



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: January 11, 2022
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: NA
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: 2020 Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission Final Approved Plan for the County of Santa Barbara Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file an update regarding the 2020 Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC) final approved plan for the County of Santa Barbara Supervisorial Districts; and
- B. Determine that the above actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) since they are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

Pursuant to the 2018 Ballot Measure G2018, codified as County Code Section 2-10.9A, a Citizen's Independent Redistricting Commission was created by December 31, 2020 to determine the supervisorial district boundaries for Santa Barbara County. After more than a year of public meetings, outreach and deliberation, the CIRC adopted a final plan for district boundaries on December 13, 2021. In addition to the final plan, the commission issued a report that explains the basis on which the commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with the County ordinance. The final plan becomes effective 30 days after the final plan is submitted, which would be January 13, 2022.

Background:

Federal and state laws require district boundaries to be examined and adjusted every 10 years to ensure members of the public are equally represented. Historically, the county has redrawn supervisorial district maps every decade through a public process that was facilitated by staff and consultants and ultimately approved by the Board of Supervisors. In 2018, county voters approved Measure G2018 to change the system and establish an 11-person Citizens' Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC) tasked with redrawing supervisorial districts.

The CIRC is comprised of county residents who are not elected officials, lobbyists, candidates, campaign donors, or their close family members. The commission was tasked with providing an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration and comment on the drawing of district lines. The process for establishing the CIRC and selecting qualified applicants is outlined in County Code Section 2-10.9A. Selection of the commission began with more than 100 applications submitted by the August 21, 2021 closing date. The Elections Official selected a pool of the top 45 qualified applicants. The District Attorney randomly drew the initial five commissioners on October 13, 2020 and those five interviewed and selected the remaining six positions prior to December 31, 2020.

To document the CIRC process, a dedicated Redistricting Commission website was established at www.DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org in order to provide redistricting information, agendas and draft maps. The site will be maintained for a 10-year period as required by law. Additionally, a dedicated email address at redistricting@countyofsb.org was created for the public to submit comments electronically and request additional information.

The commission is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act, which requires that meetings must be conducted in public. Under the operating rules of the commission as outlined in County Code Section 2-10.9A(6), the commission was required to facilitate seven public hearings before the commission drew the maps and seven meetings after the commission drew and posted the draft map(s). Over the past year, the commission held 39 public meetings and many more outreach meetings.

The CIRC had administrative and demography staff through National Demographics Corporation and legal counsel through Strumwasser and Woocher, LLP to assist them with the process. The County Executive Office provided support with administration, communications and meeting coordination.

Final Plan Submitted for County Supervisorial Districts

On December 13, the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission adopted its [final preferred supervisorial district map](#) (Attachment A) that will go into effect on January 13, 2022 assuming no legal action is initiated through the courts that would delay the date. Until the new District and Political maps can be accessed on the County Surveyor and Elections websites, the public can review the adopted changes and check the district location of their address. To do so, click on the interactive adopted map linked above and enter an address in the search window. To compare and contrast the current and newly adopted boundaries, add the layer called "Current Plan" or review each current district plan individually. For information about the county redistricting process, past agendas and draft maps submitted by the public, please go to www.DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org or send questions to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

Key Changes to District Boundaries

The final plan includes changes to current supervisorial district boundaries, most notably:

District 1 – Areas were added on the west end of the Cuyama Valley (from District 5), Santa Barbara City bordered by Mission Street, Los Olivos, Mission Creek and State Street (from District 2), and the Eastern Goleta Valley from current boundary to San Marcos above Cathedral Oaks (from District 2).

District 2 – Isla Vista and UCSB areas were added from District 3 and Eastern Goleta Valley from current boundary to San Marcos above Cathedral Oaks moved to District 1.

District 3 – Lompoc area was added from District 4. Isla Vista and UCSB moved to District 2. Los Alamos, Vandenberg Village and VSFB moved to District 4. Guadalupe moved to District 5.

District 4 – Areas were added from Los Alamos, Vandenberg Village and VSFB from District 3. Areas of Garey and Sisquoc were added from District 5. Lompoc area moved to District 3.

District 5 – Guadalupe area was added from District 3. Areas of Garey and Sisquoc moved to District 4 and west end of the Cuyama Valley moved to District 1; while some areas of Santa Maria moved to District 4.

All current elected District Supervisors remain qualified representatives within their respective districts. Staff is reviewing the various Board appointed commissions and committees to identify any changes necessary to comply with the new boundaries and ensure appointed representatives meet any required district area qualifications.

Budget Impacts

The County has incurred consulting costs for administration, outreach, demographic analysis, mapping tools and preparation and legal counsel to support the independent commission. Additionally, County staff costs are being tracked from Elections, County Counsel, County Surveyor and the County Executive Office. The budget for the project is estimated at \$800,000. Costs incurred to date total \$262,630 with most consultant costs still needing to be submitted. Funding was set aside in the General Fund to cover costs related to redistricting.

Attachments: Authored by: Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer