant lead time before the next election (June 2015) of four of the expiring future-trustees, activity isn’t expected lest it be forced via petition. The other three future-trustee seats won’t expire until June 2017.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

☑ Watch  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
☐ Approve  County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
☐ Support  County Committee actively supports the bill.
☐ Oppose  County Committee actively opposes the bill.
☐ Disapprove  County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.
DESCRIPTION OF BILL

This bill would give school districts more latitude to shape parcel taxes, so that they wouldn’t have to apply uniformly to all taxpayers and types of property within school districts. The bill would also seek annulment of the California Court of Appeals decision, which upheld CA Gov’t Code 50079, which mandates taxes be uniformly applied within particular districts.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

If the bill passes, it could undermine any existing JPA agreements between districts or other entities, especially if the bill contains language overriding existing agreements. Lawyers who have weighed-in on the retroactivity possibility are divided on the issue.

RECOMMENDED POSITION

Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action taken at this time.
- **Approve** County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** County Committee disapproves of the bill’s concept, but will not actively oppose passage.

AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for amendments to the bill language, suggested alternative language is attached.
CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRED

If staff’s recommended position is based on the need for correspondence to the bill’s author, the Governor or other governmental officials, a draft of suggested language is attached.

Please direct all comments to Mr. Keith D. Crafton, Secretary to the County Committee at (562) 922-6144.
Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

January 2014

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that were at various stages in the school district organization process as of December 16, 2013.

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER CERTAIN TERRITORY FROM THE COMPTON USD TO THE LOS ANGELES USD

Status: Final petition submission pending.

Status Date: June 26, 2007

OTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last nine months)

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

• Inner City Unified School District/July 2012

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

• None

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.
Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals (Excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District)

January 2014

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals [exclusive of those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District (USD) that are at various stages in the school district reorganization process as of December 16, 2013.]

FORMATION—WISEBURN USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SD)

In May of 2001, the Citizens for a Wiseburn Unified School District organization petitioned to form a Wiseburn USD from within the boundaries of the Centinela Valley Union High SD (UHSD). After approval by the County Committee and a long review period by the CDE and SBE, the petition was moved forward via successful legislation, the formation of two related joint power agencies, and final approval by the SBE on May 9, 2013. Wiseburn voters approved of the formation at the November 5, 2013 election, and the matter was approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 26, 2013. During the next several months notifications to agencies throughout the state will be done, culminating with the new USD being operational effective July 1, 2014.

*Status: Agency Notifications and Preparations before 07-01-14
Status Date: December 16, 2013

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS AND TRUSTEE AREA VOTING, WITHIN THE ABC USD

On January 18, 2013, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019 and §5020 to establish trustee areas, and trustee area voting within the ABC USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner, Mr. Charles Ara. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine the legal compliance of format and content. On February 21, 2013,
County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient; staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on February 27, 2013, for circulation.

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: April 10, 2013

**PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS, AND THE REQUIREMENT OF TRUSTEE AREA VOTING, WITHIN THE POMONA USD**

On June 6, 2012, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019 and §5020 to increase the number of trustees from five to seven, to establish trustee areas, and to require trustee area voting within the Pomona USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner, Mr. John Mendoza. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine the legal compliance of format and content. On June 19, 2012, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient; staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on June 20, 2012, for circulation.

Please note that this is a separate petition, distinct from the other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, requesting some of the same changes within the Pomona USD (the addition of two governing board members and the creation of trustee areas). It was submitted under EC §5019 and §5020 and requires valid signatures from ten percent of the registered voters within the petition area (approximately 6,100 signatures in the case of the Pomona USD, based on the most recent count of registered voters). If valid and certified by the County Committee, this petition would trigger a ballot initiative (as opposed to a reference report and vote by the County Committee).

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: June 20, 2012

**FORMATION—ALTADENA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PASADENA USD)**

On January 17, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioners Ms. Maurice Morse, Ms. Shirlee Smith, and Mr. Bruce Wasson, three community members who are residents of the area known as Altadena. The chief petitioners want to form an Altadena USD from territory within the boundaries of the Pasadena USD. The petition request was returned to the chief petitioners on January 20, 2006, because it lacked an adequate description of the area pursuant to EC §35700.3.

