



South Tahoe Public Utility District

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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Richard Solbrig, General Manager
Kathy Sharp, Clerk of the Board

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2013

ITEM – PROJECT NAME: Election Costs for Elections Held in Odd-Numbered Years

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Consider adoption of Resolution No. 2922-13 to the El Dorado County and Alpine County Board of Supervisors changing District election cycle to even-numbered years to realize cost savings.

DISCUSSION: The LTUSD (Lake Tahoe Unified School District) and LTCC (Lake Tahoe Community College) recently changed their election cycle to even-numbered years instead of odd-numbered years (as well as changing from at-large seats to five separate geographic trustee zones). As a result, the District is the only local agency remaining in the odd-year election cycle and will assume all associated costs instead of splitting it three ways. There are a few small districts in the Tahoe area that potentially could go to election in the odd-year elections; however, they are all "vote by mail precincts" and those districts often do not go to election. The District will be the only "polling place" district going to election in the odd-year election as the two other polling place districts (LTUSD & LTCC) have moved to even-year elections.

This is new information received from the Registrar of Voter's office. A recent notification sent by their office informed us that, based on past expenses and division of costs, if only one district was on the ballot, costs to the District could triple. As an example given, the November 6, 2007, election was reviewed, and at the time the LTUSD, LTCC, and the District divided the costs three ways and each district paid \$23,000 for consolidated election services. If the District was the only one on the ballot for that election, the cost would have been approximately \$60,000.

District elections are conducted pursuant to the Uniform District Election Law, Elections Code section 10404, which enables a change from odd to even years for its election. The Board of Directors may, by the adoption of a resolution, establish Board elections to regularly occur on the same date as the statewide general election.

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If the District chooses to change the election cycle, the District is required to seek approval from all counties in which the District is located in, per the Elections Code. As the District is located in more than one county, the District may not consolidate an election if any county in which the District is located denies the request for consolidation. Accordingly, a resolution will need to be submitted to both the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Board of Supervisors within 240 days prior to the November election, which would be March 10th, and because March 10th is a Sunday, the Board needs to submit the resolution by March 8, 2013.

It is important to note that pursuant to Elections Code section 10404, subdivision (i), those members of the Board of Directors whose terms of office would have, prior to the adoption of this Resolution, expired prior to that election will, instead, continue in their offices until their successors are elected and qualified. In no event, however, may the term be extended beyond December 31st of the year following the year in which the District's request for consolidation is approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Upon the District's request to consolidate its election with those public entities during even-numbered years, each board of supervisors is required to notify all districts located with their respective county to consolidate and to request input from each district on the effect of consolidation. The El Dorado County and Alpine County elections officials must prepare and transmit to their Boards of Supervisors an impact analysis of the proposed consolidation, and the Boards of Supervisors for El Dorado and Alpine County must each individually approve the resolution within 60 days, unless it finds that the change in election dates cannot be handled by existing voting materials.

Pursuant to the Elections Code, within 30 days after the approval of the resolution, the El Dorado County and Alpine County elections officials are required to notify all registered voters of the districts affected by the consolidation of the approval of the resolution by that county's Board of Supervisors. The notice is to be delivered by mail and at the expense of the District.

SCHEDULE: Resolution to Board of Supervisors by March 8, 2013

COSTS: Approximately \$60,000

ACCOUNT NO:

BUDGETED AMOUNT REMAINING: \$20,000

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

CONCURRENCE WITH REQUESTED ACTION: **CATEGORY:** General

GENERAL MANAGER: YES _____ NO _____

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: YES _____ NO _____