

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By: James Importante, Management Analyst

DATE: January 25, 2011

SUBJECT: Direct County staff to initiate work efforts for Realigning Placer County
supervisorial districts in accordance with State law and Federal Census.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Direct County staff to initiate work efforts for redistricting Placer County supervisorial districts in accordance with State law and Federal Census.

BACKGROUND: The United States Constitution requires a count every ten (10) years of everyone residing in the United States. Information from the Census is used to help determine where to locate schools, day care centers, roads and public transportation, hospitals and other facilities, and is used to assist in making decisions concerning business growth and housing needs. Census data is also used for geographically defining state legislative districts, a "redistricting" process that begins in the year following a census. The Census data allow county officials to realign supervisorial districts in their counties, taking into account population shifts since the last Census and assuring equal representation for their constituents in compliance with the "one-person, one-vote" principle of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR REDISTRICTING SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS:

The California Elections Code, *Adjustment of boundaries of supervisorial districts following federal census*, provides for basic criteria and process that the Board may consider in redistricting supervisorial districts. In addition to the Voting Rights Act, the Board "may give consideration to the following factors: (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the districts" in redistricting.

The development of new supervisorial district boundaries may be done by the Board itself or a supervisorial redistricting commission. Per Elections Code, a supervisorial redistricting commission is composed of the District Attorney as chairman, the County Assessor, and the County Elections official. It is also the option of the Board to appoint a committee composed of residents of the County to study the changing of the boundaries of the supervisorial districts. The committee, should the Board so designate, must make its report to the Board of its findings on the need for change of boundaries

and the recommended changes no later than August 1st. Recommendations of the committee are advisory only.

The Board must hold at least one public hearing on any proposals to adjust the boundaries of a district. Another public hearing is required at which the Board votes to approve or defeat the proposals. The deadline for redistricting is November 1st should the Board conduct its own redistricting process, and December 31st for the supervisorial redistricting commission.

DISCUSSION: With the redistricting that occurred subsequent to the 2000 Census, the Board directed County staff to prepare proposed district boundary maps for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The Board held a workshop/public hearing to consider the proposed adjustments. At that time the Board directed staff to review the proposed district boundary maps with the then fourteen (14) Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs) and to work with Elections Division staff to refine the boundaries. The Board conducted a second public hearing and adopted an ordinance adjusting supervisorial district boundaries in late August 2001 to finalize the redistricting process. In addition to the process undertaken through the Board of Supervisors, the Clerk Recorder conducted community outreach to City Councils and various Special Districts, School Districts and other interested parties as warranted or requested. This effort was well received and assisted in communicating important information to the public.

For the upcoming redistricting effort, it is anticipated that census data required for this effort will be received at the end of March 2011. Staff is proposing a similar process to that occurring in prior years, again utilizing County staff. Representatives from the County Clerk Recorder, CDRA/Planning, County Counsel and the County Executive Office will evaluate existing supervisorial district boundaries and develop options for boundary adjustments to account for population and demographic changes that have occurred between the 2000 and 2010 census.

Staff recommends that in developing alternatives, consideration to those factors outlined above including topography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, compactness of the territory, and community of interests of the districts. In addition, it would be important that to the extent feasible existing census and precinct lines be followed, as well as new legislative districts. Based on consideration of this criteria and the new census data, initial alternative district scenarios will be developed to be considered by the Board of Supervisors. The alternatives would then be refined for consideration by the Board according to the time frames summarized below.

March 30	Census Data Made Available
April	Analysis of Census Data/Population by District
April/May	Consideration of Alternatives/BOS Workshop(s)
June/July	Community/Municipal Advisory Council Review
August	BOS Workshop
August/Sept	BOS Public Hearing/Approval of Revised Boundaries

We believe that such a schedule will result in completion of the redistricting effort well ahead of the legislated time frames.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Provide direction to staff regarding the work effort for redistricting. Similar to redistricting in 2001, staff recommends representatives from various County departments including Planning, Clerk-Recorder-Elections, County Counsel, and the Office of the County Executive to develop alternatives for the Board's consideration. Staffs will then present information and update the Municipal Advisory Councils and return to the Board to finalize the proposed adjustments to the supervisorial districts.
- 2) Request that outreach to City Councils, various Special Districts, School Districts and other interested parties be conducted to ensure appropriate public review and input.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are no additional fiscal impacts to the General Fund expected from this action.

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