

# Heber Public Utility District

**MEETING DATE:** May 15, 2014

**FROM:** Laura Fischer, General Manager

**SUBJECT:** Request Appointment to the Imperial County Local Agency Formation Commission Board of Directors.

**ISSUE:**

Shall the Heber Public Utility Board of Directors request appointment of one HPUD Board Member to represent Special Districts on the Local Agency Formation Commission Board of Directors?

**GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:**

Request an appointment of one HPUD Board Member to represent Special Districts on the LAFCo Board of Directors.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

NONE.

**DISCUSSION**

The LAFCO board does have two spots open for Special Districts as Director Sandoval reported. There is an opportunity to get two seats reserved for Special Districts, however the more than 29 special districts in the County would have to vote for those seats to be reserved. There is some history as to why this was not previously approved and not desired by local special districts. LAFCO would be willing to assist with the voting process.

Once a seat has been reserved for special districts an entirely different process must be followed. All of the special district would then need to vote on a district to represent them. After the district has been determined then that district board selects a representative from their board.

LAFCo Board meets on an as needed basis, typically one a month on Thursday mornings unless there are no action items. The LAFCo Board typically meets in El Centro, sometimes at the City of El Centro board room and sometimes at the IID board room, but technically it can be any board room in the County.

The time commitment in general is modest, but triggered by the development market/demand. Staff reports packets are usually thorough but brief. The discussion areas are standard and cover the same finding categories for all annexations and other planning documents.

There are some benefits to HPUD if we were to secure a seat on the LAFCo Board. If the long-term goal of HPUD continues to be incorporation, participation in the LAFCo Board can provide a keen understanding of challenges and opportunities. A position on the

LAFCo Board would also provide voting power (and not just public opinion) when it comes to Sphere of Influence changes from other jurisdictions that may encroach onto HPUD Sphere of Influence.

**CONCLUSION**

Although the process may be onerous and require some staff time to assist LAFCo in securing the necessary votes to allow HPUD to represent the local special districts on the LAFCo Board, it seems like a very good idea to have representation to ensure the needs and issues facing local special districts are considered during the planning approval process.

Staff recommends requesting an appointment of one HPUD Board Member to represent Special Districts on the LAFCo Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Fischer, General Manager