

NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE: Public Hearing – California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and Elections Code (EC) 10010.	MEETING DATE: May 28, 2019 AGENDA ITEM NO.: 5.a. through 5.g.
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Conduct a fourth public hearing to receive public input on draft district (division) maps and election sequencing, and the transition to by-district (division) 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 (EC) 10010, the Board is required to hold at least five public hearings in connection with the establishment of electoral districts. Attachment 1 provides a schedule of public hearings and related events. Note that this schedule provides a best-case scenario, and may change as needed or as circumstances dictate. Two hearings must be held before any map or maps of electoral district boundaries are drawn. These initial hearings provide an opportunity for the public to give input on the criteria for and composition of the proposed electoral districts.</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 electoral district composition and preference for electoral district lines, and resulted in Draft Zone Map A (published April 29, 2019 - see Attachment 2). The third hearing was held on May 6, 2019 at a special meeting, and resulted in a change of terminology for electoral districts from “zones” to “divisions”, the generation of Draft Divisions Map B, and the proposed election sequencing noted therein.</p> <p>Today’s meeting is the fourth of the five public hearings. The goals of tonight’s meeting are to review and comment on proposed Ordinance No. 121 establishing by-district elections; receive additional public comment on the proposed by-district boundary lines, election sequencing, and the draft Ordinance; consider other submitted maps (if any); and select a final by-district map and election sequence. The selected final map and draft Ordinance will be posted to the District’s website following the hearing, and publicized, to meet the 7-day publication requirement of the CVRA, prior to a fifth public hearing on June 10, 2019. Notice of tonight’s hearing, in 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 Ordinance No. 121 will be adopted at the Board’s June 10, 2019 regular meeting.</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, and Draft Zone Demographics – Map A. 3. Novato Sanitary District Draft Divisions Map B, and Draft Division Demographics – Map B. 4. Draft Ordinance No. 121: Establishing an Electoral District-based System for Novato Sanitary District. 	
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

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