December 28, 2007

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

FROM: Daniel G. Villanueva, Secretary County Committee

SUBJECT: Regular Meeting of the County Committee-Wednesday, January 9, 2008

The next regular meeting of the County Committee will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, in the Board Room of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, located at 9300 Imperial Highway in Downey. Reserved parking will be available on the east side of the building in spaces just south of the main entrance.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting of January 9, 2008.

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

DGV/AD:mb
Attachments
The Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education in Downey. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chairperson Ms. Suzan Solomon, who called on Allison Deegan to lead the flag salute.

Members Present

Frank Bostrom
Maria Calix
Lloyd de Llamas
Owen Griffith
Joan Jakubowski
Maurice Kunkel
John Nunez
Frank Ogaz
Suzan Solomon
AJ Willmer

Members Absent

Staff Present

Danny Villanueva, Secretary
Matt Spies, Staff
Allison Deegan, Staff
Mary Bracamontes, Recording Secretary

Ms. Solomon called on Mr. Nunez, chair of the nominating committee, to provide the committee’s recommendations for chairperson and vice chairperson for 2008.

Mr. Nunez stated that the nominating committee’s recommendation for Chairperson was Mr. Bostrom and Mr. Griffith as Vice Chairperson.

It was MOVED by Mr. Willmer and SECONDED by Mr. Ogaz that the nominating committee’s recommendations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson be approved. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Bostrom immediately assumed his duties as Chairperson and Mr. Griffith as Vice Chairperson.

It was MOVED by Mr. Griffith and SECONDED by Ms. Jakubowski that the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 7, 2007, be approved. The motion CARRIED with one abstention from Mr. Ogaz.

Nominating Committee-New Officers

Motion #11

Approval of the Regular Meeting
Minutes of November 7, 2007
Motion #12
Mr. Villanueva reviewed and discussed correspondence contained in the County Committee agenda packets and member folders.

There were no members of the public to address the County Committee.

Mr. Bostrom called on Mr. Griffith, chair of the evaluating committee, to provide the committee’s evaluation report of the Secretary and staff to the County Committee.

Mr. Griffith stated that the evaluation report had not been completed because the committee had not received some of the County Committee member’s input. He then MOVED and Mr. Willmer SECONDED that the evaluation report be held over to the next regular County Committee meeting. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Bostrom stated that because agenda item VII had been held over to the next regular meeting, this agenda item did not pertain.

Mr. Villanueva provided an overview of inactive school district organization petitions and discussed staff’s proposal to streamline the reporting of these petitions.

It was MOVED by Mr. Ogaz and SECONDED by Mr. de Llamas that the County Committee accept staff’s recommendation to streamline the reporting of inactive petitions. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Ms. Calix arrived at 11:19 a.m.

Mr. Villanueva provided an update on the efforts to fill the County Committee’s vacancy in the Third Supervisory District.

Mr. Villanueva provided an overview of proposed legislation related to school district organization.

Mr. Villanueva provided an update on Los Angeles USD reorganization proposals.

Mr. Villanueva provided an update on school district reorganization proposals excluding those affecting the Los Angeles USD.
There were no additional communications, concerns, or items for the next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

:mb
DESCRIPTION OF BILL
This bill would add Article 1.5 to Chapter 4 of the Education Code and requires that unified school districts with more than 500,000 students reorganize into several smaller districts of no more than 50,000 students, by July 1, 2011. This process would take place outside the oversight of the County Committee and instead would be guided by an appointed commission funded from the budget of the original larger school district. This commission would be required to report to the legislature annually on the progress of the reorganization.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BILL ON COUNTY COMMITTEE, SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PROCESS AND/OR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
This bill would impact the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), as it is the only district meeting the threshold number of students, and would remove oversight for its reorganization from the County Committee. Because there is currently no mechanism to withdraw reorganization petitions once they are approved by the County Committee and under review by the State Board of Education (SBE), it is unclear how this bill would be applied to any petitions to transfer or unify territory within the LAUSD which are pending at the time of its adoption. If LAUSD is reorganized under this bill, it would establish a state-mandated local program that would be eligible for cost reimbursement from the state.

