



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 3/8/2022

TO: Board of Directors

SUBJECT:

Public Hearing regarding Redistricting of Coachella Valley Water District Division Boundaries as required by Election Code Section 22000 et seq.

FOR: Action

Public Hearing

Ordinance

Presentation/Recognition

Informational Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: *It is recommended that the Board of Directors:*

Receive a report from the District's redistricting consultant on the redistricting process and review draft District Election Division Boundaries; and 2) conduct a Public Hearing to receive testimony and comments regarding District Division Boundaries; and 3) adopt Resolution No. 2022-** entitled, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Coachella Valley Water District Adjusting Director Electoral Divisions.

SUMMARY: *This request consists of:*

Every ten years, agencies with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw electoral division lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all divisions comply with both the California and federal Voting Rights Acts. Requirements for redistricting include:

- Revised electoral districts must be “substantially equal in population as required by U.S. Constitution.”
 - Balance must comply with US and California Constitutions and Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) Section 10301 of Title 52 of the United States Code, as amended.
 - Population equality is based on total population of District residents (not customers) per U.S. Census
 - Incarcerated persons only counted if last known residence may be assigned to a City census block
 - In adjusting the boundaries of the divisions, the board may give consideration to the following factors:
 - (1) topography,
 - (2) geography,
 - (3) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and
 - (4) community of interests of the division.
 - This section does not apply to divisions in which only landowners vote for directors or whose directors are all elected at large or appointed.
- Boundaries shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party.
- Change of boundaries shall not affect the unexpired term of office of any elected Board member.



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Analysis of the district's current division boundaries, adjusted for the 2020 Census data, shows the divisions are no longer population-balanced. The district's population is 355,073. The ideal division population is one-fifth of that number, or 71,015.

Determining population balance is done by measuring the spread, or deviation, between the least populated division and the greatest populated division. Deviations of 10% or less are generally considered acceptable under U.S. Supreme Court rulings on the equal population standard under the U.S. Constitution.

The current population of Division 5 is under the ideal at -6.39% while Division 4 is considerably over the ideal at 13.26%. Combined, those deviations bring the district's current total deviation to a substantial 19.65%. As such, the division boundaries must be adjusted to achieve a population balance with less than a 10% deviation.

Another consideration is the distribution of minority voters throughout the District, and whether there is a possibility of creating a majority/minority voting district as addressed in the federal Voting Rights Act. This analysis involves reviewing the ethnicity demographics from the census data, specifically citizens of voting age populations (CVAP). Upon review of the district's CVAP data, creation of a majority/minority voting district (a division in which an identified minority comprises the majority of voting age population) is possible. Currently, Divisions 4 and 5 are majority/minority Hispanic voting districts.

The District's redistricting consultant prepared two potential maps for Board consideration, which meet all of the above criteria (Attachment). The proposed maps balance the District's population while preserving the core of the existing districts. They are compact, cohesive, recognize natural geological and topographical features, and balance the population objectively. These maps were presented at the first public hearing, held January 25, 2022. At the hearing, the Board requested information regarding the number of voters moving across voting divisions, and the impact that may have on voting cycles. The results of that analysis is included in the maps summaries below. Further, an online tool for viewing the maps, with full search and other geolocation services, may be found at the following link: [VIEW MAPS ONLINE](#)

