

**PLEASANT VALLEY RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT
1605 E. BURNLEY ST., CAMARILLO, CA
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE – ROOM #6**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
September 8, 2021**

Please Note: Under current orders from the Ventura County Health Officer, all individuals, (whether vaccinated or unvaccinated) are required to wear a face covering at all times in indoor public settings and businesses. PVRPD thanks you for your cooperation and understanding.

6:30 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. OPEN COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC FORUM

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.3, the Board reserves this time to hear from the public. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956, no business other than what is set forth in this special meeting agenda may be considered by the Board. If you would like to speak about an item on the agenda, we would prefer you complete a Speaker Card and wait until it comes up. Speakers will be allowed three minutes to address the Board.

6. NEW ITEMS

A. Public Hearing #1: Discussion of the Proposed Composition of the District's Voting Divisions

Discuss the legal criteria for drawing division boundaries and conduct a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the voting division map.

Suggested Actions: Receive public comment regarding the composition of the map of the District Board voting divisions and the criteria to establish the boundaries of the District's voting divisions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Board Meeting is October 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Note: Written materials related to this agenda are available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board located at 1605 E. Burnley Street, Camarillo during regular business hours two business days preceding the scheduled Special Board Meeting.

Announcement: Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Board on any agenda item before or during consideration of the item. [Government Code section 54954.3] Should you need special assistance (i.e. a disability-related modification or accommodations) to participate in the Board meeting or other District activities (including receipt of an agenda in an appropriate alternative format), as outlined in the Americans With Disabilities Act, or require further information, please contact the General Manager, at (805) 482-1996, extension 114. Please notify the General Manager 48 hours in advance to provide sufficient time to make a disability-related modification or reasonable accommodation.

**PLEASANT VALLEY RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REPORT**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: MARY OTTEN, GENERAL MANAGER

DATE: September 8, 2021

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING #1 – DISCUSSION OF THE
POTENTIAL COMPOSITION OF THE MAP OF THE
DISTRICT’S VOTING DIVISIONS**

SUMMARY

The Board will receive a presentation on the legal criteria for drawing division boundaries and then conduct a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the composition of the District’s voting divisions.

BACKGROUND

The members of the PVRPD Board are currently elected “at-large”. Under an at-large system of elections, every voter in the District votes for each member of the Board, regardless of where the voter or the candidate is registered to vote in the District. Under a district-based (or “by-division”) system of elections, the District is divided into districts/divisions, candidates may only run for the seat representing the district in which they are registered to vote, and voters may only vote for a candidate from their division. When the public agency is a special district, the term division is used to avoid confusion.

On May 12, 2020, the District received a letter from attorney Kevin Shenkman on behalf of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and its member allegedly residing in the District, alleging that the District’s at-large system of elections violates the CVRA, demanding that the District switch to a division-based system of elections, and threatening to sue the District if the District does not voluntarily switch to a district-based system of elections (“Letter”). The Letter specifically alleges that the District’s at-large election system dilutes the ability of Latinos to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcome of the District’s elections.

On August 13, 2021, the District Board adopted Resolution No. 686, declaring the Board’s intention to transition from at-large elections for members of the Board, to division-based elections. At this meeting the Board also approved a professional services agreement with National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to assist the District with the preparation of information and data as the District transitions from at-large to division-based elections.

ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010, the District is required to hold two public hearings within a 30-day period before commencing with the drawing of any of the draft maps for the proposed voting divisions in order to receive public input regarding the composition of the divisions.

At these two initial public hearings the District will be asking its residents what criteria should be used in developing and drafting the boundaries for the five divisions to be drawn at the end of this process and what the public would like to see in the composition of initial drafts. Before the District

can commence the actual drawing of division maps, the District Board is required to have a second public hearing on the criteria for consideration of how and where the district lines should be drawn. It is the intent of the first two public hearings to help identify the neighborhoods, or other communities of interest, and other local factors that should be considered or used when drawing draft voting division maps. The public is welcome to propose division maps, but this is not required.

Three more public hearings will be required in order to complete the districting process. At the conclusion of the final public hearing, the District Board will adopt an ordinance establishing a map with the voting division boundaries. Thereafter, the division-based elections will be implemented, commencing with the 2022 election cycle. The ordinance will also state when each division is up for election.

Mandatory Criteria

While public input concerning the composition of the District's yet-to-be formed voting divisions will be considered, there are several mandatory criteria that the District must comply with when the actual divisions are created:

1. The divisions must be as nearly equal in population as possible
2. Race cannot be the "predominant" factor or criteria when drawing divisions
3. Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA)
4. Compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

Optional Criteria

In accordance with Elections Code Section 21601 and Government Code Section 34884, the Board may consider the following factors when establishing divisions, which criteria are not exclusive:

1. Topography
2. Geography
3. Cohesiveness, continuity, integrity, and compactness of territory
4. Communities of interests

FISCAL IMPACT

The initial cost to move from an at-large election to division-based elections is currently estimated to cost the District approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000. These costs include the District's demographer, public meetings, attorneys' fees, and a one-time payment of approximately \$32,000 to Mr. Shenkman's clients, which payment is required by state. These costs are included in the adopted 2021-2022 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a report on the criteria to establish the boundaries of the District's voting divisions and then conduct a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the composition of the District Board voting divisions to be used.