

ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
MINUTES
Special Meeting and Public Hearings
July 31, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Special Meeting of the Orange County Committee on School District Organization was called to order by Chairperson Sheila Benecke at 4:10 p.m., July 31, 2024 in the Board Room of the Capistrano Unified School District, 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, California, 92675.
2. FLAG SALUTE Vice-Chairperson Karin Freeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ROLL CALL Chairperson Benecke asked for Melanie Inskeep to take roll.

Present:

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke, Chairperson | Jackie Filbeck |
| Marilyn Buchi | David Johnson |
| Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson | Francine Scinto |
| Randy Reta | Kathryn Moffat (arrived at 4:26pm) |
| Lauren Brooks | |

Absent:

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| Paulette Chaffee | Kathleen Heard |
|------------------|----------------|
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Lauren Brooks, seconded by Karin Freeman, and carried by a unanimous vote of all members present to adopt the agenda as presented.
5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES The minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting were presented for approval. A correction was noted on page 4, where the name of an individual was missing. It was confirmed that the comments were made by Ms. Freeman.

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Francine Scinto and seconded by Karin Freeman. The motion passed with 7 votes in favor, 1 abstention (Lauren Brooks), and with Kathryn Moffat not yet present.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS Chairperson Sheila Benecke explained that today’s meeting would take place in two locations, and members of the public would have several opportunities to address the County Committee at both locations as outlined in the agenda. The Chairperson reminded the public that those wishing to speak must submit a comment card, available at the back of the room, to Melanie.
7. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING Chairperson Benecke explained the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public testimony in order to assist the County Committee members in making a determination regarding the Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District - Lomas Laguna HOA. Chairperson Benecke stated that the first hearing is taking place in Capistrano USD, then the County Committee will recess to travel to second public hearing in Saddleback Valley USD.

A. Staff Report

Chairperson Benecke asked Mr. Dean West, Secretary to the County Committee, to provide a brief staff report.

Mr. West provided an overview of the process and the criteria for transfer of territory via PowerPoint presentation. He explained the process of examining the petition per Education Code section 35704, conditions that must be considered, CEQA requirements, public hearing timelines, legislative intent and the discretionary authority of the County Committee to approve or deny the petition even if minimum conditions are substantially met. Mr. West concluded with a summary of the timeline for the Lomas Laguna Petition.

Ms. Brooks asked if the petition would need to go to the next election for a final decision. OCDE Legal Counsel, Ruth Brewda, clarified the County Committee would first vote to approve or disapprove the petition, determine the area of election, then the County Superintendent of Schools would call a local election, where the final decision would be made.

Arrival of Member Kathryn Moffat (4:26pm)

Ms. Freeman asked how important it is for the County Committee to consider whether the area involved remains the same as it was in 1981. Mr. West responded that the focus is on the current status of the district, not its organization in 1981.

B. Open Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke explained the format of the hearing as set forth in the County Committee Bylaws and reflected on the agenda.

Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 4:42 p.m.

1. Presentation from Chief Petitioner(s)

Chief Petitioner, Neel Patel, presented the petition to transfer territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) to Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) via PowerPoint presentation. He provided a detailed overview of the petition, addressing nine criteria required for consideration and supporting data. Mr. Patel noted that Lomas Laguna HOA consists of 185 single-family homes, located on the border of Laguna Hills and Aliso Viejo, with a 92656 Aliso Viejo zip code. He highlighted that most residents work in areas north or northwest of the neighborhood, creating longer commutes to the current SVUSD schools.

Mr. Patel addressed the nine criteria required for the petition's consideration, focusing on: enrollment trends in both districts and the minimal impact of transferring seven students from Linda Vista Elementary, the community's alignment with Aliso Viejo, both geographically and in terms of identity and traffic patterns, data showing similar racial demographics between the districts and disputing claims of significant racial shifts from the transfer, the minimal impact on educational programs, school facilities costs, and fiscal management. Mr. Patel concluded by emphasizing the challenges residents face due to the

distance of SVUSD schools and the potential benefits of transferring to CUSD schools, which are closer.

2. Representative(s) from the Capistrano Unified School District

Mr. Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Support Services for CUSD, stated that the Education Code allows inter-district transfers, and reported that there are 519 students from SVUSD that attend CUSD schools, while 329 students from CUSD attend schools in SVUSD. Mr. Hampton explained that given the number of inter-district transfers and the similarity of the communities, he did not see any purpose in carving out this one neighborhood to be part of the CUSD. He also indicated that both districts would continue to provide high-quality education regardless of the outcome of the petition.

