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March 9, 2016

VIA U.S. MAIL AND
FACSIMILE TO: (213) 217-4979

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

55 May 3, 2016


LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Patrick Ogawa
Acting Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Agenda
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County Registrar-
Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, California 90650

Re: Submission of Sulphur Springs School District Board Request for Consolidation to Even Year Elections

Dear County Officials:

Our office represents the Sulphur Springs School District ("District"). On behalf of the District, we hereby submit to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, with a copy to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, this correspondence and the enclosed resolution, Resolution No. R-16-05. The aforementioned documents will constitute the District's request to consolidate to even years for elections of Governing Board members, commencing in 2018.

Background – Increasing Voter Participation and Compliance with CVRA

Over the past few years, the District has been evaluating options to increase voter participation and to reduce potential exposure to civil suits, pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA"). As part of these efforts, approximately three years ago, March 2013, the District submitted a prior request to convert to even year elections. The District's request was denied at that time.

Unfortunately, on June 26, 2013, a California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") lawsuit was served upon the District, challenging the District's use of at-large voting, *Rosemarie Sanchez-Fraser v.*

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Sulphur Springs School District, Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. BC 512739. In order to avoid protracted litigation and to conserve precious District resources, the Board responsibly settled the matter by agreeing to hold District elections after the completion of the transition to a by-trustee election system. The first election under the by-trustee election system was held this past November 2015. Despite the transition to by-trustee areas, the District continued to experience low voter turnout for this past election.

Request for Consolidation to Even Years

Armed with the recent election turnout, the District sought to further increase the voter turnout and participation within its community, in recognition and furtherance of the principles of CVRA. In moving towards this goal, the District again examined the issue of consolidating to even year election. The District was been presented with information indicating that voter turnout, within the District, increases significantly during statewide elections, which are held in even years. Upon presentation and review of this information, the District investigated consolidation as an option to increase voter turnout. The District was informed that the Board of Supervisors has recently changed its long-standing policy of denial of such requests. The Board now considers consolidation requests on a case-by-case basis, and further, has been regularly approving such requests, absent some extraordinary circumstance.

In response to being provided this information, the Governing Board, on February 10, 2016, adopted the enclosed resolution seeking to consolidate to even year elections. The Board's stated purpose and goal was to enhance voter participation, while also recognizing a potential cost savings.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, and pursuant to the enclosed resolution, the District respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors approve the consolidation to even year elections, to commence with the November 2018 election.

Sincerely,



Milton E. Foster III

Enclosures: Board Resolution No. R-16-05 of Sulphur Springs School District

SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. R-16-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SULPHUR SPRINGS
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING THE RESCHEDULING OF GOVERNING
BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS FROM ODD TO EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS
COMMENCING WITH THE 2018 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**

WHEREAS, the current date for election of Governing Board members ("Board") of the Sulphur Springs Union School District ("District") is every two (2) years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd years (e.g., November 2017) (Education Code section 5000 and Elections Code section 1302(a));

WHEREAS, statewide general elections are held in California only in June and November of even years (e.g., November 2016) (Elections Code section 1001);

WHEREAS, generally, voter participation is greater for statewide general elections than for special local elections, including school board member elections;

WHEREAS, the Board believes that rescheduling to "even-year elections" may enhance voter participation in school Board elections;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that there may be a cost savings to the District resulting from aligning the District's elections with the statewide general elections;

WHEREAS, as a result of these facts, the Board desires to change the date of future Board elections to be consolidated with the California statewide general election, in order to enhance voter participation and use District and County resources efficiently;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that there is a cost savings to the District resulting from aligning the District's elections with the statewide general elections, this is not the reason for the Board's decision;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the terms of its members would be extended as a result of aligning the District's elections with the statewide general elections;

WHEREAS, Elections Code section 1302(b) establishes a procedure whereby the Board may change the election date for its Board members by adopting a resolution seeking approval of the change by the Board of Supervisors of the affected county (Elections Code section 10404.5); and

WHEREAS, if the change in election date is approved, the election date for Board members will be moved from November of odd years to November of even years commencing in 2018, with board members whose terms would have expired in 2017 being extended to 2018, and Board members whose terms would have expired in 2019

being extended to 2020, as required by Elections Code section 10404.5(g) [refer to Exhibit A].

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above recitals are true and correct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sulphur Springs Union School District Governing Board adopts this resolution to consolidate the election date for members of the Board with the California general election in November in even years (Elections Code 1001) pursuant to Elections Code section 1302(b).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent will forward this resolution to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and requesting formal approval of the change by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting within 60 days after submission and after the resolution has been posted in accordance with law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent will notify the Los Angeles County Elections Office that the District is prepared to pay the expenses of mailing notice of approval of the change in election date by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as required by Elections Code 10404.5(e).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the consolidation of election is adopted and submitted to the Board of Supervisors at least 240 days prior to the next scheduled school Board election (Elections Code section 10404.5(a)) and if the Board of Supervisors approves of the consolidation, the date of the District's next Board election will be moved to November 2018 and each subsequent Board member election will be held two years thereafter in November of even years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the consolidation of election is approved, the term of office of current Board members expiring in November 2017 will be extended to November 2018, and the term of Board members expiring in November 2019 will be extended to November 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's superintendent or her designee is authorized to take such actions and execute such documentation necessary to effect the intent of this Resolution.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Sulphur Springs Union School District, Los Angeles County, California, on this 10th day of February, 2016 at a duly noticed meeting, by the following vote:

	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ken Chase		X		
Dr. Kerry Clegg	X			

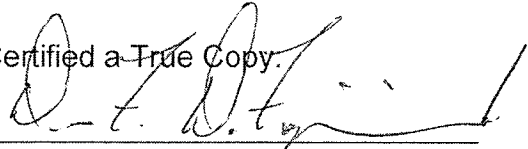
Denis DeFigueiredo	X
Lori MacDonald	X
Shelley Weinstein	X

I, Shelley Weinstein, President of the Sulphur Springs Union School District, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the said Board of Trustees on the 10th day of February, 2016.

Dated: February 10, 2016



Shelley Weinstein, President
Sulphur Springs Union School District
Los Angeles County, California

Certified a True Copy.


Denis DeFigueiredo, Clerk, Board of Trustees
Sulphur Springs Union School District
Los Angeles County, California

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Exhibit A

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Current Election Year</u>	<u>New Election Year</u>
Ken Chase	2017	2018
Dr. Kerry Clegg	2017	2018
Denis DeFigueiredo	2019	2020
Lori MacDonald	2017	2018
Shelley Weinstein	2019	2020