



SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 06, 2022 @ 6:00 pm via ZOOM
Board of Directors Minutes

1. **Call to order** Meeting Started at 6:04 pm

2. **Board of Directors Roll Call**

Directors Present: President, Becky Campo
Vice President, Luis Avila (@6:16, pm)
Secretary, George "Gallo" Mac Master

Directors Absent: Treasurer, Anne Stokman
Director, Steve Pittson

Staff Present: Administrative Director/CEO, Karin Freese
Clerk of the Board, Cheryle Pickle

District Legal Council: Dave Ritchie, Cole Huber, LLP

We have a Quorum (@ 6:16 pm)

Motion: To waive all items except Public Comments and item 6 on the agenda (Approval of Expense Reimbursement per Election Code 10010(f)(3)).

M/S/C Director Campo/Director Mac Master

Ayes: Director Campo, Director Avila, Director Mac Master

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PASSED: By roll Call Vote

3. **Public Comment Period - None.**

4. **Approval of Expense Reimbursement per Election Code 10010(f)(3)**

Ms. Freese reviewed the history. Attorney Shenkman had sent a letter alleging a possible violation of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). Although, the District believes there is no dilution of the Hispanic voting power as Hispanics/Latino's are currently the majority citizen voting age population in the district's geographic boundaries, the District decided to proceed with the process of creating five election districts to avoid being sued and having to defend a claim of violation of the CVRA. If our defense lost, the District would have to pay the legal fees of the other party which in other CVRA lawsuits has total hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The law provides that if an allegation is made and after notification the district proceeds to adopt election districts then the party who alleged the possible violation is entitled to expense reimbursement up to \$30,000. As legally required, within 30 days after the District's adoption of districted elections, Mr. Shenkman demanded reimbursement of \$30,000 in legal expenses to prepare the alleged violation. We replied in a letter to Mr. Shankman challenging his alleged violation and requested details of the expenses. Since the district adopted districted elections, the law is clear. The allegor is entitled to expenses reimbursement up to \$30,000. Shenkman replied with a detailed accounting of his legal fees @ \$815.00 per hour but no additional details on the demography expense of \$11,000. He stated his fees have been approved by prior courts and if we did not agree to pay his expenses, he would take legal



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action against the District. It would cost \$25,000-\$50,000 to defend, plus we would only get a possible reduction of the fees and likely pay their additional legal costs to collect.

We will attempt a final negotiation to reduce the claimed amount. Although Mr. Shenkman claims to have spent hours in preparation, his allegation letter was a form letter still containing the name and initials of the water district he previously sent the same letter with only minor changes. The request is to authorize the staff to attempt to reduce the expense, but if necessary, pay up to \$30,000 in reimbursement.

M/S/C To approve up to \$30,000 alleged CVRA violation expense

reimbursement per Election Code 10010(f)(3)/Director Mac

Master/Director Avila

Ayes: Director Campo, Director Avila, Director Mac Master

Nays: None

Abstain: None

PASSED: By roll Call Vote

5. **Adjourn @ 6:31 pm**

Respectfully Submitted by  7-20-22
George Mac Master, Board Secretary Date