



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Redistricting Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting
Summary for June 23, 2021

DATE: July 13, 2021

This memorandum summarizes agenda items from the orientation meeting of the Redistricting Advisory Committee held on June 23, 2021.

Attendees:

Committee Members in attendance were: Swanee Edwards-District 1, Emilie Gatfield-District 2, Michael Kraus-District 3, Michael Gross-District 4, Hon. Howard Miller-District 5, Alfredo Morales-District 6 and Raven Malone-District 7.

Staff in attendance were: Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Glenna Brambill, Lisa Flores, Rachael Gibson, Paola Giles, Andy Gschwind, Albert Le, Carlos Orellana, Michael Potter, Don Rocha, and Jim Webb.

Consultants (Redistricting Partners) in attendance was: Chris Chaffee.

Public in attendance were: Laurie Alaimo, Norma Callender, Karen Delaney, Virginia Roberts, Elizabeth Stitt, Diana, Kris, and Shayne.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

Newest Member Ms. Swanee Edwards, replacement for Mr. Juan Miguel Muñoz Morris of District 1 introduced herself and background.

Mr. Don Rocha introduced the new Valley Water Staff:

- Mr. Andy Gschwind, Assistant District Counsel,
- Mr. Carlos Orellana, new District Counsel, and
- Ms. Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Program Administrator - Office of Government Affairs.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Michael Gross, second by Ms. Swanee Edwards, and by roll call and unanimous vote approved the April 20, 2021, Redistricting Advisory Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

4. ACTION ITEMS:

4.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

It was moved by Mr. Alfredo Morales, second by Ms. Emile Gatfield to nominate Hon. Howard Miller as the Committee Chair. It was moved by Ms. Emile Gatfield, second by Mr. Mike Kraus to nominate Ms. Emile Gatfield as the Committee Vice Chair. The Committee unanimously by roll call voted Hon. Howard Miller as Chair and Ms. Emile Gatfield as Vice Chair.

4.2 REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRAINING SESSION #1

Summary from Agenda Memo:

The District Act, in addition to federal and state law, requires that the boundaries of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water's) electoral districts be adjusted, if needed, following a decennial federal census.

Adjustments of electoral districts are accomplished through the completion of a redistricting study to ensure that each modified district meets the one-person, one-vote test and to ensure compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act.

On January 26, 2021, the Board approved the establishment of the Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) to oversee the redistricting study, receive public input on electoral district boundaries, and recommend draft maps with boundary adjustments, if needed, to the Board for review and adoption. The RAC consists of seven members of the public, who have been appointed by the Board and represent the seven Board member districts.

On April 20, 2021, the RAC held its first meeting, focused on orientation. Over the months of June, July and August, the RAC will conduct three training meetings to receive background information that will be useful in carrying out its charge. During the June 23 meeting, the RAC will receive a "Redistricting 101" background briefing from the consultant team. The presentation will include background information on the definition of redistricting, traditional redistricting principles (including an introduction to the concept of "communities of interest"), the federal Voting Rights Act, the California Voting Rights Act, a definition of gerrymandering and how it works, and background information on census databases. In addition, the RAC will receive information on Valley Water's "Be Heard" tool as a channel for public input.

Mr. Chris Chaffee reviewed the materials as outlined in the agenda. Mr. Michael Potter made a brief presentation on social media BeHeard and how Valley Water is using it to publicize the redistricting process and the public may give their feedback on the Redistricting Advisory Committee page. (BeHeard@valleywater.org) and <https://www.valleywater.org/how-we-operate/redistricting>.

The Redistricting Committee discussed the following: minority/racial groups, gerrymandering, water wells, delivery of water, city drawing lines, commonly used data sets, modifying of groups may be caused by population growth, a look at golf courses, and agricultural water users, public input, redistricting 'drivers,' social media and using ways to reach those in underserved/unincorporated areas to receive information.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee took no action.

4.3 NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

Summary from Agenda Memo:

Review schedule for upcoming meeting dates in 2021-2022.

Mr. Don Rocha gave a quick overview of the schedule and potential agenda items. These are subject to change depending on available data.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee took the following action:

It was moved by Ms. Emile Gatfield, second by Ms. Swanee Edwards to switch the July and August agenda items. The Committee unanimously by roll call voted to approve the change.

The Redistricting Committee discussed the following: live maps drawing, in-person meetings, still use of zoom meetings, committee members attending all meetings as part of their charter, brown act and avoiding serial meetings, Mr. Andy Gschwind explained being open and transparent in public meetings.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at, gbrambill@valleywater.org or 1.408.630.2408.

Thank you.

Glenna Brambill, Management Analyst II,
Board Committee Liaison
Office of the Clerk of the Board

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