In addition, as a state-mandated local program, this bill would impact LACOE in that additional fiscal and administrative oversight would be required (and presumably funded) for the newly created school districts.

RECOMMENDED POSITION
Staff recommends the following position:

- **Watch** Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action should be taken at this time.
- **Approve** The County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
- **Support** The County Committee actively supports the bill.
- **Oppose** The County Committee actively opposes the bill.
- **Disapprove** The 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 Daniel Villanueva, Secretary to the County Committee, at (562) 922-6144.
BILL NUMBER/AUTHOR: Assembly Bill 180/Bass
INTRODUCTION DATE: 01/24/07
LAST ACTIVITY/DATE: 04/18/07: In Committee on Education: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

DESCRIPTION OF BILL
This bill mandates a 60-day review and decision period for the SBE for all school district organization petitions submitted for decision appeals, beginning from the date of receipt of the appeal.

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

Current law does not provide a timeline for review of school district organization petition appeals by the SBE. While this change would not impact LACOE directly, it could impact Los Angeles County districts.

Because the SBE is currently on a bimonthly meeting calendar, there is limited opportunity for school district organization petition appeals and reviews to be added to the schedule. In addition, the inclusion of environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, to which most school district organization petitions are currently subject, can necessitate extended processing and review timelines (with proper waivers) in the initial process. Any appeals reviewed by the SBE and the California Department of Education could require the same amount of extended time for CEQA.

If school districts oppose a school district organization petition appeal, they might oppose changes to SBE timelines. If districts support such a petition appeal, they might favor shortened timelines. Because each petition is different, not all go to appeal before the SBE, and LACOE (like other county offices of education) plays a neutral role in the school district organization process, acting as technical staff to the County Committee (the elected body that oversees the petition and initial review process), we would advise watching this bill at this time.

RECOMMENDED POSITION
Staff recommends the following position:

☐ Watch  Bill should be monitored by County Committee staff, but no action should be taken at this time.
☐ Approve The County Committee supports the bill’s concept, but will not actively work for passage.
☐ Support The County Committee actively supports the bill.
☐ Oppose The County Committee actively opposes the bill.
☐ Disapprove The 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 Daniel Villanueva, Secretary to the County Committee, at (562) 922-6144.
AGENDA

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

Regular Meeting

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Board Room
January 9, 2008
11:00 a.m.

I Information
D Discussion
A Action
* Sent to Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER—Chairperson Ms. Suzan Solomon

II. FLAG SALUTE—Ms. Solomon

III. NOMINATING COMMITTEE—NEW OFFICERS

The nominating committee, consisting of Mr. John Nunez (Chair),
Mr. Frank Bostrom, and Ms. Joan Jakubowski, will submit its
recommendation for chairperson and vice chairperson for 2008. The
County Committee will vote on the nominating committee’s
recommendation. The new officers will assume their duties immediately.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the County Committee, held on
November 7, 2007, will be submitted for approval.

V. COMMUNICATIONS—Secretary Mr. Danny Villanueva

Correspondence

• A November 29, 2007, letter from the California Department of
  Education regarding the scheduling of a review before the State Board of
  Education of the petition to transfer territory from the San Gabriel
  Unified School District (USD) to the San Marino USD. (Attachment 1)

Newspaper Article

• A November 29, 2007, article from the Santa Monica Daily
  Press—“District split won’t come easily.” (Attachment 2)
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. 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 Mr. Owen Griffith (Chair), Mr. Lloyd de Llamas, and Mr. A.J. Willmer, 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. REPORTING OF INACTIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION PETITIONS

The Secretary will discuss staff’s proposal for streamlining the reporting of inactive petitions. He will review the status report on outstanding petitions prepared by staff. The County Committee will vote on the reporting recommendations provided thereon.

(Attachment: “Current Open Petitions and Staff Recommendations”)

X. COUNTY COMMITTEE VACANCY IN THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT

The Secretary will provide an update on efforts to fill the vacancy in the Third Supervisiorial District.

