

Bolinas Community Public Utility District
A Special Meeting Of The Board Of Directors
March 2, 2017 270 Elm Road, Bolinas

1. Call to Order.

10:00 a.m.

2. Roll.

Directors Amoroso, Comstock, Siedman and Smith present; director Godino absent. Director Siedman presiding.

3. BCPUD Resolution 650: Adopting A New Election Cycle for the BCPUD’s Uniform District Election Concurrent with the Statewide Election as per the California Voter Participation Rights Act.

Director Siedman explained that this resolution would move the BCPUD Board election to even-numbered years concurrent with statewide elections. Staff explained that this request is prompted by a new state law requiring special districts to alter their election cycle if the historical voter turn-out data reveals that turn-out is much lower than during statewide elections. For the BCPUD, voter turn-out is quite low if there is an uncontested BCPUD Board election but it is at or near the statewide turn-out levels if the BCPUD Board election is contested. However, staff recommends the district make the change rather than take issue about election turn-out data, particularly since most of the other special districts are doing so, which would result in much higher election costs if the district does *not* alter its election cycle. Director Siedman noted that the resolution also will extend the terms of the current directors by one-year each during the transition to even-numbered year elections. Director Amoroso said that many years ago, all of the local agencies held their elections during odd-numbered years, which meant that local issues were the focus of elections during odd-numbered years, whereas statewide and national issues were the focus of elections during even-numbered years – however, that is no longer the case.

D. Smith/L. Comstock all in favor to approve BCPUD Resolution 650, adopting a new election cycle for BCPUD’s uniform district election concurrent with the stateside election as per the California Voter Participation Rights Act.

4. BCPUD Comment Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) Staff’s Draft White Paper: High Impact Areas for Broadband Availability.

Director Comstock explained that this item is on the agenda because the CPUC staff on February 17, 2017 issued a White Paper identifying “priority communities” for the remaining grant funding available to improve broadband access in unserved and underserved communities, and Bolinas is one of the communities identified. Director Comstock and staff, along with County consultant Peter Pratt, attended a meeting with the CPUC staff on February 28, 2017 about the draft White Paper. The meeting was very well-attended; notably, many of the attendees questioned the methodology used by the CPUC staff and questioned whether actual grant proposals would be forthcoming from priority communities. Director Comstock recommended that the BCPUD submit a comment letter supporting the White Paper methodology, the identification of Bolinas as a priority community, and encouraging the CPUC to fast track its review of grant proposals submitted by priority communities. The BCPUD’s draft letter also makes clear that the community is working to develop a public/private partnership and move forward quickly with a grant application if it remains a priority community for funds per the draft White Paper. A short discussion ensued about how a grant proposal for Bolinas might be structured and the importance of positioning Bolinas for the future in terms of telecommunications service.

D. Smith/L. Comstock four in favor, director Godino absent to approve the draft comment letter from the BCPUD to the CPUC in support of the CPUC Staff’s Draft White Paper.

5. Community Expression.

None.

6. Adjournment.

10:36 a.m.