

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE COASTSIDE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
APPROVING THE INTENTION TO CHANGE FROM AT-LARGE TO ZONE-BASED
ELECTIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMENCING IN NOVEMBER OF 2020**

WHEREAS, the Coastside County Water District is a Water District duly organized and operating pursuant to the County Water District Law, California Water Code sections 30000 to 33901 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the California Legislature in the County Water District Law provided for the formation, governance, and operation of County Water Districts, and Coastside County Water District was established in 1947 with boundaries including the City of Half Moon Bay and the unincorporated communities of Princeton, Miramar and El Granada.

WHEREAS, under the District's enabling legislation (Cal. Water Code sections 30000 to 33901), the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Coastside County Water District ("CCWD" or "District") provides for the development and provision to its customers of high quality water and service at the lowest possible price, in accordance with the following values: reliability and sustainability of system facilities; the timeliness of District policies, procedures, actions and decisions; a 50-year outlook when replacing infrastructure; the legality of all District actions and behaviors; and, a culture of openness, fairness and inclusiveness.

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to manage the CCWD in a manner to maximize efficiency and to ensure delivery of quality services to residents of the district it serves;

WHEREAS, the Board currently is comprised of 5 directors who serve 4-year staggered terms and are elected in even-numbered years pursuant to Cal. Water Code sections 30500 and 30501, and Cal. Elections Code section 10505;

WHEREAS, the District's enabling legislation (Cal. Water sections 30292 et seq.) mandated that the directors be elected at large;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to be as responsive a body as possible to the needs of the water district it serves;

WHEREAS, voter participation in the election process for Board members is of the utmost importance, and the Board desires to encourage the fullest voter participation in elections of Board members;

WHEREAS, the Board desires that its members represent the interests and wishes of all residents within the jurisdiction of the CCWD, and that the community have confidence that the Board continues to represent the interests and wishes of the District;

WHEREAS, the three Director positions are set to be on the ballot in November of 2020, and the remaining two in November of 2022;

WHEREAS, while the Board has no information as to whether polarized voting exists in the District, the Board has elected to forego the process of obtaining demographic data to make that determination, and instead desires to change the electoral system for election to the CCWD Board to a zone-based system from the current at-large system to ensure the fairest and most-inclusive electoral system;

WHEREAS, it is the District's intention to establish 5 zones which: are in compliance with one person, one vote requirements; are intended to ensure the opportunity of the District's minority groups with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise; and, include consideration of topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory, non-disturbance to existing precincts for purposes of implementation, as well as maintaining vital communities of interest;

WHEREAS, to hasten the change to zone-based elections, the District intends to have 3 directors elected from the new zones in November 2020 and 2 directors elected from new zones in November 2022;

WHEREAS, in moving to zone elections, the District's Board desires to engage the community in the dialogue as to how the zones should be drawn and in what order they should elect new directors;

WHEREAS, the District will hold several duly noticed hearings over the next several months throughout the District to hear from the community on questions of zone boundaries and the order of zone elections; and

WHEREAS, the Board has authorized legal counsel to retain a demographer to assist the District in drawing maps for zone-elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board hereby announces its intent to change the system of election of its Board of Directors from at-large to a zone-based system;
2. The District will hold at least two public hearings over a period of no more than 30 days to discuss and seek public input on the proposed boundaries of the zones or in the zone-based system;
3. The District will utilize the services of a demographer to assist it in the drawing of zones for the new proposed zone-based system;
4. It is the District's intention to establish 5 zones which: are in compliance with one person, one vote requirements; are intended to ensure the opportunity of the District's minority groups to exercise effectively the electoral franchise; and, include consideration of topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory, non-disturbance to existing precincts for purposes of implementation, as well as maintaining vital communities of interest;

5. The District will draw one or more draft maps and publish at least the first draft map at least 7 days before consideration at a public hearing;
6. Any revised draft map to be considered at a subsequent public hearing will be published at least 7 days before the subsequent public hearing;
7. Given that Directors serve staggered terms and 3 seats are up for election in November 2020 and the remaining 2 seats are up for election in November 2022, it is now the District's intent to have 3 directors elected from the new zones in November 2020 and 2 directors elected from new zones in November 2022;
8. In determining the final sequence of zone or district elections, the District shall give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act – Cal. Elections Code section 14025 et seq.;
9. After all maps are drawn, the District will hold at least 3 additional hearings over a period of not more than 45 days to discuss and seek public input on the draft map(s) and proposed sequence of elections, if necessary;
10. The District intends to determine and set the new zones for election of members of its Board and set the final sequence of elections from those zones, as soon as practicable, and estimates that the process will take approximately 90 days, which is in well in advance of the November 2020 election, when, under this resolution three Directors from new zones will be elected; and,
11. The Board directs the General Manager to take all necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of zone boundaries for election of Directors to the CCWD.

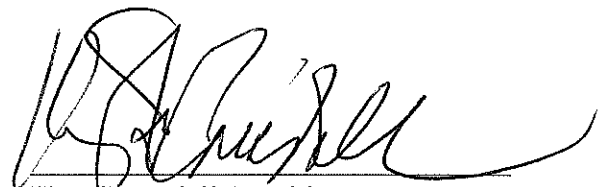
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of November 2019 by the following votes of the Board of Directors of the Coastside County Water District:

AYES: Directors Larimer, Feldman, and Reynolds and President Coverdell

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT: Vice-President Mickelsen



Ken Coverdell, President
Board of Directors
Coastside County Water District



Mary Rogren, General Manager
Secretary of the District