

ORDINANCE NO. 73

**APPROVING THE CHANGE FROM AT-LARGE TO ZONE-BASED
ELECTIONS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMENCING IN NOVEMBER OF 2022**

WESTBOROUGH WATER DISTRICT

THIS ORDINANCE is adopted in light of the following facts and circumstances, which are found and declared by the Board of Directors (Board) of the Westborough Water District (District):

WHEREAS, the District is a Water District duly organized and operating pursuant to the County Water District Law, California Water Code sections 30000 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, the California Legislature in the County Water District Law provided for the formation, governance, and operation of County Water Districts, and the District (formerly known as Callan Park County Water District) was established in 1961;

WHEREAS, under the District's enabling legislation, the Board of Directors of the District provides for the development and provision to its customers of a sufficient quantity of high quality water in the most cost-effective, reliable, and environmentally sensitive manner as well as the collection and transportation of waste water;

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

WHEREAS, the Board currently is comprised of five directors who serve four-year staggered terms and are elected in even-numbered years pursuant to Water Code sections 30500 and 30501, and Elections Code section 10505;

WHEREAS, the District wishes to conform to the provisions of the California Voting Rights Act (Cal. Elections Code section 14025 *et seq.*);

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

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

WHEREAS, the Board desires that its members represent the interests and wishes of all residents within the jurisdiction of the District, and that the community have

confidence that the Board continues to represent the interests and wishes of the District;

WHEREAS, two Director positions are set to be on the ballot in November of 2022 for election to four-year terms, two positions are on the ballot in November of 2022 for unexpired terms ending in 2024 and a third position will also be up for election in November of 2024;

WHEREAS, the District engaged a demographer, Redistricting Partners, to draw maps and assist with converting to zone-based elections, and utilized the streamlined procedure laid out in Elections Code sections 10010 *et seq.* to move from its prior at-large system to a zone-based system;

WHEREAS, it is the District's intention to establish five zones 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 census blocks for purposes of implementation, as well as maintaining vital communities of interest;

WHEREAS, the Board held two duly-noticed public hearings on December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2022, to solicit input from the community as to how the zones should be drawn in light of the factors outlined in the prior paragraph, at which Redistricting Partners and legal counsel were available to answer questions from Board members and the public;

WHEREAS, after receiving that input, Redistricting Partners drew three potential zone maps to satisfy the legal requirements of equal population among the zones and other accepted demographic principles to comply with both California and Federal law, and these maps were posted on February 11, 2022, and reviewed and discussed at a February 10, 2022 public hearing called for that purpose;

WHEREAS, at the February 10, 2022 public hearing, Redistricting Partners presented the maps to the Board and to the public and, along with legal counsel, was available to the Board and to the public to answer questions.

WHEREAS, at the February 10, 2022 public hearing, input was gathered on the three Redistricting Partners maps that were present;

WHEREAS, the Board held a public hearing on March 10, 2022 for the purpose of providing information about the maps that Redistricting Partners had drawn, and to answer any questions that the public may have and both Redistricting Partners and legal counsel were present;

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on April 14, 2022, the Board considered the precise contours of the five zones for the election of members of the Board of Directors of the District including the map known as Map A, (attached hereto as Exhibit

A), which complies with all Federal, State and local laws and regulations, and will ensure that all in the District may effectively exercise their electoral franchise to elect candidates of their choice in conjunction with the considerations of topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory, as well as maintaining vital communities of interest;

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on April 14, 2022, the Board also considered which of the five zones would be electing directors in 2022 (and every four years thereafter) and which would do so in 2024 (and every four years thereafter); and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Elections Department will be provided with the information necessary by the District staff, Redistricting Partners, and legal counsel, to ensure that this zone-based election system is implemented for the November 2022 election, and every two years thereafter.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Westborough Water District Board of Directors as follows:

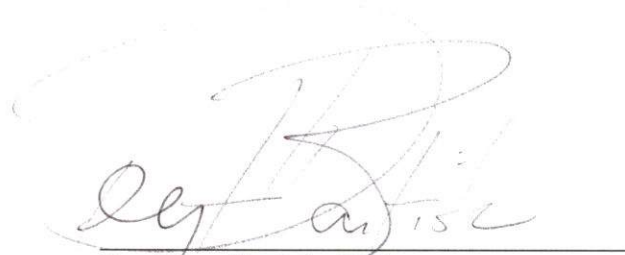
1. The District declares that the change in the method of electing its Board members from at-large to zone-based elections is being made in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act.
2. The District establishes an electoral system with zone-based elections for the election of its Board members commencing in November 2022 with five (5) zones as shown on Map A, which is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference.
3. The sequence of elections for each of the five zones will be as follows: (A) District Board member elections for zones 2 and 4 will be in 2022, and every four years thereafter; and (B) District Board member elections for zones 1, 3, and 5 will be in 2024, and every four years thereafter.
4. The elections for the two unexpired terms will be for at-large positions, with terms ending in 2024.
5. All candidates and Board members of the District must reside in, and be a registered voter in, the electoral zone in which she or he seeks to serve or serves.
6. The General Manager is authorized to take all actions necessary to give effect to this Ordinance, including, for example, providing information to the County of San Mateo Registration and Elections Division.

This Ordinance is adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Westborough Water District held this 14th day of April 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Amuzie, Chambers, Medina, Richards, and Bautista.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.



President, Board of Directors
Westborough Water District

ATTEST:



Secretary of the Board of Directors