

# SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

## Transition to Division-Based Elections

May 14, 2020

San Juan Water District holds elections for members of its five-member Board of Directors every two years on a staggered schedule (two positions in 2020, three in 2022) for four-year terms. These elections are held via “at-large” elections – meaning all voters in San Juan’s wholesale service area which includes your business or household – are eligible to vote for any director candidates running to fill the open positions on the Board.

On March 30, 2020, San Juan Water District received a certified letter from lawyers for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project alleging that the District’s method of electing Board members through “at-large” elections, rather than elections by division, violates the California Voting Rights Act.

On May 13, 2020, the District’s Board of Directors adopted a resolution declaring its intent to initiate procedures to transition from at-large elections to division-based elections. The District will implement a division-based election system beginning with the November 2022 election.

The Board of Directors has directed staff to work with a demographer, and other consultants as needed, to analyze the District’s current demographics and any other information or data necessary. They will prepare one or more draft maps that divide the District into proposed voting divisions in a manner consistent with the California and federal Voting Rights Acts requirements.

The following table lays out the steps the District will take to implement division-based elections. **As a resident in San Juan Water District’s service area, we encourage you to participate in the electoral division mapping process by attending the public meetings shown here and submitting your oral or written comments about the maps showing the proposed voting divisions.**

Task	Date/Timeline	Notes
<b>Board meeting/Public Hearing #1</b> – Introduce Public Engagement Process	June 10, 2020	Before draft map(s) are released; second hearing to be held within 30 days.
<b>Board meeting/Public Hearing #2</b> – Second hearing for input from the Board and members of the public, prior to drafting maps	July 8, 2020	Must be held within 30 days of Hearing #1.
<b>Board meeting/Public Hearing #3</b> – Board and public input on draft map(s) of proposed divisions	September 9, 2020	First draft of map(s) shall be published 7 days before Hearing #3.
<b>Board meeting/Public Hearing #4</b> – Map approval and introduction of ordinance	October 14, 2020	Must be held within 45 days of Hearing #3.
<b>Board regular meeting</b> – Second reading of ordinance and enactment of ordinance and final division map, which will be filed with Registrar of Voters	November 9, 2020	Draft ordinance must be introduced 5 days before second reading and adoption.

For more information, please visit the District’s webpage about transitioning to division-based elections at [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org) or call (916) 791-6905.

# IMPORTANT! SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES TO SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD ELECTIONS

You are receiving this mailer because you are either a resident or business owner in San Juan Water District's service area. It outlines the process for changing the way our Board of Directors is elected, from at-large to by-division, and how you can provide input to our Board during the public hearing process.

The Board meeting and hearing process for the electoral division maps process is at LINK. Due to COVID19, the hearings may be held online rather than in person. Prior to each hearing, please check [sjwd.org/board-meetings-a0ac8c8](http://sjwd.org/board-meetings-a0ac8c8) to see if it will be conducted in person or online.

## SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT SERVICE AREA

Our staff at San Juan Water District works hard to ensure safe, reliable water for you, your family and the businesses within our service area.

We provide treated water to Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks Water Districts, Orange Vale Water Company, San Juan Retail and the City of Folsom, north of the American River. Together, we serve over 160,000 people.



## COVID-19 UPDATE

San Juan is taking measures to ensure its employees remain healthy and continue to serve our customers. We continue to operate around the clock to provide safe, reliable and high-quality water to you.

Though our office is now open to the public, we ask that you only visit us when your transaction cannot be handled over the telephone.

