Atascadero City Council
Staff Report - City Manager’s Office

County Request for Input Regarding
the Redrawing of Supervisorial District Boundaries

RECOMMENDATION:

Council direct staff to create a letter to the County Administrator, including Council’s input on the upcoming redistricting of the supervisorial boundaries.

DISCUSSION:

The City has received a letter from the County Administrator requesting the City’s input on our general needs and concerns related to the redistricting effort in our County. The California Elections Code requires the redrawing or adjusting of district lines by the County to ensure that legislative representation is fair and balanced. This process is required every ten years after the census data is compiled, to account for population shifts and growth over the last decade. In San Luis Obispo County, the supervisorial district lines are redrawn, but the number of district (5) remains the same. The Board of Supervisors has determined that this year’s redistricting effort will be an adjustment of the current boundaries. Wholesale revisions of the boundaries will not be considered or attempted in this process.

The purpose of redistricting is to bring the districts back into compliance with the one-person one-vote mandate of the federal and state constitutions. Both federal and state law requires that districts be as nearly equal in population as is practical. Also, the County excludes the State prison population (California Men’s Colony and Atascadero State Hospital) from the total population of the County for the purposes of redistricting. The County is required to also consider topography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, compactness of territory, and communities of interest when adjusting district lines.

Redistricting will determine the boundaries of the five districts in our County. Any adjustments will determine the County districts beginning with the 2012 elections. This redistricting does not affect congressional seats, state assembly or senate districts.
The County is asking for input from all cities and community services districts by May 18th. They are also holding public workshops to discuss scenarios they have developed and to hear public comment. One workshop is in our Council Chambers on May 26th and another is at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande on June 1st. More workshops are being scheduled. The public will also be able to provide input at the Board meeting of July 19th and at the two Board hearings scheduled for September. They are also accepting comments from the public via mail or email.

The County has until November 1st to adopt an ordinance that amends the district boundaries.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Request letter from County Administrator, dated April 20, 2011
2. County Staff Report, dated February 22, 2011
3. Fact Sheet
4. Frequently Asked Questions about Redistricting