



Presentation to the San Bernardino County Committee on School District Organization

January 17, 2024

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District's Mission and Values

- Mission:

Provide a free and appropriate education enabling all students to be successfully prepared to be productive members of society.

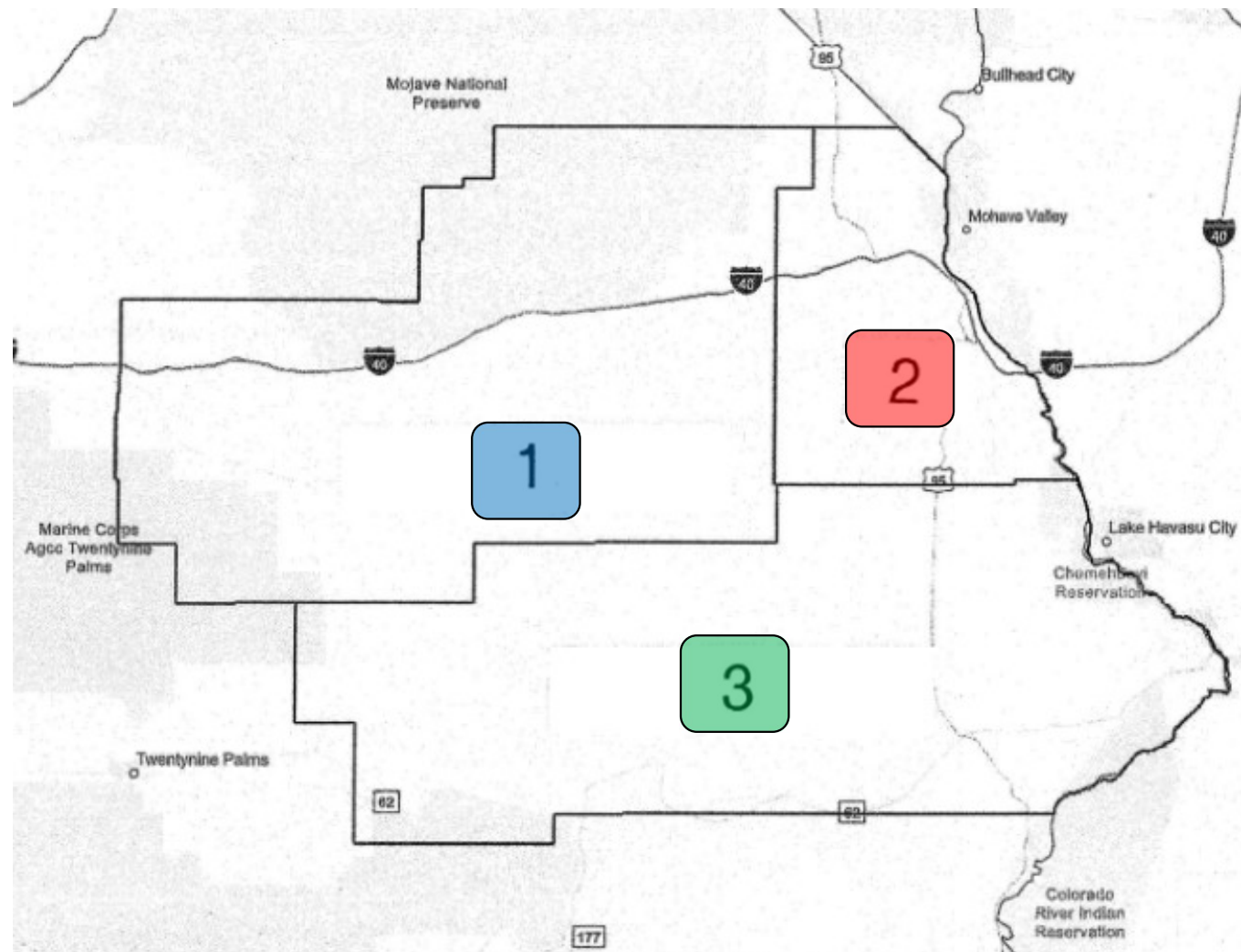
- Core Values:

1. All Students Will Learn
2. Education First

Background

District has a 7-member Governing Board

- **1** Trustee from **Area 1**
(*Essex/Goffs*)
- **5** Trustees from **Area 2**
(*Needles*)
- **1** Trustee from **Area 3**
(*Chemehuevi/
Earp/Big River*)





Background

- Current election method is not equitable or balanced.
 - Small overall population
 - Population imbalance per area
 - California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)
- For over 5 years, there have been no more than 6 seats filled on the District's 7-member Board.
- An additional vacancy arose in early June 2023.
- On occasion, such as right now, there are 5 seats filled on the District's 7-member Board.



Board's October 10, 2023 Actions

- The District's Board took a series of actions at a noticed, advertised, public meeting:
 1. Adopted a Resolution to Petition the County Committee to formally/officially Decrease the Number of Board seats from 7 to 5
 2. Held a public hearing regarding the submission of a waiver request; voted to authorize submission of waiver request
 3. Adopted a Resolution to Initiate a Transition to a By-Trustee Area Election System Commencing with the 2024 Governing Board election – contingent on the County Committee's approval of Board seat decrease



Reduce Board Membership (from 7-to-5)

- Education Code § 5019(a)(1):
 - “In any school district ... the county committee on school district organization may ... decrease from seven to five, the number of members of the governing board ...”
- Most common/efficient method: Petition to County Committee by Resolution. (Educ. Code § 5019(c)(1))



Reduce Board Membership (from 7-to-5)

- County Committee required to hold a public hearing within the District on the District's Proposal to reduce Board membership. (Educ. Code § 5019(c)(2))
- The Committee must approve or disapprove of the proposal at the conclusion of the hearing. (Educ. Code § 5019(c)(2))
- Ordinarily, once approved by County Committee, the transition from 7-to-5 Trustees is placed on ballot for approval by electorate; HOWEVER...



Reduce Board Membership (from 7-to-5)

- That election requirement is waivable by SBE
- District submitted a waiver request in October
 - SBE Waiver Office anticipates recommending approval on consent agenda during March 6, 2024 SBE meeting
- Waiver will save the District time and money, ensuring the District will be able to implement its new CVRA-compliant “by-trustee area” election system for the November 2024 elections to reduce any potential liability under the CVRA



Next Steps

- **January 2024**: Seek/obtain approval from the County Committee on School District Organization
- **March 2024**: Receive waiver approval from SBE
- **January-May 2024**:
 - Hire demographer
 - Conduct public hearings in compliance with the law in advance of, and following, the creation of draft map options
 - Adopt Trustee Area Plan
 - Seek County Committee Approval of Election Transition
- **November 2024**:
 - Hold By-Trustee Area Elections