

RESOLUTION NO. 19-994

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT EXPRESSING THE BOARD'S INTENTION, PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 10010 (e)(3)(A), TO INITIATE PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the Joshua Basin Water District, ("District") is duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Directors of the District are currently elected in at-large elections, in which each Board member is elected by all registered voters of the entire District; and

WHEREAS, Section 10650 of the Elections Code authorizes any district change to a district-based system without the need to put such a change to voters; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to move from its current at-large electoral system to a district-based election for members of the District Board, in response to the provisions of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA); and

WHEREAS, the District intends to make the transition from an at-large system to a district-based system in accordance with the procedural rules outlined in Election Code 10650 and Elections Code 10010; and

WHEREAS, the District received a letter threatening action under the California Voting Rights Act on December 26, 2018 less than forty-five (45) days before the date of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the District will begin by working with an experienced demographer to assist the District in establishing maps for a district-based electoral system; and

WHEREAS, before drawing a draft map of the proposed boundaries of the districts, the District will hold at least two (2) public hearings over no more than thirty (30) days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the composition of the districts; and

WHEREAS, the District will then publish and make available for release at least one (1) draft map of the new electoral districts, including the potential sequence of elections shown; and

WHEREAS, once the draft map(s) have been publicized for at least seven (7) days, the District will hold at least two (2) additional public hearings, over no more than forty-five days, at which time the public is invited to provide input regarding the content of the draft map and the proposed sequence of elections prior to the public hearing at which the District Board of Directors adopts a map; and

WHEREAS, if a draft map is revised at or following a public hearing, the revised map will be published and made available to the public at least seven (7) days before the District chooses to adopt it; and

WHEREAS, in determining the final sequence of staggered District elections, the District Board of Directors will give special consideration to the purposes of the CVRA, and will take into account the preferences expressed by the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Joshua Basin Water District, as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The Board of Directors hereby resolves, pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, to consider adopting a district-based election system by ordinance as authorized by California Elections Code section 10650, for use in the Districts General Election for Board Members.
3. The Board of Directors further resolves to retain a qualified demographer, hold at least five (5) public hearings and publish at least one (1) draft map and staggering sequence, pursuant to the proposed tentative hearing schedule attached hereto as Exhibit "1".
4. The District's redistricting/demographic consulting firm, acting under the supervision of special counsel, is hereby authorized to direct and formulate one or more electoral district scenarios for review by the public and Board at two or more public hearings if necessary, in accordance with the District's proposed tentative timeline.
5. Working with the demographic consulting firm, staff is directed to publicize relevant maps, information, notices, agendas and other materials regarding District-based elections and to establish means of communication to answer questions from the public.

6. All public hearings shall be noticed on the District's website, and in addition, as follows: posting on the District's website at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the hearing and publication at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing in the newspaper adjudicated to provide notice within the District.
7. The General Manager is authorized to take any and all other necessary actions to give effect to this Resolution.
8. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Joshua Basin Water District on the 6th day of February, 2019, by the following vote:



Bob Johnson, President
Joshua Basin Water District and of
the Board of Directors thereof;

ATTEST:



Curt Sauer, Secretary
Joshua Basin Water District and of
the Board of Directors thereof;

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF)

I, Curt Sauer, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Joshua Basin Water District do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No.19-994 was duly adopted and passed at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on the 6th day of February 2019, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: Reynolds, Luckman, Wood, Unger, Johnson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:


Curt Sauer, Secretary
Joshua Basin Water District and of
the Board of Directors thereof;