

CITY OF BUELLTON
City Council Agenda Staff Report

City Manager Review: SW
Council Agenda Item No.: 6

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Linda Reid, City Clerk

Meeting Date: July 8, 2021

Subject: Second Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Community
Regarding the Creation of a District-Based Election System

BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2021, the City Council conducted its first public hearing to receive input from the community regarding the creation of a District-Based Election system. Staff received no public input and has published a second notice of public hearing for July 8 and posted the notice on the City's Facebook page. Staff will reach out to the public again via a water bill flyer in English/Spanish, after receiving the Census data in September/October, 2021 and well before the last two public hearings in 2022.

The July 8th public hearing will again seek public input and provide direction on criteria to be considered while drafting district maps. It should be noted that the July 8th public hearing will be the last chance to provide feedback before drawing district maps and residents can learn about the mapping tools so that they can draw their own maps of their neighborhood or how they think the districts should be drawn. The public participation maps in English and Spanish are attached as Attachment 1 and will be available at the Council meeting on July, 8, 2021. All mapping tools can be viewed at: <https://cityofbuellton.com/government/district-based-elections/>.

Following that July 8th hearing, draft district maps and proposed election sequencing will be posted on the City website and available at City Hall and those maps (and any possible new or revised maps) will be discussed at public hearings scheduled for January 27, 2022 and February 24, 2022, which will also incorporate Census data. The anticipated introduction and first reading of an ordinance will be heard on February 24, 2022 and the second reading and anticipated adoption is scheduled for March 10, 2022.

At the January 27, 2022 City Council Meeting, the City Council will conduct Public Hearing No. 3 to seek public input on the content of draft district map(s) and sequence of elections.

On February 24, 2022, the City Council will conduct Public Hearing No.4 and will be requested to select a preferred map, direct amendments as necessary, and introduce an ordinance to transition to a district-based electoral system.

The second reading and adoption of the ordinance is scheduled to occur on March 10, 2022, and the City Clerk and demographer will then work with the County Elections Division to have the district maps integrated into the countywide voting system. The first district election for the City of Buellton will be held on November 8, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council conduct a public hearing, receive public input on district boundaries and draft district maps/proposed election sequencing. All District-Based Election data will be posted on the City's website and available for review at City Hall.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Public Participation Maps (English/Spanish)