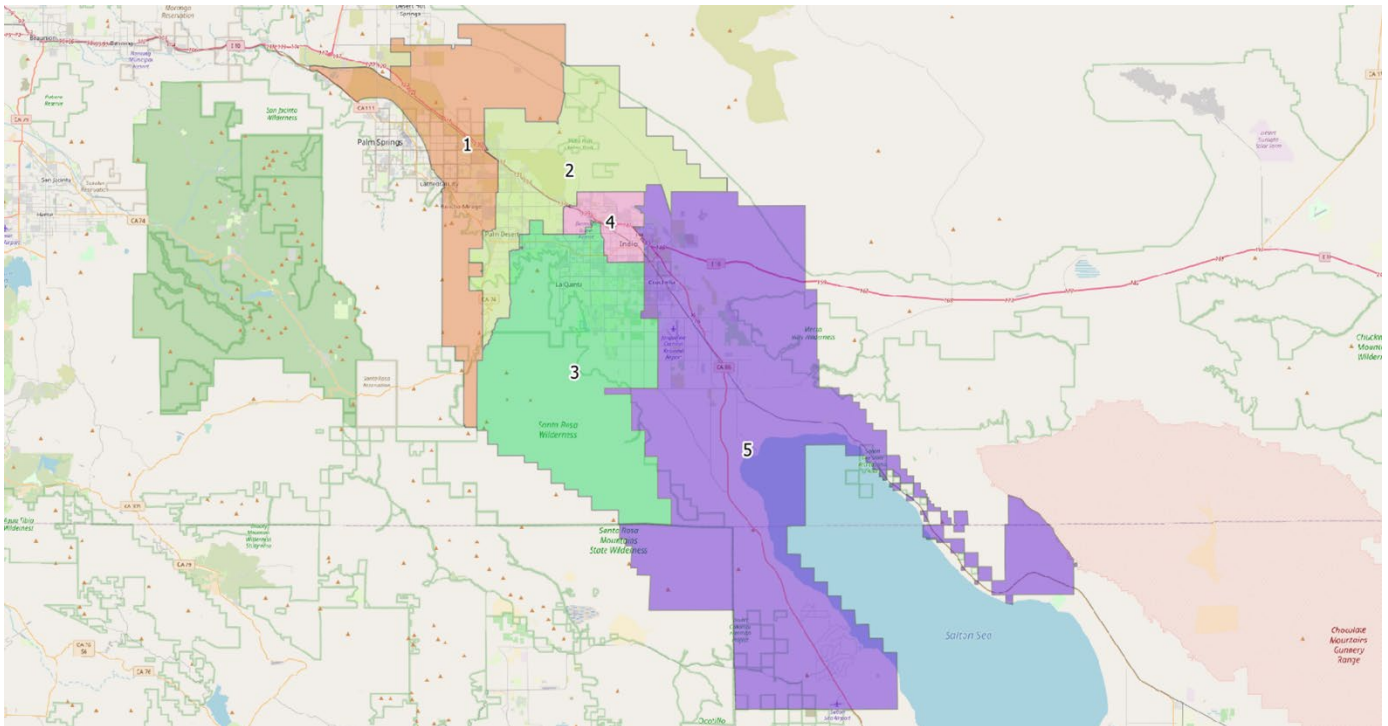


**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

Map Option 1

While retaining the core of existing divisions, the total population deviation of the proposed division boundaries is 3.21%, compared to 19.65% for the current boundary map. It creates compact voting districts, particularly with respect to Divisions 2, 3 and 4. It also preserves existing majority/minority voting districts in Divisions 4 and 5, in compliance with the U.S. Constitution and the California Elections Code. A more detailed demographic breakdown is attached to this report.

Map Option 1



Option 1 moves a total of 10,851 people between divisions, representing 3.05% of the District’s population. Of that number, 6,306 are accelerated from a 2024 voting cycle to a 2022 voting cycle. Conversely, 4,545, or 1.2% of the District’s population, are deferred two years, from their current voting cycle of 2022 to 2024. A complete analysis of the movement may be found in the table below.

new_districts	orig_districts	Population	Impact
1	1	68,380	None
1	2	2,528	Acceleration from 2024 to 2022
2	2	69,894	None
2	4	0	None
3	3	67,169	None
3	4	3,778	Acceleration from 2024 to 2022
4	4	72,175	None
4	3	0	None
5	5	66,604	None
5	4	4,545	Deferment from 2022 to 2024



