



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: 2/20/07  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Joseph E. Holland  
Director(s) Clerk, Recorder and Assessor  
Contact Info: Billie Alvarez, Elections Division Manager - 568-2203

SUBJECT: **Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District Requesting Consolidation with the Statewide General Election – Change to Even-Numbered Years**

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**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 Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District (resolution attached) for consolidation with the Statewide General Election.

**Summary Text:**

In accordance with Section 10404 of the Elections Code, the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement 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 11, 2007, if provisions stated in the Elections Code Section 10404(e) are met. Should the Board of Supervisors approve this request the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District will be consolidated with the Statewide General Election beginning on November 4, 2008, 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. With this action the Carpinteria Sanitary, Carpinteria Valley Water, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection, Cuyama Community Services and the Orcutt Fire Protection Districts consolidated their board of director elections with the statewide General Election held in the even numbered year. The districts remaining on the odd-numbered year were the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement, the Goleta Sanitary, and the Goleta West Sanitary Districts.

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 Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District made such a request on January 8, 2007. 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 January 8, 2007, the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District submitted 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 11, 2007, if provisions stated in E.C. Section 10404(e) are met. If the Board approves the resolutions, the District Board of Directors Election for these districts 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 more multiple ballot types 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 two districts that still go to election in November of the 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 a significant cost savings to this district by moving their election to the statewide General Election. Generally speaking, the cost to a jurisdiction is less for a General Election than it is for a Unified District Election. This is because of the number of state and federal issues that are included on each General Election ballot and the districts will share the elections cost with the school districts and twenty two other special districts.

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:

<b>District</b>	<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District	361	\$550

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. This fact could affect their effort to address district issues to the voters, since voter attention could be focused on other high profile issues. To compound the challenge, 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. The length and complexity of the ballot can influence the voter's mind set and attention span by the time they review the district candidates and issues.

**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: Suzanne Jackson.

**Attachments:**

Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District Resolution of the Board of Directors to consolidate with the Statewide General Election

**Authored by:**

Billie Alvarez

**cc:**