

NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE: Public Hearing – California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and Elections Code (EC) 10010.	MEETING DATE: April 15, 2019 AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4.a. through 4.f.
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Conduct a second public hearing to receive public input on the composition of new voting districts (zones) to be established and the transition to by-district (zone) elections, and provide direction to District Counsel, Consultant, and staff, if any.	
SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION: <p>The District recently became aware of a number of California public agencies who are transitioning (or intend to transition) to an electoral district based election system under the provisions of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (“CVRA”).</p> <p>The District reviewed its options under the CVRA, as well as relevant trends and case law on litigation enforcing CVRA provisions in the adoption of by district elections by other California public agencies. Upon its review, the District concluded that compliance with the CVRA and the adoption of a by-district (or “zone”) election system is consistent with its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness in its role as a provider of public services.</p> <p>Accordingly, at the District Board Meeting of April 1, 2019, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 3131 declaring its intent to voluntarily transition to by-district (or “zone”) elections.</p> <p>Pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10010, the Board is required to hold at least five public hearings in connection with the establishment of districts (zones). Two hearings must be held before any map or maps of district (zone) boundaries are drawn. These initial hearings provide an opportunity for the public to give input on the criteria for and composition of the proposed districts (zones). The first public hearing was held at a regular Board meeting on April 8, 2019, where the Board unanimously also adopted a Timeline for Consideration and Implementation of By-District Elections (“Timeline”), (Attachment 1).</p> <p>Today’s meeting is the second of the two initial public hearings. Two additional hearings will be held after the proposed district (zone) maps are drawn. These hearings will give the public an opportunity to react to and provide input on specific proposed district (zone) boundary lines as well as on any proposed sequencing of elections.</p> <p>A final (fifth) public hearing will be held in connection with the Board’s adoption of an ordinance establishing by-district (zone) elections.</p> <p>District Counsel and Q2 Demographer Karin Mac Donald will be present at the above hearings to lead the discussions and answer questions.</p> <p>Note that the Timeline of Attachment 1 provides a best-case scenario, and may change if circumstances dictate.</p>	
ATTACHMENTS: 1. Timeline for Consideration and Implementation of By-District Elections.	
STRATEGIC PLAN INFORMATION: This item addresses Goal 3 (Board District and Community Alignment and Communications) of the latest Strategic Plan Update.	
DEPT. MGR.: RD, SSK	GENERAL MANAGER: SSK