XI. 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.
XII. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES 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”)

XIII. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY SD 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 Unified School District]”)

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT
Summary of Los Angeles Unified School District Reorganization Proposals

January 2008

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 19, 2007.

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

On May 1, 2007, the Los Angeles County Office of Education received a request to review a draft petition proposing the transfer of certain territory from the Compton USD to the Los Angeles USD. The territory is the portion of the City of Carson that is currently part of the Compton USD. The request was submitted by Ms. Linda Mann, Senior Analyst in the Office of the City Manager, City of Carson. Staff reviewed issues pertaining to the petition with Ms. Mann and she said she will submit a finalized version for review in the near future. When a petition is submitted, staff will forward it to the Office of the Los Angeles County Counsel to review its sufficiency.

Status: Final petition submission pending.
Status Date: June 26, 2007

FORMATION—HOLLYWOOD INDEPENDENT USD

Status: Petition circulating within the affected area.
Status Date: October 17, 2002.

FORMATION—NORTH AND SOUTH EAST LOS ANGELES USDS

Status: Petition circulating within the affected area.
Status Date: August 22, 2000

FORMATION—INNER CITY USD

Status: Petition circulating within the affected area; petition signature requirements updated.
Status Date: May 19, 1999

* Indicates update from previous summary.
FORMATION—GARDENA VALLEY USD

Status: Petition circulating within the affected area; petition signature requirements updated.

Status Date: May 19, 1999

OTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last six months)

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

None

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

None

* Indicates update from previous summary.
Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals  
(excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District)

January 2008

The following is a summary of school district reorganization proposals (exclusive of those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District [USD]) that were at various stages in the school district reorganization process as of December 19, 2007.

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER CERTAIN TERRITORY FROM THE SAN GABRIEL USD TO THE SAN MARINO USD

On July 1, 2005, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) received a request for a petition pursuant to Education Code (EC) §35700(a) to transfer certain territory from the San Gabriel USD to the San Marino USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Mr. Mike Bagheri. On July 7, 2005, staff forwarded the petition to the Office of the Los Angeles County Counsel (County Counsel) to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On July 11, 2005, County Counsel notified staff of the petition’s sufficiency and it was forwarded to the chief petitioner for circulation on July 12, 2005.

On July 25, 2005, the chief petitioner submitted a one part petition to LACOE and it was forwarded to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (Registrar-Recorder) for signature verification on July 28, 2005. On August 5, 2005, the Registrar-Recorder certified that the petition contained 13 valid signatures, representing 72 percent of the registered voters within the area. Staff presented the petition to the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) at its regular meeting on September 19, 2005. Requests For Information (RFIs) were requested from and received by the chief petitioner, San Marino USD, and San Gabriel USD. Staff completed a feasibility study regarding this petition.

Public hearings were held in both districts on November 7, 2005. At its regular meeting on March 1, 2006, staff presented the feasibility study and the County Committee voted to disapprove the petition. On March 5, 2006, the chief petitioner filed a Notice of Appeal, stating that his rationale would be forthcoming. On March 20, 2006, the chief petitioner submitted his rationale for appeal and the request was forwarded to the State Board of Education (SBE) for review, along with copies of relevant documents from the petition file.

*Status: Appeal review scheduled before the SBE on March 12-13, 2008.

Status Date: December 19, 2007

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER CERTAIN TERRITORY FROM THE INGLEWOOD USD TO THE CULVER CITY USD

* Indicates update from previous summary.
On February 3, 2005, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §35700(a) to transfer certain territory from the Inglewood USD to the Culver City USD. The request was submitted by chief petitioners Ms. Ronni Cooper, Dr. Allan Boodnick, and Mr. Bud Raymond, representing the Ladera Heights Civic Association (LHCA). On February 10, 2005, staff forwarded the petition to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On February 15, 2005, County Counsel notified staff of the petition’s sufficiency and it was forwarded to the chief petitioners for circulation on February 18, 2005. On February 23, 2005, Inglewood USD Superintendent Dr. Pamela Short-Powell requested information on the transfer of territory process and the County Committee. Requested information was forwarded to Dr. Short-Powell on that same day. On May 25, 2005, LACOE received a letter from Dr. Boodnick of the LHCA requesting that Mr. Raymond be replaced with Ms. Cheryl Cook as one of the chief petitioners.

