



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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: November 5, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: NA
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Call, Provide for and Give Notice of a Mailed Ballot Election for the Formation of the San Antonio Basin Water District and Electing Initial Board of Directors of the District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Elections Division, Clerk, Recorder,
Assessor's Department

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Adopt a Resolution In the Matter of Calling, Providing For and Giving Notice of a Mailed Ballot Election on April 7, 2020 for the Purposes of Determining Whether the LAFCO Order Approving the Formation of the San Antonio Basin Water District Shall Be Confirmed and Electing the Initial Board of Directors of the District; and
- b. Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

On July 11, 2019, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved the formation of the San Antonio Basin Water District subject to an election of property owners. A map (Exhibit E) and LAFCO Resolutions (Exhibits C & D) are provided for your review.

Today's proposed action will complete the action directed by LAFCO for the Board of Supervisors to call and give notice of an election to form the San Antonio Basin Water District. If a majority of all the votes cast favor the formation of the district, then the territory shall be formed as a district. (Cal. Water Code Section 34500.)

Background:

LAFCO considered and approved the formation of the San Antonio Basin Water District subject to an election and conducted a required protest hearing in September 2019. LAFCO also approved Ballot Measure language (Exhibit A) and an Impartial Analysis (Exhibit B). The election will be held for landowner voters within the district boundaries. Each person owning land within the proposed district shall be entitled to cast one vote for each acre owned by the voter within the district, provided that if the voter owns less than one acre then the voter shall be entitled to one vote and any fraction shall be rounded to the nearest full acre. The District board will initially be composed of a five-member Board of Directors, each of whom must be a holder of title to land within the proposed district, the legal representative of a holder of title to land within the district, or a representative designated by a holder of title to land within the district, if the holder has filed written evidence of that designation.

The proposed District is comprised of 87,041 acres. The district's boundaries comprise the San Antonio Creek Groundwater Basin. The basin is a rural agricultural area that is reliant on local water supplies, predominantly groundwater. Because of the growth of irrigated agriculture in the area, water demands have increased significantly, taxing local groundwater supplies. Groundwater resources are also used to supply local inhabitants, as well as parts of Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). Santa Barbara County, VAFB, and the U.S. Geological Survey are working together to better understand the water resources and demands in the San Antonio Creek Groundwater Basin. According to the Impartial Analysis, the proposed district would have the powers set forth in the State Water Code section 34000 and following.

The need for local groundwater management was highlighted with the adoption of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code Section 10720, ("SGMA")), which requires from the San Antonio Basin that certain groundwater management action be taken.

A cooperative study, referred to as the San Antonio Creek Groundwater Availability Project, seeks to help stakeholders plan for future water use by providing data that will help assess the quantity and quality of the water supply in the area, and by establishing tools to allow stakeholders to effectively utilize the available water resources.

The need for local groundwater management was highlighted with the adoption of SGMA, which will require that certain groundwater management actions be taken for the San Antonio Basin. After formation, the District will be financed by the creation of an assessment district pursuant to a Proposition 218 ballot proceeding/election.

A Groundwater Sustainability Agency has already been formed in the San Antonio Basin prior to Department of Water Resources statutory deadline. The GSA was formed by adoption of a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Los Alamos Community Services District. The JPA specifies that if a water district is formed, it can take the place of the Cachuma RCD.

According to the Impartial Analysis, the District will cease to exist if it is unable to enter into an agreement pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act prior to June 30, 2020 or later date if approved by Santa Barbara County LAFCO.

Performance Measure:

NA

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Government Code Section 57150 provides that expenses incurred in conducting elections to form districts shall be paid, unless otherwise provided by agreement of LAFCO and the proponents, by the newly formed district, if successful, or by the county if proceedings are terminated.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 34053 the county elections official shall be compensated for the expense of the conduct of the election.

The estimated cost for a standalone landowner mail ballot election is between \$ 14,000 -\$16,000.

Special Instructions:

Forward signed Resolution (Attachment 1) to County Elections.

Within five days after the Board’s adoption of the Resolution, on behalf of the Board, the Clerk of the Board shall provide the notice by registered mail to the LAFCO Executive Officer pursuant to Cal. Water Code Section 34402.1.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution IN THE MATTER OF CALLING, PROVIDING FOR AND GIVING NOTICE OF A MAILED BALLOT ELECTION ON APRIL 7, 2020 FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE LAFCO ORDER APPROVING THE FORMATION OF THE SAN ANTONIO BASIN WATER DISTRICT SHALL BE CONFIRMED AND ELECTING THE INITIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT

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- Exhibit A – Ballot Measure language
 - Exhibit B – Impartial Analysis

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Exhibit C – Supplemental Resolution 19-04

Exhibit D – LAFCO Resolution 19-03

Exhibit E – San Antonio Basin Water District Map

Authored by:

Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer

cc:

Joe Holland, Clerk, Recorder, Assessor

Renee Bischof, Elections