

# AB 2455 (Williams)

## The Santa Rita Hills Community Services District

### SUMMARY

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AB 2455 temporarily authorizes the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District (SRHCSD) to reduce the membership of their board of directors from five to three members.

### BACKGROUND

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Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need. Community Services Districts (CSD) provide different services, such as water, garbage collection, wastewater management, etc. CSD's are typically governed by a five member board of directors and are elected by resident voters to four year terms.

The Santa Rita Hills Community Services District is a "roads" district formed in 2009 by a registered voter election, which included property owners registered to vote in the district. It was created to serve a small community of Santa Rita Hills which consists of 39 parcels in Santa Barbara County.

The power and responsibilities granted to the SRHCSD include the act to acquire, construct, improve and maintain streets, roads, bridges and sidewalks. Any road improvements or infrastructure constructed by the District must relate to the authorized services and any significant costs for construction will be financed by benefit assessments approved by landowners within the District.

### NEED FOR THE BILL

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Under current law, eligibility for membership on the board of directors is restricted to "a voter of the district." However, because much of the district is comprised of parcels of land, there are only between 10-12 actual voters residing in the district, some of which are in the process of moving outside the district. Additionally, Santa Barbara County currently has a restriction that prohibits new residences from being built in the district until upgrades in road access is provided, thereby limiting the potential for new registered voters within the district.

At present day, the board currently has one vacancy and consists of only four members. Additional vacancies are expected in the near future leaving the board in a situation where they may lose quorum to conduct business.

AB 2455 recognizes this dilemma and temporarily reduces the size of their board until the current requirements can be more easily met in the future – once the roads are improved and property owners are allowed to build their residences.

This bill would sunset January 1, 2035.

### SUPPORT

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- Santa Rita Hills Community Services District (Sponsor)

### OPPOSITION

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- The Cargasacchi Family

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Sara Arce  
Office of Assemblymember Das Williams  
(916) 319-2037  
[sara.arce@asm.ca.gov](mailto:sara.arce@asm.ca.gov)