On June 20, 2005, chief petitioners submitted a 106 part petition to LACOE and it was forwarded to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification on the same day. On July 14, 2005, the Registrar-Recorder certified that the petition contained 1,655 valid signatures, representing 28 percent of the registered voters within the area. Staff presented the petition to the County Committee at its regular meeting on August 3, 2005. RFIs were forwarded to and returned by both school districts and the chief petitioners. Staff began work on a feasibility study following receipt of the RFIs.

On September 19, 2005, public hearings were convened in both the Inglewood USD and the Culver City USD. Due to overcapacity attendance at both hearings, they were adjourned and rescheduled at larger facilities. On October 1, 2005, public hearings were held at auditorium facilities within the Culver City USD (Culver City High School) and the Inglewood USD (Morningside High School). Following the public hearings, staff continued work on the feasibility study.

At its November 2, 2005, meeting, the County Committee discussed the possibility of obtaining a timeline waiver from the SBE for an additional 24 months if needed to address the environmental concerns related to this petition. The County Committee decided to proceed with its past practice and timeline and to complete the feasibility study for the January 2006 review. However, they elected to request that the LACOE Board of Education (Board) submit the waiver (as is required under the Education Code) just in case it is necessary to complete the feasibility study.

The LACOE Board reviewed the waiver request at its regular meeting on November 15, 2005, and approved forwarding the request to the SBE. The SBE reviewed the waiver request at its January 11-12, 2006, meeting and approved it. On January 18, 2006, several members of the County Committee toured the Frank Parent Elementary School, located adjacent to the petition area in the Inglewood USD.

At its January 18, 2006, meeting, the County Committee reviewed the feasibility study completed for them by Dr. Michael Winters, Caldwell Flores Winters, Inc., heard presentations from the chief petitioners and the Inglewood USD, and received input from members of the public. The County Committee voted to disapprove the petition.

On January 26, 2006, the chief petitioners submitted a Notice of Appeal to the SBE, and submitted their appeal request on February 7, 2006. Staff assembled the petition record as required under EC §35710.5 and forwarded it to the SBE.

* Indicates update from previous summary.
Status: Appeal scheduled before the SBE on November 7, 2007, was delayed; rescheduling pending.

Status Date: November 9, 2007

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

On April 17, 2007, LACOE received a request for a petition from chief petitioners Mr. Steve Lamb and Mr. Justin Chapman, two 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. Staff reviewed the request and forwarded a draft petition to County Counsel on April 20, 2007, for a legal compliance review regarding format and content. Staff received notification on April 26, 2007, from County Counsel that the draft petition was legally acceptable.

The petition was mailed to the chief petitioners on April 30, 2007, for circulation within the petition area. Please note that this is a different petition from the one previously requested in March 2006 to form an Altadena USD. This petition retains the same petition area (as identified in the previous petition and refined in a map developed by the Registrar-Recorder) and rationale as the one submitted previously, but it was submitted by a different group of petitioners. Regarding this petition area, the Registrar-Recorder has previously estimated that approximately 7,000 valid signatures will be necessary in order to meet the criteria set forth in EC §35700(a).

Upon receipt of the signed petitions, staff will forward them to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. If the petitions contain a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee and commence a feasibility study.

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: May 11, 2007

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

On May 16, 2001, LACOE received a request from the Citizens for a Wiseburn Unified School District organization to prepare a petition (25 percent of the registered voters) proposing to form a Wiseburn USD from existing territory of the Wiseburn SD. The proposed formation territory currently lies within the boundaries of the Centinela Valley Union High SD. The petition was provided to the chief petitioners on June 20, 2001.

On November 9, 2001, the chief petitioners submitted a signed petition to the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) to determine if the petition was sufficient and signed as required by law pursuant to EC §35700(a). In accordance with EC §35704, the County Superintendent found the petition to be sufficient and signed as required by law on December 4, 2001. On December 5, 2001, the petition was presented to the County Committee at its regular meeting and transmitted to the SBE. Pursuant to EC §35705, a public hearing was conducted within the Wiseburn SD

* Indicates update from previous summary.
and Centinela Valley Union High SD on January 23, 2002, at Richard Henry Dana Middle School in the Wiseburn SD.

