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County of El Dorado

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Memo To: Board of Supervisors
From: Terri Daly, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Redistricting Process

Background

California Election Code § 21500 et. seq. requires boards of supervisors to approve supervisorial district boundaries at least once following each federal decennial census so that district boundaries are “nearly equal in population as may be.” Official 2010 U.S. Census data must be used to determine supervisorial district boundaries for future elections through 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau made the 2010 data available to the state and local governments last week. Per Elections Code § 21501, the Board must adopt the new district boundaries by November 1, 2011.

The Surveyor’s Office has provided a preliminary assessment of the 2010 Census data. The data indicates that El Dorado County has grown by nearly 25,000 residents in the last ten years and that the growth is spread disproportionately across supervisorial districts. For example, District 5 has decreased in population by 10%, while District 2 has increased by 46%.

Redistricting Team

On February 14, 2011 the Chief Administrative Office convened a “redistricting team” composed of the following members:

- Chief Administrative Officer—Provides oversight and directs resources required by other team members, conduct public outreach efforts
- Surveyor—Facilitates the redistricting process by providing data analysis, preparation of map alternatives
- County Counsel—Provides legal advice and assistance
- Recorder-Clerk/Registrar of Voters—Provides procedural guidance, input and information

Guiding Principles

The redistricting team proposes the following guiding principles for the process of mapping new district boundaries to ensure that the process is open and transparent. These principles are consistent with Proposition 11 which was recently passed by the voters of California to guide the new California Citizens Redistricting Commission in its effort to redraw state legislative and Board of Equalization seats.

- To the extent possible, achieve near equal population for each district according to census data. Total population for each district should be within 5% of each other. (Note: It appears from the last redistricting effort that a difference of nearly 11.5% existed between certain districts.)
- Districts shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S. C. Sec. 1971 and following).
- To the extent practical, use identifiable geographic features and topography to draw compact and contiguous adjusted boundaries.
- Maintain communities of interest in a single district and avoid splitting communities when adjusting boundaries. Communities of interest may be defined by existing boundaries for cities, school districts, special districts, and unincorporated communities.

Options

The redistricting team has identified the following redistricting process options for the Board's consideration:

1. The full Board steers each step of the redistricting process.
2. The Board could appoint a subcommittee to guide the redistricting team.
3. Pursuant to Election Code § 21505, the Board may appoint a citizen's advisory committee to "study the matter of changing the boundaries of the supervisorial districts." The committee must make its recommendation to the Board by August 1, 2011.
4. Proposed Approach for the 2011 Board Redistricting Process

Data Analysis and Mapping

The Surveyor's Office will use their Geographic Information System mapping program to analyze and map district boundaries. The Surveyor's Office proposes to produce 3-6 map alternatives. All map alternatives will appropriately labeled and be accompanied by a written summary description so that the public and interested parties can easily track map changes as they may evolve through the process.

Public Outreach

A redistricting webpage similar to what was created for the Charter Commission will be established on the County's website as a way to provide up to date information including agendas, minutes, meeting announcements, press releases, maps, etc. In addition, an e-mail address or comment form can be established to allow for public comments and questions. Parties

will have the ability to subscribe to the webpage so that they receive an e-mail notification when new information is added to the webpage.

Following the creation of the map alternatives, the Chief Administrative Office proposes to schedule at least three well publicized public forums (El Dorado Hills, Placerville, South Lake Tahoe) where the public can review the maps, provide, feedback, ask questions of the redistricting team.

Public Hearing and Ordinance Adoption

Election Code requires the Board to hold at least one public hearing on any proposal to adjust the boundaries of a district, prior to a public hearing at which the board votes to approve or defeat the proposal. Following the conclusion of the public forums, the Board will schedule a formal public hearing on the map alternatives. A second public hearing will be scheduled for the Board to adopt one of the map alternatives via ordinance.

Proposed Schedule

March-April	Surveyor analyzes new Census data, applies guiding principle adopted by the Board, develops 3-6 map alternatives.
End of April/Early May	Surveyor previews map alternatives to the Board of Supervisors before public forums are scheduled.
May/June/July	At least three well-advertized public forums conducted on the map alternatives to receive public comments.
August	Board of Supervisors holds first formal public hearing on map alternatives.
September	Board of Supervisors holds second public hearing where a map alternative is adopted via ordinance.