



October 7, 2021

**TO:** LOCSD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager  
Laura Durban, Administrative Services Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 2A- 10/07/2021 Board Meeting**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community Regarding  
the Creation of District Based Election System

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### **DESCRIPTION**

At the August 5, 2021 and September 2, 2021 Board meetings, the first two meetings of a series of public hearings were held regarding transitioning to by-area elections by November 2022. At those meetings, the District's consultant, Cooperative Strategies, provided an overview of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and the legal requirements in the law. They also outlined the considerations the community should take into account when establishing the area boundaries. This is the third Public Hearing to review the 2020 census data and prospective area boundary scenarios.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The staff recommends that the Board take the following actions:

1. Receive a presentation on the prospective voting areas boundary scenarios;
2. Conduct a public hearing to receive public input on voting area boundaries; and
3. Provide Board input regarding voting area boundary scenarios for consideration at the November 4, 2021 Public Hearing.

### **DISCUSSION**

On January 7, 2021, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2021-01 declaring its intention to transition from at-large to division-based elections for the Board of Directors commencing with the General Election in November 2022. Elections Code Section 10010 provides that before any map or maps of the boundaries for the proposed areas are drawn, the District must conduct two (2) Public Hearings over a period of no more than thirty (30) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of said area boundaries. Those meetings were held on August 5 and September 2, 2021. This is the third Public Hearing to review the 2020 census data and prospective area boundary scenarios.

The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered while drafting the voting area maps based on the 2020 census data. A *community of interest* is a neighborhood or group that would benefit from being in the same area because of shared interests, views, or characteristics. Considerations in establishing the voting areas are but not limited to:

- Each area shall contain nearly equal number of inhabitants
- Drawn to comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act
- Compact and contiguous, as much as possible
- Respect communities of interest, as much as possible
- Follow man-made and natural geographic features, as much as possible
- Respect incumbency, if possible
- Any other local considerations

#### *Next Steps*

- The District is scheduled to conduct a fourth Public Hearing to continue the public discussion of the draft voting area scenarios on November 4, 2021.
- The District is scheduled to conduct the fifth and final Public Hearing on December 2, 2021 to consider the change to the by-area election method and to select and adopt a preferred voting area map.
- District staff and the demographer will then work with the County Elections Office to have the division maps integrated into the countywide voting system. The first by-division election will be held in November 2022.

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact beyond the executed contract with Cooperative Strategies and the noticing cost for the Public Hearing associated with recommended action in this report.

#### **Attachment**

Map Scenarios