At its regular meeting on March 6, 2002, the County Committee was presented with a preliminary feasibility report concerning this proposal. The final feasibility report was presented to the County Committee at its regular meeting on May 1, 2002. At that meeting, the County Committee recommended approval and took action to recommend approval of the proposal to the SBE to form a Wiseburn USD from the existing boundaries of the Wiseburn SD within the Centinela Valley Union High SD. The County Committee further recommended that the election area be the entire Centinela Valley Union High SD.

The County Committee’s plans and recommendations were transmitted to the SBE and the California Department of Education (CDE) on June 18, 2002. On June 19, 2003, the CDE requested additional statistical information from the impacted districts and notified LACOE staff that the petition would be heard in November 2003.

On September 2, 2003, the CDE notified LACOE that the petition hearing before the SBE would be delayed until January 7-8, 2004. The CDE cited budget constraints and staff cutbacks as reasons for the hearing delay. On December 1, 2003, the CDE notified LACOE of a second delay for the petition hearing before the SBE, postponing it until March 10-11, 2004. The CDE cited current state fiscal circumstances as the reason for the further delay. On January 21, 2004, the CDE notified LACOE of a third delay for the petition hearing before the SBE, postponing it until May 12-13, 2004. On April 16, 2004, the CDE notified LACOE that the petition hearing would be held on May 13, 2004.

On April 27, 2004, LACOE received a copy of the CDE’s final feasibility study. On April 29, 2004, LACOE received notice from the CDE that the petition hearing had been delayed indefinitely at the request of the Wiseburn SD. Subsequently, the Wiseburn SD requested that the SBE hear the petition, along with its request for two waivers. A hearing was scheduled for July 7, 2004. On July 7, 2004, staff was notified by the CDE that the Wiseburn SD had once again withdrawn its petition for consideration before the SBE.

On August 31, 2004, staff received notice that Ms. Karen Steentoft, Chief Counsel for the SBE, recommended that certain waivers submitted with the Wiseburn USD petition could be determined by the SBE at the time of the hearing. Subsequently, the CDE rescheduled the petition to be heard before the SBE on September 9, 2004.

On September 9, 2004, staff attended the SBE hearing. CDE staff recommended that the SBE adopt the proposal approving the petition to form a Wiseburn USD and to set the election area as the area of the Wiseburn SD only on the condition that the property owners within the Wiseburn SD retain current levels of responsibility for repayment of existing bonded indebtedness of the Centinela Valley Union High SD upon successful formation of a Wiseburn USD. The SBE voted unanimously to approve the proposal and established that territory within the Wiseburn SD be the area of election.

Statutory requirements provide that, following approval by the SBE, an election shall be called on the next available regular election date (March 8, 2005) in the territory determined by the SBE.

On October 19, 2004, at the direction of the SBE, the County Superintendent forwarded an order for

* Indicates update from previous summary.
special election to the Registrar-Recorder office, to be held in conjunction with the March 8, 2005, regular election. A ballot measure to approve or disapprove the formation of a Wiseburn USD and to elect a governing board will be placed before the electorate. The election will be held within the boundaries of the proposed Wiseburn USD. Should the electorate approve the proposal, the new district could become effective July 1, 2006.

On November 1, 2004, staff received a copy of a lawsuit filed by the Centinela Valley Union High SD against the SBE, seeking to vacate approval of Wiseburn SD’s petition to unify based on lack of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations. On November 18, 2004, staff received a copy of a second lawsuit filed in this matter, citing flaws in the legality of the SBE’s decisions and naming additional parties, including the County Committee as defendants. The Centinela Valley Union High SD, Wiseburn SD, and SBE began negotiations to delay the election in order to revisit the issues underlying the petition and subsequent lawsuits. The SBE requested that the County Superintendent delay the election to allow for this negotiation process to run its course. Staff consulted with County Counsel and was advised that neither the County Superintendent nor the SBE could order a delay of the election.