3. Representative(s) from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Mr. Robert Craven, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for SVUSD, requested the County Committee deny the Lomas Laguna HOA petition for transfer from SVUSD to CUSD due to significant fiscal impacts on SVUSD. Mr. Craven stated the petition was initially submitted in December 2023 but was denied due to insufficient voter signatures. A revised petition was submitted in June 2024.

Mr. Craven reported that of the 44 students in the Lomas Laguna HOA, 36 attend SVUSD schools and 8 attend CUSD schools via inter-district transfers. The schools serving Lomas Laguna HOA include Linda Vista Elementary, La Paz Intermediate, and Laguna Hills High School. All are within 4 miles of the HOA, with Laguna Hills High School being the closest at 1.7 miles.

He also explained that SVUSD is experiencing declining enrollment and reduced revenue. Losing 36 students from Lomas Laguna would result in an additional \$447,000 loss in revenue this fiscal year and over \$1.2 million in the next three years. This would exacerbate the district's projected \$15.2 million deficit. Additionally, the transfer would affect SVUSD's bond funding and result in a \$1 million decrease in property tax revenue.

Mr. Craven concluded by emphasizing the strong community ties to SVUSD and the severe financial impact the district would face if the petition were approved, urging the panel to deny the request.

4. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

5. Rebuttal from the Chief Petitioner(s)

Mr. Patel stated that the first petition was initially approved by the County Registrar of Voters but was later rejected due to a technical issue related to new petition formatting requirements. The second petition lacked a few signatures, but the third petition was submitted successfully.

Mr. Patel stated that the travel to schools in Mission Viejo, which involves crossing the 5 freeway, is a significant burden for families. Regarding the fiscal impact, Mr. Patel requested the County Committee to consider that, although SVUSD claimed a loss of \$447,000, the actual financial impact would be lower due to corresponding reductions in student-related expenses. Mr. Patel indicated that he observed the prior transfer of territory from Orange Unified School District to Tustin Unified School District and asked the County Committee to evaluate the information objectively.

6. Rebuttal from representative(s) from the Capistrano Unified School District

There was no rebuttal from CUSD.

7. Rebuttal from representative(s) from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Mr. Craven stated that SVUSD is a large district, and it is common for families to travel 2 to 4 miles to their assigned elementary schools due to the geographic distribution of homes and schools. Additionally, he explained that SVUSD offers school choice, allowing families to select schools based on location, programs, or community identity. Specific program options include immersion programs at Gates Elementary and STEM programs at Santiago Elementary. Mr. Craven stated in regards to fiscal impact, even though small numbers of students may leave, SVUSD would not reduce staff or resources proportionally, meaning the financial impact would remain significant.

8. Rebuttal Public Comments

There were no public comments for rebuttal.

9. Close Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 5:14 p.m.

C. Questions/Discussion from County Committee Members

The County Committee members asked several questions of the chief petitioner, CUSD, and SVUSD regarding bus availability, the impact on programs if a school consolidation occurs, the geographic distribution of elementary schools, and projected enrollment. The County Committee also questioned bond obligations, why an adjacent neighborhood was not included in the petition, socioeconomic differences, community awareness of the petition, along with school choice and the inter-district transfer process.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

9. RECESS MEETING

Chairperson Benecke recessed the meeting at 5:58pm to allow for travel to the second public hearing in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

10. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Benecke called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. in the Board Room at Saddleback Valley Unified School District, 25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

11. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Benecke asked Melanie Inskeep to take roll.

Present:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke, Chairperson | Jackie Filbeck |
| Marilyn Buchi | David Johnson |
| Karin Freeman, Vice Chairperson | Francine Scinto |
| Randy Reta | Kathryn Moffat (arrived at 6:48 pm) |
| Lauren Brooks | |

Absent:

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| Paulette Chaffee | Kathleen Heard |
|------------------|----------------|

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Benecke explained the opportunities to provide public comment at the meeting and during the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

13. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Benecke explained the purpose of the public hearing and noted that the first hearing occurred earlier at Capistrano USD and now the second public hearing was taking place at Saddleback Valley USD.

Arrival of Member Kathryn Moffat (6:48pm)

A. Staff Report

Chairperson Benecke invited Mr. West, Secretary to the County Committee, to provide a brief staff report on the Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District - Lomas Laguna HOA.

