

## Assembly Bill No. 2455

### CHAPTER 505

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 61040 of, and to add and repeal Sections 61040.1 and 61040.2 of, the Government Code, relating to community services districts.

[Approved by Governor September 20, 2014. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 20, 2014.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2455, Williams. The Santa Rita Hills Community Services District.

The Community Services District Law specifies the procedures for district formation, procedures for the selection of district governing board members, the powers and duties of the board, and the procedures for changing those powers and duties. Existing law requires the board of directors of each district to consist of 5 members.

This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2035, the board of directors of the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District to consist of 3 members, if the board of directors receives a petition signed by a majority of voters requesting a reduction in the number of board members and thereafter adopts a resolution that orders the reduction, as specified. The bill would also, until January 1, 2025, authorize the board, if the number of members is reduced to 3, to adopt a resolution to increase the number of members from 3 to 5, as specified.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 61040 of the Government Code is amended to read:

61040. (a) Except as provided in Section 61040.1, a legislative body of five members known as the board of directors shall govern each district. The board of directors shall establish policies for the operation of the district. The board of directors shall provide for the implementation of those policies which is the responsibility of the district's general manager.

(b) No person shall be a candidate for the board of directors unless he or she is a voter of the district or the proposed district. No person shall be a candidate for the board of directors that is elected by divisions or from divisions unless he or she is a voter of that division or proposed division.

(c) All members of the board of directors shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of the entire district, including the residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes and intent of this division. Where the members of the board of directors have been elected by divisions or from divisions, they shall represent the interests of the entire district and not solely the interests of the residents and property owners in their divisions.

(d) Service on a municipal advisory council established pursuant to Section 31010 or service on an area planning commission established pursuant to Section 65101 shall not be considered an incompatible office with service as a member of a board of directors.

(e) A member of the board of directors shall not be the general manager, the district treasurer, or any other compensated employee of the district, except for volunteer firefighters as provided by Section 53227.

(f) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2035.

SEC. 2. Section 61040 is added to the Government Code, to read:

61040. (a) A legislative body of five members known as the board of directors shall govern each district. The board of directors shall establish policies for the operation of the district. The board of directors shall provide for the implementation of those policies which is the responsibility of the district's general manager.

(b) No person shall be a candidate for the board of directors unless he or she is a voter of the district or the proposed district. No person shall be a candidate for the board of directors that is elected by divisions or from divisions unless he or she is a voter of that division or proposed division.

(c) All members of the board of directors shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of the entire district, including the residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes and intent of this division. Where the members of the board of directors have been elected by divisions or from divisions, they shall represent the interests of the entire district and not solely the interests of the residents and property owners in their divisions.

(d) Service on a municipal advisory council established pursuant to Section 31010 or service on an area planning commission established pursuant to Section 65101 shall not be considered an incompatible office with service as a member of a board of directors.

(e) A member of the board of directors shall not be the general manager, the district treasurer, or any other compensated employee of the district, except for volunteer firefighters as provided by Section 53227.

(f) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2035.

SEC. 3. Section 61040.1 is added to the Government Code, to read:

61040.1. (a) The board of directors of the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District may consist of three members.

(b) (1) Prior to reducing the board of directors to three members pursuant to subdivision (a), the board of directors, after receiving a petition signed by a majority of voters requesting a reduction in the number of board members, shall adopt, by a recorded majority vote of the entire board of

directors, a resolution proposing to reduce the number of directors to three members.

(2) The district shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposal to reduce the number of directors.

(3) Notice of the public hearing shall be given by placing a display advertisement of at least one-eighth page in a newspaper of general circulation for three weeks, pursuant to Section 6063, and by United States first-class mail to each landowner voter in the district, postage prepaid, and notice shall be deemed given when deposited in the mail. The envelope or cover of the mailing shall include the name of the local agency and the return address of the sender and the mailed notice shall be in at least 10-point type.

(4) The public hearing shall be held at least 45 days after mailing the notice pursuant to paragraph (3).

(5) At the hearing the board shall receive and consider any written or oral comments regarding the proposed reduction in the number of directors. After receiving and considering the comments, the board, by a recorded majority vote of the entire board of directors shall do one of the following:

(A) Disapprove the proposal.

(B) Adopt a resolution that orders the reduction in the number of members of the board to three members.

(c) A reduction in the number of directors pursuant to this section shall not affect the term of office of any director. A director currently holding office as of the effective date of the reduction in the number of members of the board of directors shall continue to be the director until the office becomes vacant by means of term expiration or otherwise.

(d) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2035.

SEC. 4. Section 61040.2 is added to the Government Code, to read:

61040.2. (a) If the number of members of the board of directors of the Santa Rita Hills Community Services district is reduced pursuant to Section 61040.1, the board may increase the board to five members.

(b) (1) Prior to increasing the board of directors to five members pursuant to Section 61040.1, the board of directors shall adopt, by a recorded majority vote of the entire board of directors, a resolution proposing to increase the number of directors to five members.

(2) The district shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposal to increase the number of directors.

(3) Notice of the public hearing shall be given by placing a display advertisement of at least one-eighth page in a newspaper of general circulation for three weeks, pursuant to Section 6063, and by United States first-class mail to each landowner voter in the district, postage prepaid, and notice shall be deemed given when deposited in the mail. The envelope or cover of the mailing shall include the name of the local agency and the return address of the sender and the mailed notice shall be in at least 10-point type.

(4) The public hearing shall be held at least 45 days after mailing the notice pursuant to paragraph (3).

(5) At the hearing the board shall receive and consider any written or oral comments regarding the proposed increase in the number of directors. After receiving and considering the comments, the board, by a recorded majority vote of the entire board of directors shall do one of the following:

(A) Disapprove the proposal.

(B) Adopt a resolution that orders the increase in the number of members of the board to five members.

(c) If the board adopts a resolution to increase the number of directors pursuant to this section, it shall not subsequently reduce the number of directors pursuant to Section 61040.1.

(d) This section shall be repealed on January 1, 2025.

SEC. 5. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique circumstances that exist with respect to the composition of the board of directors of the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District.