On February 10, 2006, LACOE received a revised request for a petition. Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on February 22, 2006, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. We received notification on March 6, 2006, from County Counsel informing us that the draft petition was legally acceptable.
On March 7, 2006, staff forwarded the draft petition to the Registrar-Recorder for verification that the description of the proposed boundaries of the Altadena USD was sufficiently clear (so that registered voters residing within the proposed petition area could be identified with specificity). The Registrar-Recorder confirmed that the description was sufficient on March 10, 2006.

The petition was mailed to the chief petitioners on March 14, 2006, for circulation within the petition area. The Registrar-Recorder estimated the chief petitioners will need to collect approximately 7,000 valid signatures in order to meet the criteria set forth in EC §35700(a).

On September 23, 2010, chief petitioners delivered signed petitions to LACOE. Staff submitted the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder on September 27, 2010, for signature verification. On October 22, 2010, the Registrar-Recorder notified staff that there were insufficient valid signatures (less than the required 25 percent of the registered voters within the petition area). Staff notified the chief petitioners of the insufficiency, and at Mr. Wasson’s request, returned the petitions to the Registrar-Recorder for a signature audit. Staff also advised the chief petitioner regarding the collection of additional signatures. Upon notification by the Registrar-Recorder of a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee at the next regular meeting.

On January 4, 2011, staff conferred with a representative from the Registrar-Recorder’s office, who informed us that no audit of petition signatures had been done yet, and they clarified the cost of signature verification. On February 15 and March 1, 2011, staffs contacted the Registrar-Recorder and were informed that the signature audit had still not been done. On May 12, 2011, staff from the Registrar-Recorder’s office advised LACOE that an audit of the petition’s signatures was underway. On November 28, 2011, the chief petitioner Mr. Wasson notified LACOE of the death of one of the co-chief petitioners, Ms. Morse. Mr. Wasson stated that another chief petitioner would not be named.

Status: Petition insufficient; chief petitioners may gather additional signatures.
Status Date: December 5, 2011

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS WITHIN THE POMONA USD

On July 13, 2009, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019 and §5020 to increase the number of trustees from five to seven and to establish trustee areas within the Pomona USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Mr. Mendoza. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and
content. On August 7, 2009, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on August 11, 2009, for circulation.

Please note that this is a separate petition, distinct from the other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, and requests some of the same changes within the Pomona USD (the addition of two governing board members and the creation of trustee areas). It was submitted under EC §5019 and §5020 and requires valid signatures from ten percent of the registered voters within the petition area (approximately 7,000 signatures in the case of the Pomona USD). If valid and certified by the County Committee, this petition would trigger a ballot initiative (as opposed to a reference report and vote by the County Committee).

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: August 20, 2009

FORMATION—MALIBU USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SANTA MONICA-MALIBU USD)

Status: Petition currently in circulation.
Status Date: February 21, 2008

FORMATION—ALTADENA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PASADENA USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: May 11, 2007

FORMATION—LA MIRADA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORWALK – LA MIRADA USD)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: March 20, 2007

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN WITHIN THE POMONA USD, RETAINING THE AT-LARGE VOTING METHOD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: January 17, 2007
PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS, AND THE REQUIREMENT OF TRUSTEE AREA VOTING WITHIN THE MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CCD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: October 2, 2006

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS WITHIN THE POMONA USD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: April 11, 2006

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUSTEE AREAS, AND THE REQUIREMENT OF TRUSTEE AREA VOTING WITHIN THE MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CCD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: April 11, 2006

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN WITHIN THE MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CCD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: July 21, 2003

PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN WITHIN THE POMONA USD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: June 16, 2003

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, TO ESTABLISH TRUSTEE AREAS, AND TO REQUIRE THAT EACH GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER RESIDE IN AND BE ELECTED BY THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF EACH PARTICULAR TRUSTEE AREA WITHIN THE MOUNT SAN ANTONIO CCD

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: August 20, 2001
RECENT INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date

• Malibu USD (Santa Monica-Malibu USD)/November 2011

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

• Glendale USD to La Canada USD/May 2013
• Pasadena USD to La Canada USD/April 2013
• Temple City USD to Arcadia USD/March 2012

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

• None

Trustee Areas and Governing Board Size/Last Activity Date

• ABC USD/January 2013

This document was prepared by staff to the County Committee.