On Friday, December 10, 2004, in the case of Centinela Valley Union High SD (Petitioners) vs. the SBE, the Los Angeles Superior Court issued a preliminary injunction barring the conduct of the election regarding the formation of the Wiseburn USD on March 8, 2005. The Petitioners also contacted the court and requested that the Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Injunction) scheduled for December 13, 2004, vs. the County Committee and County Superintendent, be taken off the calendar. The Petitioners will consult with the court’s clerk to re-schedule. This was done because the Petitioners received the Injunction that day. A hearing on the motion was scheduled for March 30, 2005. Staff received notice from County Counsel that both the County Committee and the County Superintendent were dropped as parties to the lawsuit in which they were named.

On January 6, 2005, County Counsel met with the County Committee in closed session to discuss the lawsuit. Later at the same meeting, Dr. Don Brann, Superintendent of Wiseburn SD, appeared before the County Committee to inform them that the SBE would withdraw its approval of the petition, pending a negotiation with petitioners and attorneys for Centinela Valley Union High SD. On January 13, 2005, the CDE withdrew its approval of the Wiseburn USD petition and its request that an election be ordered. Staff at the CDE have informed us that they intend to redo the review process related to CEQA and to return the petition to the SBE for action (not to the County Committee).

On March 13, 2007, the California Department of General Services issued a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, under CEQA. The CDE held a CEQA scoping hearing on March 28, 2007, within the Wiseburn SD. Staff attended this meeting. A comment period was set by the SBE for March 13, 2007, to April 12, 2007. On April 24, 2007, staff was notified by the SBE that the CEQA comment period had been extended to May 15, 2007, due to a request made at the scoping hearing. Staff will keep the County Committee apprised of any additional developments.

Status: Petition under review by the SBE.

Status Date: May 11, 2007

* Indicates update from previous summary.
FORMATION—LA MIRADA USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORWALK – LA MIRADA USD)

On February 15, 2007, Ms. Dayna Kruger, chief petitioner, requested a petition to form a La Mirada USD, from territory currently within the Norwalk–La Mirada USD, pursuant to EC §35700(a). With her request, the chief petitioner submitted a territory description and map that were not sufficient. Staff conferred with her and advised her to consult with the Registrar-Recorder to determine with specificity which territory was within or outside the proposed petition area. On March 13, 2007, the chief petitioner submitted an amended petition with a new description and map. This petition was deemed sufficient by County Counsel and forwarded to the chief petitioner for circulation on March 20, 2007.

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: March 20, 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 COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (CCD)

On December 7, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019(a) and (c) to increase the number of trustees from five to seven, to establish trustee areas, and to require trustee area voting, within the Mount San Antonio CCD. The request was submitted by chief petitioner Mr. John Mendoza. The petition was forwarded to County Counsel to determine its legal compliance regarding format and content. On January 11, 2007, County Counsel notified staff that the petition was sufficient. On January 17, 2007, the petition was forwarded to the chief petitioner for circulation.

Please note that this is an additional petition, separate from other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, although it requests the same changes within the Mount San Antonio CCD (the addition of two governing board members and the creation of trustee areas with trustee area voting).

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: January 17, 2007

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

On December 7, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019(a) and (c) to increase the number of trustees from five to seven within the Pomona USD, retaining the at-large voting method. 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 January 11, 2007, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on January 17, 2007, for circulation.

Please note that this is an additional petition, separate from other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, some of which request the addition of two governing board members and some of which request the creation of trustee areas.

* Indicates update from previous summary.
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

On September 20, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019(a) and (c) to increase the number of trustees from five to seven, to establish trustee areas, and to require trustee area voting, within the Mount San Antonio CCD. 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 September 29, 2006, County Counsel notified staff that the petition was sufficient. On October 2, 2006, the petition was forwarded to the chief petitioner for circulation.

Please note that this is a separate petition, distinct from the other petitions requested by Mr. Mendoza, although it requests the same changes within the Mount San Antonio CCD (the addition of two governing board members and the creation of trustee areas with trustee area voting).

