

ELECTION UPDATE

October 2, 2017



Questions and Discussion

- **Key Questions:**

- Should the Board place an initiative on the ballot to reduce the size of the Board?
 - If so, should the initiative propose a reduction of the Board from 9 members to 3 members, 5 members, or 7 members?
- Should the Board place an initiative on the ballot to transition from election at large to election by division?
 - If so, what criteria should the District use in drafting its division maps?
- When should the election be held?
 - Should the questions be consolidated as one question or posed to voters independently?

- **Recommendation:**

- Staff recommends that the Board place an initiative before the voters on an all-mail ballot in March 2018 asking whether the Board should be reduced to five Directors elected by division



Background

- District's Current Board Structure
 - 9 total members
 - 2 members appointed by Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
 - 3 members appointed by Oakley City Council
 - 4 members appointed by Brentwood City Council
- Planned Board Elections: November 2018
 - 9 members elected at large



Transition to an Elected Board

Date	Action
July 11, 2016	Board passed Resolution 2016-19 placing Measure N on the November 2017 ballot asking voters whether the District should transition from an appointed Board to a Board elected at large
November 8, 2016	Voters approved Measure N
February 6, 2017	Board passed Resolution 2017-03 (later approved by the County) moving the date of the first election of Directors to November 6, 2018
November 6, 2018	First election of Directors



Timeline for November 6, 2018 Election

Date	Milestone
July 5	Last day to deliver to County Elections: 1) notice of election; 2) notice of whether the election will be at large or by divisions; and 3) map of district and divisions (if any)
July 16- August 10	Declaration of candidacy submittal period
November 6	Election Day

- As currently planned:
 - Election in November 2018 will be for 9 directors elected at large
 - 4-5 directors will have half-terms (2 years) during the first election cycle and the other 4-5 directors' terms will be for full terms (4 years)
 - Pending confirmation from County Elections, it is expected that the newly elected directors will draw lots to determine whose terms is what length



Reducing the Size of the Board

- The Board may have 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11 members (Health & Safety Code § 13845)
- Voters must approve any changes to the size of the Board (Health & Safety Code § 13845)
- **Key Questions:**
 - Should the Board place an initiative on the ballot to reduce the size of the Board?
 - If so, should the initiative propose a reduction of the Board from 9 members to 3 members, 5 members, or 7 members?
- **Recommendation:**
 - Staff recommends that the Board place an initiative on the ballot reducing the size of the Board to 5 directors



Election of Directors by Division

- Directors may be elected by divisions or at large
 - Current Board is appointed by division, but will move to election at large in November 2018 per Measure N
- Voters must approve any transition from at large election to election by division (Health & Safety Code § 13846.)
- **Key Questions:**
 - Should the Board place an initiative on the ballot to transition from elections at large to elections by division?
- **Recommendation:**
 - Staff recommends the Board place an initiative on the ballot transitioning elections by division



Timing of Election

- Two options for placing a measure on the ballot:
 - Traditional election
 - All-mail ballot election
- Transitioning to election of Directors by division and reducing the size of the Board may be more difficult after the first election of Directors
- **Key Questions:**
 - If pursued, when should the Board place the initiative(s) on the ballot?
 - If pursued, should the questions be consolidated as one question or posed to voters independently?
- **Recommendation:**
 - Staff recommends that the Board consolidate the two questions into a single initiative in an all-mail ballot election in March 2018



All-Mail Ballot Election

- District can hold all-mail election on any non-election day
- Two statutory all-mail ballot election days: March 6, 2018 and May 8, 2018
- Estimated cost: \$225,000 (assuming no consolidation)

Milestone	March Election	May Election
Resolution by Board calling election	December 8, 2017	February 9, 2018
Ballots mailed	By February 25, 2018	By April 28, 2018
Election day	March 6, 2018	May 8, 2018
Results certified	By April 5, 2018	By June 7, 2018
Notice of election and division maps due	July 5, 2018 (for November 2018 election)	



Traditional Election

- Statewide general election on June 5, 2018 (primaries)
- Estimated Cost: \$125,000

Date	Milestone
March 9, 2018	Last day to place measure on the ballot
June 5, 2018	Election Day
By July 5, 2018	Results certified
July 5, 2018	Notice of Election and division maps for November 2018 election due to County Elections



Preparing a Division Map

- Transition to election by division requires the Board to designate the divisions (at the latest: before candidates could file papers to run in the election)
- County Elections has offered to prepare one set of potential division maps at no cost to the District
- County Elections has requested:
 - Number of divisions
 - Criteria for drawing division maps
 - Statement of Board's good faith intent to consider this process
- District could hire a consultant to prepare additional maps
- Maps may require revision after 2020 Census
- **Key Question:**
 - What criteria should the District use in drafting its division maps?



