



Board of Directors Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: MAY 28, 2020 ITEM NUMBER: 10G

SUBJECT: Consideration of and Vote on Whether or Not to Change the Current Board Committee Format

DATE: May 22, 2020

FROM: Doug La Belle, Director

PRESENTATION BY: Doug La Belle, Director

RECOMMENDATION

At the Board of Directors' discretion.

BACKGROUND

Recently, there has been an increased number of requests from members of the public to move each Board committee from two to three members. In addition, the District is now receiving weekly requests for public records under the California Public Records Act related to work being done by the Board committees.

The Board of Directors, supported by District staff, currently operates with two-member advisory committees. Each of these advisory committees is created at the will of the Board Chair. The committee format assists District staff by providing an opportunity for staff and Board members assigned to that committee to engage in meaningful discussions, between Board meetings, about ongoing District projects and activities. During monthly Board meetings, the committee-assigned Board members then provide a full update to the Board regarding the committee's work.

During these committee updates, District staff will also provide updates and respond to questions. Each recommendation from a committee is placed on a duly noticed Board meeting agenda as an action item, which is then posted 10 days in advance of the Board meeting pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. District staff also prepares and posts a staff report for the action item before the Board meeting.

Beginning in February, 2020, staff began taking notes during each committee meeting and used the notes to create written committee reports for the benefit of the committee members, Board members and members of the public. These reports are also made available for review by the Board and members of the public during each Board meeting. This new procedure will be refined and expanded to provide as much information as possible during Board meetings.

Members of the public have suggested that the District move from a two-person to a three-person committee system. If the Board were to adopt the suggested approach, all committee meetings would need to comply with the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, including for example, the 10-day notice requirement.

Currently, the most active committees are the Governance Committee; Facilities Committee; and Storage, Parking and Traffic Ad Hoc Committee. Other committees such as the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation Committee and Centennial Farm Foundation Committee primarily update the Board on foundation-related activities. Several committees are currently on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Community Engagement Committee and the Branding Project Ad Hoc Committee.

Rather than moving from a two-person committee format to a three-person committee format, it would be more efficient to eliminate the committee system altogether and defer to the Board to facilitate discussion on any and all District-related business, including the business that would have been conducted through the committee structure. Each information item would be noticed as part of the agenda and would be discussed during the Board meeting.