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

On March 21, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5020 and §5030 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 March 23, 2006, County Counsel deemed the petition sufficient. Staff returned the petition to the chief petitioner on April 11, 2006, 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 §5020 and §5030 and requires valid signatures from ten percent of the registered voters within the petition area (approximately 6,000 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: April 11, 2006

* Indicates update from previous summary.
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

On March 21, 2006, LACOE received a request for a petition pursuant to EC §5019(a) and (c) to increase the number of trustees from five to seven, to establish trustee areas, and to require trustee area voting, within the Mount San Antonio CCD. 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 March 23, 2006, County Counsel notified staff that the petition was sufficient. On March 28, 2006, the petition was forwarded to the chief petitioner for circulation.

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: April 11, 2006

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).

Upon receipt of the signed petitions, staff will forward them to the Registrar-Recorder for signature verification. If the petitions contain a sufficient number of valid signatures, staff will present the petition to the County Committee and commence a feasibility study.

Status: Petition in circulation.

Status Date: March 21, 2006

* Indicates update from previous summary.
FORMATTION—LAWNDALE USD (BOUNDARIES COTERMINOUS WITH THE LAWNDALE SD AND CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SD)

On December 16, 2004, LACOE received a citizen’s request to examine a prepared petition pursuant to EC §35700(a) for accuracy and legal content. The petition proposes to form a Lawndale USD from the territory of the Lawndale SD (which also lies within the Centinela Valley Union High SD). The petition was forwarded to County Counsel for examination on December 20, 2004. County Counsel approved the petition and it was forwarded to the chief petitioners for circulation on January 7, 2005.

On March 18, 2005, Dr. Joseph Condon, Superintendent of Lawndale SD, met with LACOE staff to discuss the financial implications of a Lawndale USD on Lawndale SD and other school districts included within the Centinela Valley Union High SD (Hawthorne SD, Lennox SD, and Wiseburn SD). Staff fielded a number of questions forwarded by Dr. Condon from the Lawndale SD governing board. On March 21, 2005, Dr. Condon submitted a letter requesting further information. On April 5, 2005, Mr. Danny Villanueva, secretary and staff to the County Committee, made a presentation to the Lawndale SD governing board regarding the school district organization process. On April 18, 2005, staff sent a letter to Dr. Condon responding to his questions from the governing board on the fiscal implications of unification.

Status: Petition currently in circulation.

Status Date: April 20, 2005

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

On September 9, 2004, staff received a request for petition from a community group in Malibu. The group proposes to form a Malibu USD from territory currently within the Santa Monica-Malibu USD and in unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County. A final petition was approved by County Counsel and returned to petitioners for circulation to gather signatures from within the petition area.

Status: Petition currently in circulation.

Status Date: October 13, 2004

FORMATTION—SIGNAL HILL USD (CURRENTLY LIES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LONG BEACH USD)

Status: Petition circulating to collect additional signatures to append the original petition to meet the 25 percent requirement.

Status Date: August 20, 2003

* Indicates update from previous summary.
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 TRANSFER CERTAIN TERRITORY FROM THE BELLFLOWER USD TO THE ABC USD

Status: Insufficient number of signatures on petition; petition returned to chief petitioner.
Status Date: October 22, 2002

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

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

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: June 28, 2001

FORMATION—CANYON COUNTRY USD (CURRENTLY PART OF THE SULPHUR SPRINGS AND SAUGUS UNION SDs)

Status: Petition in circulation.
Status Date: October 18, 2000

* Indicates update from previous summary.
Summary of Los Angeles County School District Reorganization Proposals
(excluding those affecting the Los Angeles Unified School District)
January 2008
Page 11

OTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING REORGANIZATION (within the last six months)

Unification Proposals/Last Activity Date

* Malibu USD—December 2007

Transfer of Territory Proposals/Last Activity Date

* Lawndale SD—Wiseburn SD/December 2007
  Hawthorne SD—Wiseburn SD/October 2007
  Pasadena USD—San Marino USD/October 2007

Formation Proposals/Last Activity Date

None

* Indicates update from previous summary.