

**CORRESPONDENCE - 09/07/21**  
**ITEM 5.0 - ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**From:** [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**To:** [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe Serrano](#); [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**Subject:** District-Based Elections for Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors?  
**Date:** Saturday, September 4, 2021 11:38:21 PM

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Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board,  
I have already written you with a question about when the District might consider converting to district-based Board elections, vs. the current at-large elections. Please discuss this issue publicly, as it pertains to the California Fair Voting Rights Act of 2001, amended in 2015.  
[https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB182](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB182)

*AB 182, Alejo. California Voting Rights Act of 2001.*

*"Existing law, the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA), prohibits the use of an at-large election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice or otherwise influence the outcome of an election. The CVRA provides that a voter who is a member of a protected class may bring an action in superior court to enforce the provisions of the CVRA, and, if the voter prevails in the case, he or she may be awarded reasonable litigation costs and attorney's fees. The CVRA requires a court to implement appropriate remedies, including the imposition of district-based elections, that are tailored to remedy a violation of the act.*

***This bill would prohibit the use of a district-based election in a political subdivision if it would impair the ability of a protected class, as defined, to elect candidates of its choice. The bill would require a court to implement specified remedies upon a finding that a district-based election was imposed or applied in a manner that impaired the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice."***

On January 29, 2021, in Item #7, Attachment 1, the State's Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board designated Capitola and Soquel as a Disadvantaged Communities.  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2021/01\\_jan\\_28/item7\\_stfrpt.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2021/01_jan_28/item7_stfrpt.pdf)

The California Regional Water Quality Control announced the City of Capitola has been added in the determination of several Disadvantaged Communities in Santa Cruz County at the January 29, 2021 Central Coast meeting.

I was curious...and wrote the Board:

Dear Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board,

I am puzzled by the list of Santa Cruz Disadvantaged Communities listed in Item 7, Attachment #1.

Santa Cruz County Specific Census Tract or Block Group Areas:

Amesti

**Capitola**

Davenport

Santa Cruz

**Soquel**

Twin Lakes

Watsonville

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There are currently NO Soquel Creek Water District Board members representing the disadvantaged community of Soquel, but there are two current Board members who reside in Capitola. Furthermore, there are NO Board members representing Rio del Mar, Seacliff, or La Selva Beach.

This is not equitable representation.

Please place this matter on the next District Board Agenda for public discussion. Please respond in writing.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

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**From:** [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**To:** [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)  
**Cc:** [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**Subject:** When Will Soquel Creek Water District Hold District-Based Elections for Board Members?  
**Date:** Saturday, September 4, 2021 12:49:14 AM

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Dear Soquel Creek Water District Board,  
I would like to know when your District plans to change to district-based elections of Board members, rather than the current at-large elected Board members? Doing so would be compliant with the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 to allow better representation of the broad geographical ratepayer base area.

Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County will be changing to district-based Board member elections in 2022. Don't you think it is time Soquel Creek Water District also provide equitable representation on your Board and change to district-based elections?

I hope your Board will publicly discuss this issue at the next available opportunity.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner

**From:** [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**To:** [bod](#); [Emma Olin](#)  
**Cc:** [Becky Steinbruner](#)  
**Subject:** Please Provide Rendering or Sketch of Pre-Engineered Building Change in Modified PureWater Soquel Project Chanticleer Treatment Facility  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:43:51 PM

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Dear Board of Directors,

Tonight, I respectfully requested your staff supply a rendering or sketch of what the pre-engineered building you approved in the Black and Veatch contract amendment tonight. It was not provided in the Item 7.2 staff report and materials, nor was it offered when I requested it during public comment.

Neither the Final EIR for the PureWater Soquel Project approved on December 8, 2018, nor the Addendum for the Modified PureWater Soquel Project, approved on November 17, 2020 included such visual information. It is critical for the public to know what the aesthetic quality will be of this new change to the Modified Project because it is adjacent to the Highway One corridor, and the new pedestrian / bicycle overpass onto the Chanticleer Treatment Facility site.

Will you please supply this information? Please acknowledge receipt of this message. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Becky Steinbruner