Mr. West repeated the staff report from the First Public Hearing and concluded with a summary of the timeline for the Lomas Laguna Petition

Mr. Johnson asked what percentage of a school districts general budget goes towards salaries. Mr. West answered that typically there is an 80/20 rule that about 80% of a budget is typically salaries, however, some districts may be outside of that category.

B. Open Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke explained the format of the hearing as set forth in the County Committee Bylaws and reflected on the agenda. Chairperson Benecke opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

1. Chief Petitioner(s)

Mr. Patel presented the petition to transfer territory from SVUSD to CUSD via PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Patel stated that the transfer of students from SVUSD to CUSD who live in the HOA would have a minimal impact, as the school already experiences enrollment fluctuations. Mr. Patel highlighted no schools would close as a result of the transfer, and both districts confirmed no significant changes to facilities or fiscal management. A statistical analysis of racial demographics showed no meaningful difference between the two

districts, and the transfer would not promote racial or ethnic segregation. The representative also raised concerns about the long commute times to SVUSD schools, which create burdens for working families and negatively impact student attendance, concluding that the nearby CUSD schools are more accessible for the community.

2. Representative(s) from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Mr. Craven stated that the District requests that the County Committee deny the petition.

The petition involves 44 students, 36 of whom attend SVUSD schools, with 8 attending CUSD through inter-district transfers. Mr. Craven highlighted that SVUSD serves a large geographic area, and Lomas Laguna HOA is located on its southwest boundary. Linda Vista Elementary, serving the HOA, is an International Baccalaureate (IB) school with 278 students, 71% of whom are Latino. If the transfer is approved, Linda Vista would experience a 2.5% enrollment decline, contributing to district-wide declining enrollment and potential school consolidations.

Mr. Craven emphasized the fiscal impact of losing 36 students, projecting a \$447,000 loss this year and over \$1.2 million over three years, further increasing the district's projected deficit to \$16.4 million. Additionally, the transfer would affect property tax revenue and bond obligations, reducing the district's revenue by \$1 million. He concluded by underscoring that 82% of Lomas Laguna students attend SVUSD schools, indicating strong community ties to Laguna Hills and SVUSD. He urged the County Committee to deny the petition based on these fiscal and community considerations.

3. Representative(s) from the Capistrano Unified School District

Mr. Hampton provided an overview of the district's boundaries, which include several cities and unincorporated areas. He noted that, through the inter-district transfer process, CUSD currently has 519 students from Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD), including 8 from the Lomas Laguna HOA, while 329 CUSD residents attend SVUSD schools. Given the number of students moving between the districts and the similarities between the communities, Mr. Hampton stated that CUSD sees no purpose in transferring this single community to CUSD. However, CUSD holds a neutral position on the petition.

4. Public Comments

There were two people signed up and they both made public comments. Each individual was given three minutes to speak. Both spoke in favor of the transfer.

5. Rebuttal from the Chief Petitioner(s)

Mr. Patel stated the initial petition met the required number of signatures, but a change in the California Elections Code required resubmission. While the second attempt fell slightly short of signatures, the third petition garnered nearly 180 signatures, representing over 50% of households in the

neighborhood. He emphasized that, despite the statistics presented by SVUSD, the petitioners believe that the current system does not meet the criteria for unifying their community, as students are attending multiple schools. Mr. Patel also addressed the fiscal impact, clarifying that the \$447,000 loss presented by SVUSD is not a net loss, as expenses would also decrease with fewer students. He concluded by stressing that the petition aims to better serve the neighborhood and alleviate the burden on working parents.

6. Rebuttal from representative(s) from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Mr. Craven stated that the district allows both inter-district transfers and school choice within the district, offering parents the option to select the best fit for their children, such as IB, multilingual, or STEM schools. He emphasized that the loss of a small number of students, as in this case, does not result in proportional cost savings, as staffing and other expenses remain largely the same. He also addressed concerns about community identity, stating that students in the Lomas Laguna HOA area are assigned to Linda Vista Elementary, La Paz Intermediate, and Laguna Hills High School, with other children from their neighborhoods attending these schools as well.

Mr. Craven noted that the area south of the neighborhood has 13 students, and the area north, which is largely apartments and condos, has 107 students, 33 of whom attend Linda Vista Elementary. He explained that 27% of students in the HOA are Hispanic or Latino, and this increases to 79% when including the area to the north.

7. Rebuttal from representative(s) from the Capistrano Unified School District

There was no rebuttal from CUSD.

8. Rebuttal Public Comments

There were two rebuttals from the public for two and a half minutes each in favor of the petition.

