

Heber Public Utility District Report to the Board of Directors

MEETING DATE: March 19, 2020

FROM: Laura Fischer, General Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize a Letter of Support for ACR 179 and Adopt Resolution Number 2020-04 Proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020 Inclusive, to be Special Districts Week.

ISSUE:

Shall the Heber Public Utility Board of Directors authorize a letter of support for ACR 179 and adopt Resolution Number 2020-04 proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020 Inclusive, to be Special Districts Week?

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a letter of support for ACR 179 and adopt Resolution 2020-04 proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020 Inclusive, to be Special Districts Week.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

BACKGROUND:

On February 26, Assembly Member Randy Voepel (R – Santee) introduced [Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179](#), which would proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2020 *Special Districts Week*.

Recall that last year, Assembly Member Ken Cooley (D – Rancho Cordova) introduced [Assembly Concurrent Resolution 89](#), which proclaimed the week of September 22, to September 28, 2019, to be *Special Districts Week*. It encouraged all Californians to be involved in their communities and be civically engaged with their local government.

Just like last year, the Assembly and Senate are encouraging Californians across the state to engage with their local communities and to be actively involved with their government, particularly with special districts and the areas they serve. Unlike last year however, *Special Districts Week* will coincide with CSDA's midyear advocacy event, [Special Districts Legislative Days](#).

During *Special Districts Week*, special district representatives will come to Sacramento to make their voices heard throughout the state legislature on issues of importance to California's special districts as part of [Special Districts Legislative Days](#).

Districts can take action to get engaged now and be prepared for the upcoming seasons by following a few simple steps:

- Submit a letter of support, which is attached for approval.
- [Register to attend Special Districts Legislative Days](#), held May 19-20 in Sacramento.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing a letter of support for ACR 179 and adopting Resolution 2020-04 proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020 Inclusive, to be Special Districts Week.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Do not adopt Resolution Number 2020-04 Proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020 to May 23, 2020 Inclusive, to be Special Districts Week.
- 2) Do not authorize a letter of support for ACR 179.
- 3) Provide alternate direction to staff.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fischer, General Manager

Attachment: Resolution Number 2020-04
Letter of Support for ACR 179

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HEBER PUBLIC
UTILITY DISTRICT PROCLAIMING THE
WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020, TO MAY 23, 2020,
INCLUSIVE, TO BE SPECIAL DISTRICTS
WEEK**

WHEREAS, Special districts are local governmental entities created by a community's residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents, to provide specialized services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Today, just over 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities, and more; and

WHEREAS, Special districts first arose when San Joaquin Valley farmers needed a way to access their local water supply; and

WHEREAS, Under the Wright Act of 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District became California's first special district and made it possible for local farmers to intensify and diversify agriculture in California's Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, In the 20th century, special districts increased dramatically in both number and scope, and during the periods of prosperity and population growth that followed both world wars when the demand for all types of public services increased, and special districts met that need; and

WHEREAS, The statutory authorization for mosquito abatement districts was enacted in 1915 to combat the salt marsh mosquitoes around the San Francisco Bay and higher than average malaria cases in rural counties; and

WHEREAS, Fire protection districts can trace their origins to a 1923 state law, and in 1931 the Legislature authorized recreation districts, the forerunners of today's recreation and park districts; and

WHEREAS, Hospital districts arose in 1945 because of a statewide shortage of hospital beds. In 1994, the Legislature then expanded their breadth and renamed them health care districts in recognition of the diverse, modern needs of California's communities and the importance of proactive, affordable health care beyond the walls of a hospital building; and

WHEREAS, Although originally created to provide individual services, in 1961 the Legislature authorized special districts to address multiple needs, when it provided for multipurpose, community services districts; and

WHEREAS, Special districts vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout California, from small rural neighborhoods, such as the Pine Cove Water District in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County, to large urban regions, such as the East Bay Municipal Utility District spanning much of the Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa; and

WHEREAS, Local residents own special districts and govern them through locally elected or appointed boards. A series of sunshine laws ensure special districts remain transparent and

accountable to the communities they serve, as these laws require open and public meetings, public access to records, regular audits, online posting of finances and compensation, and more; and

WHEREAS, To prevent overlapping services and ensure that local agencies are operating effectively and efficiently to meet communities' needs, special districts are formed, reviewed, consolidated, or dissolved through a methodical local process that includes the oversight of a local agency formation commission and the consent of local voters; and

WHEREAS, Fifty one years ago, in 1969, several independent special districts formed a statewide association called the California Special Districts Association, commonly referred to as the CSDA, to promote good governance and improved essential local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts; and

WHEREAS, The Heber Public Utility District seeks to promote democratic institutions, community-based services, local control, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, The Heber Public Utility District seeks to promote and educate the public about their local public service providers, including awareness and understanding of special districts.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

- 1) Join the California State Legislature in proclaiming the week of May 17, 2020, to May 23, 2020, inclusive, to be Special Districts Week and encourages all residents to be involved in their community and be civically engaged with their local government.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Heber Public Utility District held on the 19th day of March, 2020.

Moises Cardenas, Board President

ATTEST:

Raquel R. Carrillo, Clerk of the Board

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL)
HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY)
DISTRICT)

I, RAQUEL R. CARRILLO, Clerk of the Board of the Heber Public Utility District, County of Imperial, State of California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was dully passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Heber Public Utility District at its regularly scheduled meeting held on the 19th day of March, 2020.

[HPUD LETTERHEAD]

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Randy Voepel
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179 (Voepel) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear Assembly Member Voepel:

The Heber Public Utility District is pleased to support Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179, which would establish Special Districts Week from May 17 to May 23, 2020. The Heber Public Utility District is a special district providing water treatment and distribution, sewer collection and treatment, parks and recreation, and solid waste hauling services to the community of Heber.

Special districts are formed by communities to provide a needed service, overseen by a local board, and funded by local revenue. By focusing on one service, or a small suite of services, these public entities are able to perform efficient, effective, sustainable service delivery and infrastructure development, while maintaining local accountability.

Special districts date back to 1887 and have a long, rich history of providing benefits to their residents. They vary in size to best meet local needs, ranging from servicing multi-county regions and sometimes millions of residents, to small rural communities. As a representative of the special district community, we are pleased to support Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179.

The Heber Public Utility District would like to thank the author for introducing this resolution recognizing and commending special districts for the important work that they do throughout California. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Moises Cardenas,
Board President
Heber Public Utility District

CC: Anthony Tannehill, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association
[advocacy@cnda.net]