

NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE: Public Hearing – California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and Elections Code (EC) 10010.	MEETING DATE: May 6, 2019 AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5.a. through 5.f.
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Conduct a third public hearing to receive public input on draft district (zone) maps and election sequencing, and the transition to by-district (zone) elections, and provide direction to District Counsel, Consultant, and staff, if any.	
SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION: <p>At a special Board meeting on April 1, 2019, the District committed to transition its Board elections from an “at-large” to an electoral district based election system under the provisions of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (“CVRA”). Accordingly, at that meeting, 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).</p> <p>The first public hearing was held at a regular Board meeting on April 8, 2019, where the Board unanimously also adopted a schedule of public hearings and related events (“Timeline”, Attachment 1). The second hearing was held at a special meeting on April 15, 2019 to receive input on district (zone) composition and preference for zone lines.</p> <p>Today’s meeting is the third of the five public hearings. Demographers from the District’s demographic consultant Q² Data & Research LLC (Q²) will lead the discussion and an interactive live map-drawing session. Q² has prepared a Draft Zone Map (Attachment 2) which was published on April 29, 2019. The public will have an opportunity to react to that draft and provide input on specific proposed district (zone) boundary lines as well as on any proposed sequencing of elections. The resulting draft map or maps will be posted on the District’s website following the hearing and publicized prior to a fourth public hearing on May 28, 2019. Notice of tonight’s hearing, in both English and Spanish, has been posted on the District’s website and distributed at various sites within its service area. Spanish translation will also be available at the meeting.</p> <p>It is expected that a district (zone) election ordinance will be adopted at the Board’s June 10, 2019 regular meeting. The public is welcome to participate in the process by drawing district lines and submitting proposed district maps. However, the CVRA requires that all District draft district (zone) maps must be available to the public seven days prior to their consideration at a public hearing. The final selected map must also be published seven days prior to adoption by the Board. Attachment 1 provides a schedule of public hearing and related events. Note that this schedule provides a best-case scenario, and may change as needed or as circumstances dictate.</p>	
ATTACHMENTS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timeline for Consideration and Implementation of By-District Elections. 2. Novato Sanitary District Draft Zones Map A. 3. Draft Zone Demographics – Map A. 	
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

3220401.1