9. Close Public Hearing

Chairperson Benecke closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

C. Questions from County Committee

The County Committee members asked several questions of the chief petitioner, CUSD, SVUSD, and OCDE Legal Counsel regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Linda Vista Elementary School, SVUSD's school choice program and the inter-district transfer processes at both SVUSD and CUSD, proximity of available schools from the HOA, and demographics of the schools and of the neighborhoods surrounding the HOA. Specifically, the County Committee members asked about the percentage of socioeconomic disadvantaged and English Language Learner students at Linda Vista school and the closest CUSD school, and neighborhoods either side of the HOA that were not included in the petition.

14. CEQA

Determination of Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory - Lomas Laguna HOA

A. Staff Report

Ms. Brewda provided a summary of the CEQA analysis. Ms. Brewda explained the proposed transfer is exempt from CEQA because it does not involve physical changes, only the transfer of students. The transfer qualifies for statutory and categorical exemptions under CEQA regulations, specifically Class 14 and Class 20 exemptions, which apply to minor school additions and changes in the organization of local government agencies.

Ms. Brewda reported that 44 students would be affected by this transfer and that both school districts have sufficient capacity to accommodate them without needing new construction or significant facility expansion. Therefore, she recommended the County Committee determine the transfer as exempt from CEQA and directed staff to file a notice of exemption upon approval. If the petition is not approved, no CEQA filing would be necessary.

B. Discussion/Questions from County Committee Members

Ms. Moffat asked whether the CEQA determination should be made prior to the petition being approved. Ms. Benecke stated that the CEQA determination had to be made before moving forward.

C. Vote on determination of CEQA exemption and authorize filing of Notice of Exemption conditional upon approval of the Petition for Transfer of Territory – Lomas Laguna HOA Petition

Ms. Brooks moved, seconded by Ms. Scinto, to approve the CEQA exemption determination and to authorize the filing of a notice of exemption conditional upon approval of the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

15. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE PETITION FOR TRANSFER OF TERRITORY – LOMAS LAGUNA HOA

Chairperson Benecke stated that the County Committee will next discuss and vote on each of the criteria specified in Education Code section 35753 regarding the proposed transfer of the Loma Laguna Homeowners Association from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District.

Mr. West and Ms. Brewda explained the voting process, and for purposes of clarity and consistency, that a "yes" vote would indicate that a criterion is "substantially met," and a "no" vote would indicate that it is "not substantially met."

Mr. Johnson asked about whether the County Committee would continue voting on all of the criteria if they found one of the conditions is not substantially met. Ms. Brewda advised that the County Committee should consider and vote on all nine criteria regardless of what the vote is for each condition, and at the end of deciding on the nine conditions, staff would let the County Committee know whether or not the petitioners have met the threshold requirement for the County Committee to vote to approve or disapprove the condition. At that point, if one or more of the conditions are

not satisfied, staff would inform the County Committee that they are required to deny or disapprove the petition.

A. The County Committee will vote on whether each of the criteria specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) is substantially met: (Each criterion will be voted on individually)

1. Criterion 1: The reorganized districts will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled. [E.C. §35753(a)(1)]

Moved by Marilyn Buchi, seconded by Lauren Brooks to approve that Criterion 1 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by unanimous vote of all members present. Criterion 1 was substantially met.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|----|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Kathryn Moffat Randy Reta Francine Scinto | | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

2. Criterion 2: The school districts are each organized on the basis of a substantial community identity. [E.C. §35753(a)(2)]

Moved by David Johnson, seconded by Lauren Brooks to approve that Criterion 2 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by a 7 to 2 vote with County Committee members Marilyn Buchi and Karin Freeman opposing. Criterion 2 was substantially met.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Jackie Filbeck David Johnson Kathryn Moffat Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Marilyn Buchi Karin Freeman | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

3. Criterion 3 The proposal will result in an equitable division of property and facilities of the original district or districts. [E.C. §35753(a)(3)]

Moved by David Johnson, seconded by Francine Scinto to approve that Criterion 3 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by unanimous vote of all members present. Criterion 3 was substantially met.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|----|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Kathryn Moffat Randy Reta Francine Scinto | | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

4. Criterion 4: The reorganization of the school districts will preserve each affected district's ability to educate pupils in an integrated environment and will not promote racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation. [E.C. §35753(a)(4)]

Moved by Francine Scinto, seconded by Randy Reta to approve that Criterion 4 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met.