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Map Option 2

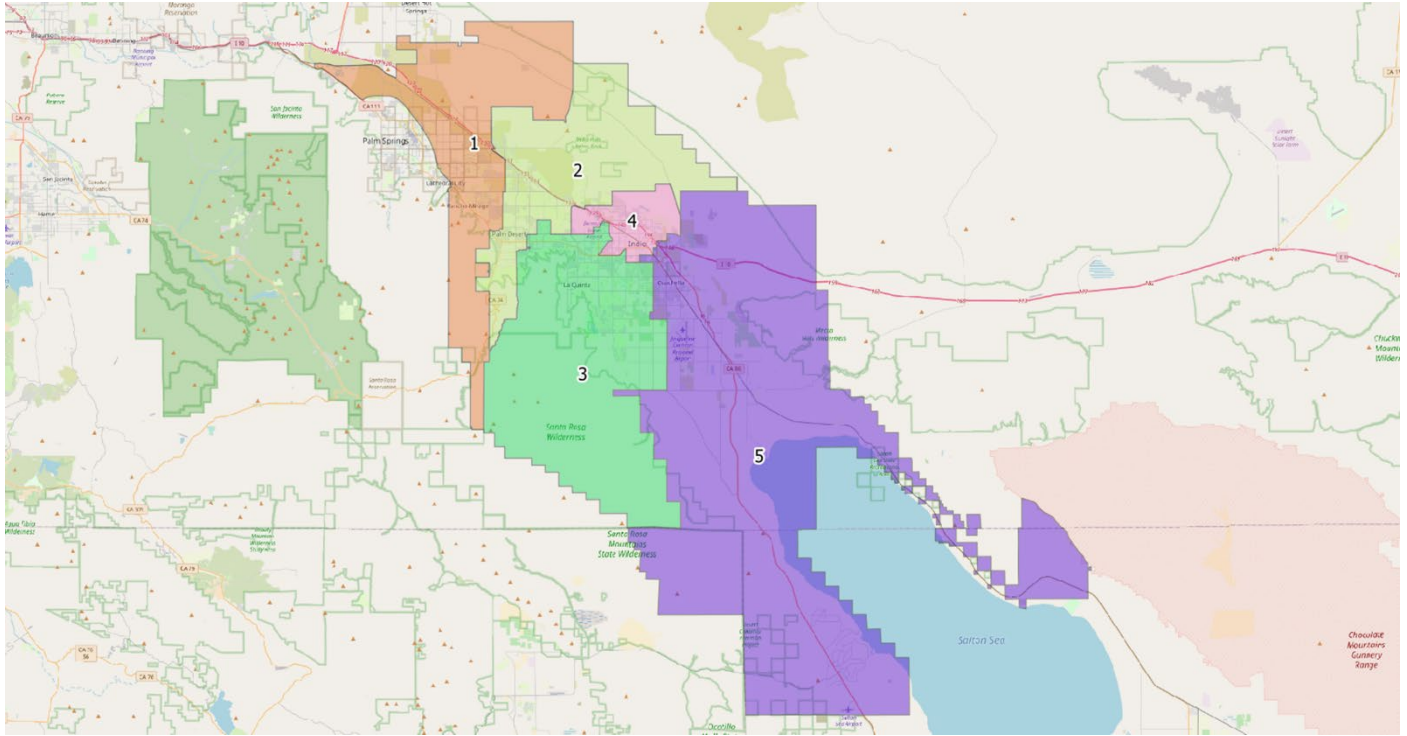
Map Option 2 is more closely aligned with the District's current division boundaries, and sought to balance the population with the least amount of voter shift and exhibits a population deviation of 3.45%. It creates slightly more compact voting districts with respect to Divisions 3 and 4, and retains the core of the existing divisions. Like Option 1, the proposed map also preserves existing majority/minority voting districts in Divisions 4 and 5, in compliance with the U.S. Constitution and the California Elections Code. A more detailed demographic breakdown is attached to this report.

Option 2 moves a total of 10,673 people between divisions, representing 3.00% of the District's population. Of that number, 5,260 are accelerated from a 2024 voting cycle to a 2022 voting cycle. Conversely, 4,756, or 1.33% of the District's population, are deferred two years, from their current voting cycle of 2022 to 2024. Six hundred and fifty-seven people move divisions with no change in their voting cycle. A complete analysis of the movement may be found in the table below.

new_districts	orig_districts	Population	Impact
1	1	68,380	None
1	2	2,528	Acceleration from 2024 to 2022
2	2	69,894	None
2	4	657	None
3	3	67,169	None
3	4	2,732	Acceleration from 2024 to 2022
4	4	72,353	None
4	3	0	None
4	5	0	None
5	5	66,604	None
5	4	4,756	Deferment from 2022 to 2024



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AGENDA STAFF REPORT



Map Option 2

Following this hearing, the District’s redistricting consultant will prepare revised map(s) if requested by the Board. Alternatively, the Board may select a preferred map and adopt a Resolution finalizing the redistricting process. Should additional public hearings be necessary to select a preferred map, they will be scheduled accordingly.

The current redistricting process for Coachella Valley Water District must be completed by April 17, 2022, in compliance with State law.

Therefore, staff requests the Board: 1) receive a report from the District’s redistricting consultant on the redistricting process and review draft District Election Division Boundaries; 2) conduct a Public Hearing to receive testimony and comments regarding District Division Boundaries; and 3) adopt Resolution No. 2022-** entitled, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Coachella Valley Water District Adjusting Director Electoral Divisions

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for costs associated with redistricting is available within Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Administrative Operating Budget. As such, there will be no adverse impact to the budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No, this item is not a “project” as defined by CEQA; therefore, approval does not require any CEQA action.

Yes, see below.

N/A



**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

LEGAL REVIEW: Yes – Reviewed by Counsel No – Not Applicable

FIRM: Best Best Krieger

Prepared by: Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board

Submitted by: Sylvia Bermudez
Clerk of the Board



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ATTACHMENTS: proposed maps, draft resolution
FILE: 0615., 0034.06
PROJECT ID NO: N/A