



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Clerk, Recorder and
Assessor
Department No.: 062
For Agenda Of: 8/19/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Joseph E. Holland
Director(s) Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Contact Info: Billie Alvarez, Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters- 568-2203

SUBJECT: **Goleta West Sanitary District Requesting Consolidation with the Statewide
General Election – Change to Even-Numbered Years**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors approve the request of the Goleta West Sanitary District (resolution attached) to consolidate their district election with the Statewide General Election.

Summary Text:

In accordance with Section 10404 of the Elections Code, the Goleta West Sanitary District submitted a resolution to move their Board of Directors Election from the odd-numbered year to the even-numbered year and consolidate it with the Statewide General Election. The Board of Supervisors must consider the request and approve it by March 8, 2009, if provisions stated in the Elections Code Section 10404(b) (2) are met. Should the Board of Supervisors approve this request the Goleta West Sanitary District will be consolidated with the Statewide General Election beginning on November 2, 2010, and continuing each even-numbered year thereafter. The Clerk, Recorder and Assessor's office supports this request as impacts associated with this consolidation are reasonable and there could be some financial gains for the district. The elections staff, and vendors who assist them in conducting these elections, will be able to implement this decision and effectively complete the tasks necessary to consolidate this Special District on the ballot for the Statewide General Election.

Background: The following information provides an historical perspective on the transition of districts from odd to even numbered year elections. In 1985 twenty-two of twenty-four school districts moved their election from the odd-numbered years (UDEL Election) to the even-numbered years (General Election). Santa Barbara High and Cuyama school districts moved their election in 1987 and 1989. By the UDEL Election in 1991 all school districts had moved. When all the school districts moved the election costs for the special districts increased. Several of the special districts contacted our office inquiring about the process for moving their election. In 1998 our office held a seminar for the special districts providing information and explaining the steps for moving their elections. By 1999 sixteen of the twenty-four special districts had transitioned to the even-numbered year. In April of 2005 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved requests from five of the remaining special districts to change the date of their board of director elections, the Carpinteria Sanitary, Carpinteria Valley Water, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection, Cuyama Community Services and the Orcutt Fire Protection Districts. With this action the only district remaining on the odd-numbered year will be the Goleta Sanitary District.

The California Elections Code, Section 10404 authorizes Special Districts, who elect members of their board of directors in the odd-numbered years, to submit a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors requesting the election of their directors be moved to the even-numbered year to consolidate with the Statewide General Election. The Goleta West Sanitary District made such a request on July 22nd 2008. Additionally, Elections Code, Sub-sections 10404 (c), (f), and (g) (1), requires that the Board of Supervisors notify all districts located in the county of the receipt of the resolution to consolidate and request input from each district on the effect of the consolidation; (2) the voters of the affected district be noticed by mail; and (3) a public notice be posted that describes the proceedings. Finally, Elections Code 10404, Sub-section (d) requires that the County Elections Official prepare and submit to the Board of Supervisors an impact analysis of the Consolidation (Impact Analysis follows).

Impact Analysis:

In accordance with Section 10404 of the Elections Code, on July 22nd 2008, the Goleta West Sanitary District approved a resolution to consolidate their Board of Directors Election with the Statewide General Election. The Board of Supervisors must consider this request and approve it by March 8, 2009, if provisions stated in E.C. Section 10404(b) (2) are met. If the Board approves the resolution, the District Board of Directors Election for the district will be consolidated with the Statewide General Election each even-numbered year.

Criteria For Denial Of Consolidation:

Your Board may deny this request in accordance with Elections Code Section 10404(e), if you find that the ballot style, voting equipment or computer capacity prevent the handling of additional elections or material. None of these issues present a problem in our county. Also, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10404(h), if a special district is located in more than one county, it may not consolidate if any county in which the district is located denies the request for consolidation. This district is located entirely within Santa Barbara County; therefore this section does not apply.

Impacts Upon County Elections:

The move of this special district will create an additional ballot type and within a precinct for the statewide General Election. The majority of the special districts have already moved their election therefore this consolidation will have a minimal impact upon county elections personnel and the elections process.

Impacts Upon Districts Remaining in the odd-numbered year:

As elections costs are divided proportionately among the districts that come to election, if this move is approved the result will be an increase in costs for the district that still goes to election in November of the odd-numbered years. The Goleta Sanitary District has been notified of the Goleta West Sanitary District’s request to move their Board of Directors election. The Goleta Sanitary District has been given the option to move their election to the even-numbered year and is fully aware that the move of Goleta West Sanitary District will increase the cost of their election held in odd-numbered years.

Impacts Upon the Special District Requesting the Move:

Board of Directors Terms of Office: Pursuant to Elections Code 10404(i), the consolidation extends the term of the current Board of Directors by one year, which may or may not create an issue with the voters of the district.

Election Costs: There will be significant cost savings to Goleta West Sanitary District by moving their election to the Statewide General Election. Generally speaking, the cost to a jurisdiction is less in a General Election than it is for a Unified District Election. This lower cost results from having a smaller proportional share of the cost due to a significantly higher number of state, federal, school district, and special district issues that are on a General Election ballot.

One-Time Cost: Additionally, Section 10404(f) requires the district to pay the cost of notifying the voters of the consolidation. The estimated cost to prepare, process and deliver this notice to the voters is listed below:

District	Registered Voters	Cost
Goleta West Sanitary District	16,338	\$6,464.30

Higher Voter Turnout: Another impact on the district will be exposure of their candidates and issues to an increased voter registration and higher voter turnout. Traditionally, General Elections attract more voter interest and greater voter participation. The district should expect a voter turnout of nearly double that of the Unified District Election. District candidates and their board of directors should take this fact into account when planning campaign strategies and outreach programs.

Competition For Attention: Not only will special district candidates be exposed to greater voter turnout during the General Election, they will, also, be competing for exposure with the more glamorous political figures i.e. Presidential Candidates, Congressional Candidates, Gubernatorial Candidates, and a host of

other state and county officials, state propositions and county measures. The special district will find their issues near the end of the ballot that has contests printed on both the front and back of the card.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Fiscal Impacts are addressed in the Impact Analysis above.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

No significant staffing impacts.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a copy of the Minute Order to the Elections Office, Attn: Billie Alvarez.

Attachments:

Goleta West Sanitary District Resolution of the Board of Directors to consolidate with the Statewide General Election.

Authored by:

Billie Alvarez

cc:

Joseph e. Holland, Clerk Recorder and Assessor
Jim McClure, Asst. Clerk Recorder and Assessor
Rose Rodarte, Dept. Fiscal Manager