County Committee members discussed the differences in ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, along with the percentages of English Language Learners in the elementary schools of Linda Vista Elementary (SVUSD) and Woodland Elementary (CUSD) and of the HOA and the surrounding neighborhoods that will remain within the SVUSD boundaries. They discussed their concern over the petition promoting racial and ethnic segregation, and not supporting an integrated educational environment.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed by a 2 to 7 vote. **Criterion 4 was not substantially met.**

| Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Kathryn Moffat | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

5. Criterion 5: Any increase in costs to the state as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization. [E.C. §35753(a)(5)]

Moved by David Johnson, seconded by Lauren Brooks to approve that Criterion 5 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by unanimous vote of all members present. Criterion 5 was substantially met.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|--|----|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson | | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

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| Kathryn Moffat Randy Reta Francine Scinto | | |
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6. Criterion 6: The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the affected districts. [E.C. §35753(a)(6)]

Moved by Jackie Filbeck, seconded by Marilyn Buchi to approve that Criterion 6 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met.

County Committee members discussed their concerns regarding the financial impact, declining enrollment, school bonds, and potential disruption of educational programs. They also discussed the possible reduction in consumables which could be offset by donations.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed, by a 4 to 5 vote. **Criterion 6 was not substantially met.**

| Yes | No | Absent |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Marilyn Bucci Jackie Filbeck Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Karin Freeman David Johnson Kathryn Moffat | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

7. Criterion 7: Any increase in school facilities costs as a result of the proposed reorganization will be insignificant and otherwise incidental to the reorganization. [E.C. §35753(a)(7)]

Moved by Marilyn Buchi, seconded by Lauren Brooks to approve that Criterion 7 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met.

County Committee members discussed bond obligations and the impact this may have on district funding.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by an 8 to 1 vote with County Committee member Kathryn Moffat opposing. Criterion 8 was substantially met.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Kathryn Moffat | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

8. Criterion 8: The proposed reorganization is primarily designed for purposes other than to significantly increase property values. [E.C. §35753(a)(8)]

Moved by Marilyn Buchi, seconded by Karin Freeman to approve that Criterion 8 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by an 8 to 1 vote with County Committee member Kathryn Moffat opposing.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Kathryn Moffat | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

9. Criteria 9: The proposed reorganization will continue to promote sound fiscal management and not cause a substantial negative effect on the fiscal status of the affected district. [E.C. §35753(a)(9)]

Moved by Marilyn Buchi, seconded by Francine Scinto to approve that Criterion 9 specified in Education Code Section 35753(a) was substantially met.

County Committee members discussed the potential domino effect of the transfer and the fiscal impact this could have on SVUSD. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed by an 8 to 1 vote with County Committee member Kathryn Moffat opposing.

| Yes | No | Absent |
|---|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Sheila Benecke Lauren Brooks Marilyn Buchi Jackie Filbeck Karin Freeman David Johnson Randy Reta Francine Scinto | Kathryn Moffat | Paulette Chaffee Kathleen Heard |

B. Discussion on Lomas Laguna HOA Petition

Ms. Brewda stated that under the Education Code, the County Committee may approve a transfer of territory petition if the minimum conditions in section 35753 (a) are substantially met. Based on the voting record, it was determined that conditions four and six of education code section 35753 (a) were not substantially met. Therefore, the County Committee does not have the authority to approve the petition. The County Committee is now required to take action to disapprove the petition.

C. Approve or Disapprove Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District - Lomas Laguna HOA.

Motion by Karin Freeman, seconded by Kathryn Moffat, to Disapprove Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District - Lomas Laguna HOA.

County Committee members discussed the proximity of other SVUSD elementary schools to the Lomas Laguna HOA, the option for an inter-district transfer request and the option to appeal to the County Board of Education for such requests.

A roll call vote carried unanimously by all members present. Petition for Proposed Transfer of Territory from Saddleback Valley Unified School District to Capistrano Unified School District - Lomas Laguna HOA was disapproved.

D. Determination of the area of election.

No action necessary, as petition was disapproved.

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

17. NEXT MEETING

Mr. West stated that the Annual Organizational Meeting will be in the fall of 2024, but the date will be determined based on County Committee availability.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Without further business, Chairperson Benecke requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Karin Freeman, seconded by Lauren Brooks, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

All documents submitted to the County Committee prior to, during and subsequent to this public hearing have been posted on the County Committee's website at <http://www.ocde.us/CCSDO/Pages/Meeting-Agendas.aspx> and are available for viewing and/or downloading.