

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-10**  
**OF THE**  
**SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT**

**APPROVING THE INTENTION TO CHANGE FROM AT-LARGE TO**  
**DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Harbor District ("the District") is a Harbor District duly organized and operating pursuant to California Harbor & Navigation Code section 6000, et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Legislature in 1931 provided for the formation, government and operation of Harbor Districts, and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors by resolution in 1933 established the District setting its boundaries contiguous to those of the County;

WHEREAS, under the District's enabling legislation (Cal. Harbors & Navigation Code section 6070), the Board of Harbor Commissioners ("Commission") of the District provides for the protection and safety of persons or the property of persons using District facilities, and persons and property in and upon waters subject to the jurisdiction of the District, and adjacent property owned or controlled by the District;

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

WHEREAS, there are 5 Harbor Commissioners on the Commission who serve 4-year staggered terms and are elected in even-numbered years pursuant to Cal. Harbors & Navigation Code sections 6050 and 6051;

WHEREAS, the term of one Commissioner runs from 2014-2018, the term of one Commissioner runs from 2016-2018, and the terms of the remaining three Commissioners run from 2016-2020;

WHEREAS, the District's enabling legislation (Cal. Harbors & Navigation Code sections 6041, 6051) mandated that Harbor Commissioners be elected at large;

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to be as responsive a body as possible to the needs of the District it serves;

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

WHEREAS, the Commission desires that its members represent the interests and wishes of all residents of San Mateo County with regard to District facilities and services, and that the community have confidence that the Commission represents and continues to represent the interests and wishes of the District's residents;

WHEREAS, Section 10650 of the Elections Code provides that the governing body of a special district may decree, by resolution, that the members of its governing body be elected using district-based elections, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 14026, without being required to submit the resolution to the voters for approval; and,

WHEREAS, Section 10010 of the Elections Code provides a process by which a special district may change its method of electing members of the governing body from an at large to a district-based election system; and,

WHEREAS, while the Commission has no information as to whether polarized voting exists in the District, the Commission 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 Board of Harbor Commissioners to a district-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 districts 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, in moving to district elections, the Commission desires to engage the community in the dialogue as to how the districts should be drawn and in what order they should elect new Commissioners;

WHEREAS, the District wishes to maximize public engagement and will, among other things, hold several duly-noticed hearings over the next several months throughout the District to hear from the community on questions of district boundaries and the order of district elections;

WHEREAS, there is not sufficient time to engage in the above-described public outreach process to make the change to district-based elections for the November 2018 election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Commission hereby announces its intent to change the system of election of its Board of Harbor Commissioners from at-large to a district-based system commencing with the November 2020 election of three Commissioners, continuing with the election of two Commissioners in the same manner in the November 2022 election;
2. Before drawing a draft map or maps of any proposed districts, 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 district or districts;
3. The District will conduct outreach to the public to explain the electoral process and to encourage public participation in the public hearings.
4. The District will utilize the services of a demographer to assist it in the drawing of districts for the new proposed district-based system, and may utilize the services of other temporary consultants in order to facilitate and maximize the benefits of the outreach and public participation process;

5. It is the District's intention to establish 5 districts 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;
6. The District will draw one or more draft maps and publish at least one draft map at least 7 days before consideration at a public hearing;
7. Any revised draft map to be considered at a subsequent public hearing will be published at least 7 days before the subsequent public hearing;
8. Given that Commissioners serve staggered terms and three seats are up for election in November 2020, and two seats in 2022, it is the District's intent to have three Commissioners elected from the new districts in November 2020 and two Commissioners elected from new districts in November 2022;
9. After all maps are drawn, the District will hold at least 2 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 then will determine which draft map to use, and also determine which three districts will be on the ballot in November 2020, and which two districts will be on the ballot in November 2022;
11. In determining the final sequence of district elections, the District shall give special consideration to the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act – Elections Code sec. 14025 et seq.;
12. The Commission directs the General Manager (or his designee) to take all necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of district boundaries for election of Harbor Commissioners to the San Mateo County Harbor District, such steps to include at a minimum; engaging a demographer and all consultants and temporary staff necessary to give effect to this resolution; posting information on the District's website regarding the proposed transition to a district-based election system, including maps, notices, agendas, and other information; establishing a means of communication to answer questions from the public; and working with County staff to give effect to any determination by the District's Board.
13. This resolution and these actions are undertaken to honor the intent, purposes, and spirit of the California Voting Rights Act.

This Resolution was adopted at a Special Meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the District on June 27, 2018, by the following vote:


AYES: Bernardo, Chang Kiraly, Mattusch

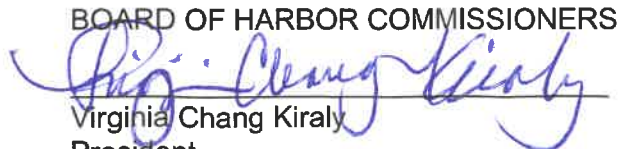
NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Brennan, Larenas

Attest

  
Debbie Gehret  
Deputy Secretary

BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS  
  
Virginia Chang Kiraly  
President