Timeline for Approving Divisions

- Ballot measure would be for approval of transition to divisions; not for approval of the maps, themselves
- Maps generally should be selected by Board before placing a measure on the ballot

Board Meeting	Task
October/November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decide on number of divisions/directors- Develop criteria for drafting of division maps
November/ December	Select division map
December/January or February	Approve resolution calling for March/May all-mail ballot election

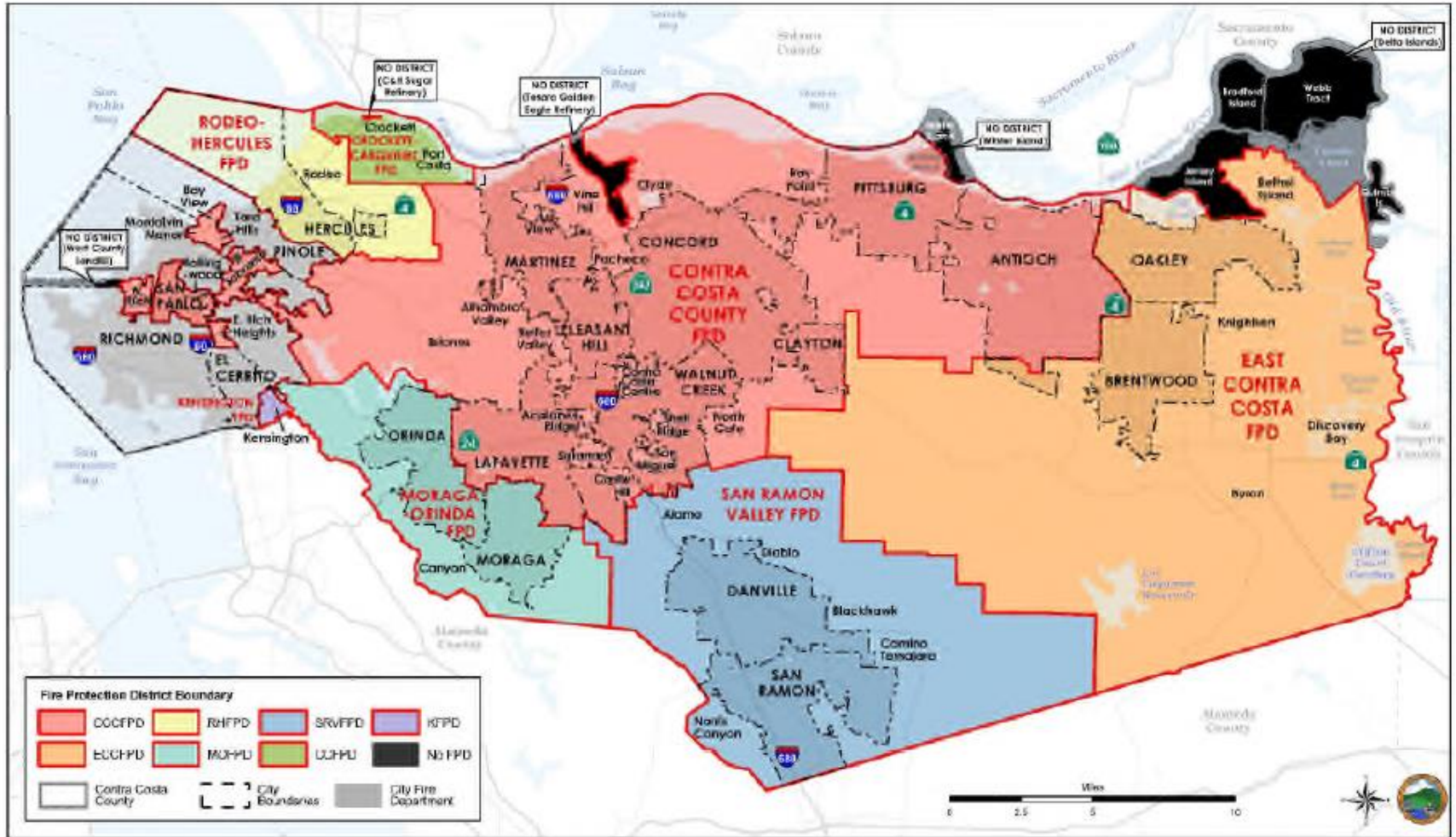


Criteria for Drawing Division Maps

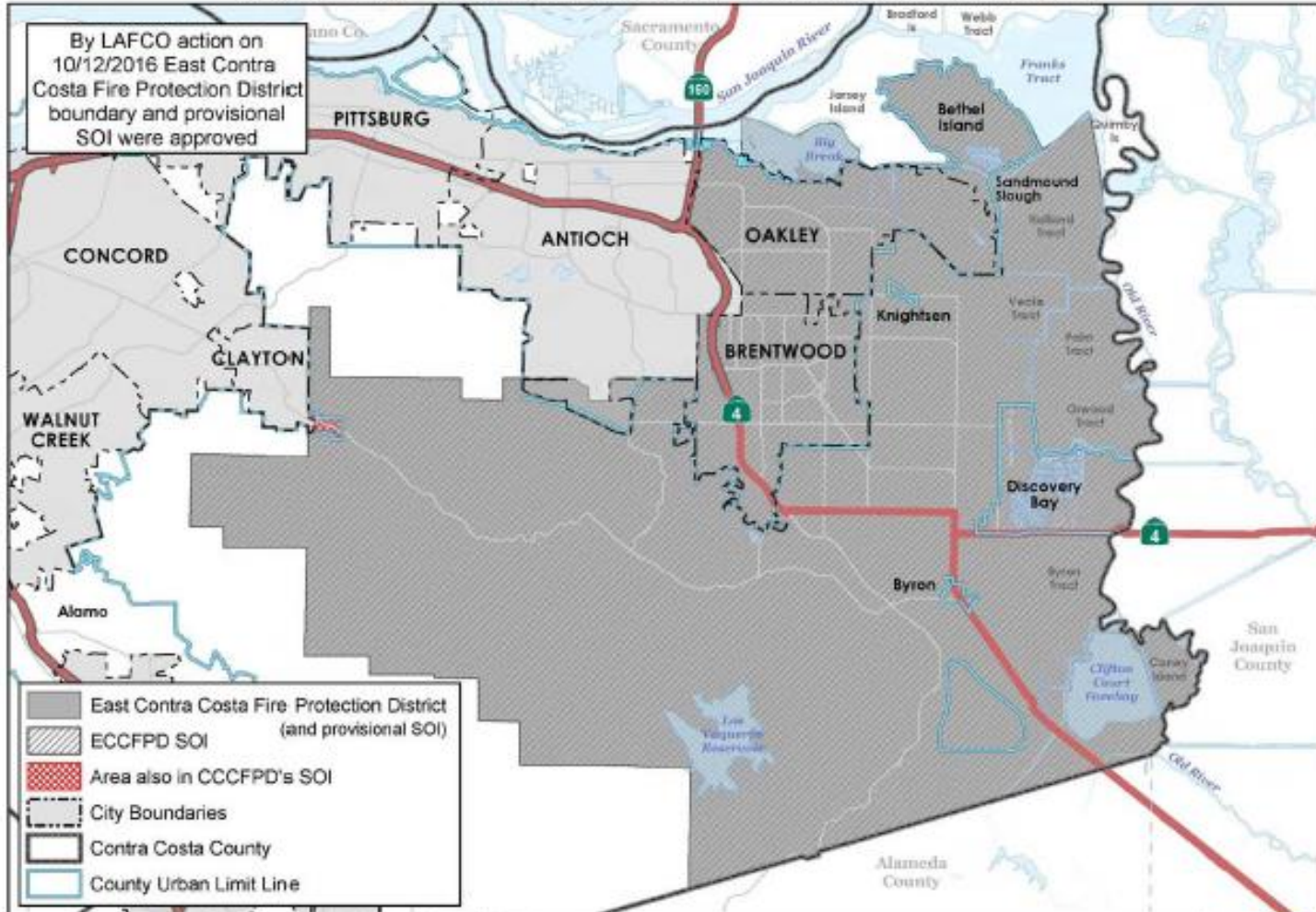
- Legal requirements
 - Divisions must be as nearly as equal in population as possible
 - Division maps cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, or language
- Suggested criteria for consideration:
 - Topography
 - Geography
 - Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory
 - Existing political subdivisions
 - Communities of interest



Figure 1 Fire Protection Districts in Contra Costa County

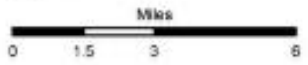


East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and provisional SOI



Map created 8/10/2017
 by Contra Costa County Department of
 Conservation and Development, GIS Group
 71 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553
 925-984-1781x 122 07 03 TSMV

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Population Centers

Area	Population
Brentwood	51,481
Oakley	35,432
Unincorporated Contra Costa County (within District service area only)	(Not specified in the Census; estimated at ~23,000)
Bethel Island	2,137
Byron	1,277
Discovery Bay	13,352
Knightsen	1,568
Marsh Creek/Morgan Territory	Not specified in Census
Total	(Not specified in the Census; estimated at ~110,000)

*All figures from 2010 US Census



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