

**From:** [Cheryl Berkema](#)  
**To:** [comments](#)  
**Subject:** SanJuan Water District Public comment- Division Based Elections hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:54:37 PM

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Subject:San Juan Water District Public comment- Division Based Elections hearing

Hello Teri,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. My immediate concern is the lack of socialization on the topic of division-based elections. The topic although received in mail with my San Juan Water bill, is complex indeed.

- Only a small bit of information was provided in the mailed SJWD handout that the activity was taking place along with a schedule. The differing needs in each proposed district, scope of the changes is not clear, the creation and selection of a solution design, and impacts of proposed changes are not covered in detail that a lay person could be expected to draw inferences. Required knowledge of the activities in retail and wholesale, knowledge of decision making in retail and wholesale entities, voting rights of retail districts and board members (for those representing Granite Bay) and processes is required.
- The topic was not raised at a Municipal Advisory Council meeting in Granite Bay. A few years ago, the Eureka gym was packed and overflowing with interested residents in the topic of Water availability, costs, and management. Hundreds were in attendance. The event went for hours with multiple entities providing data. There was an opportunity to see presentations, to listen to experts ask questions, and be able to ask and have questions directly answered on the project needs, options available, and pros and cons for the options. The pandemic has created challenges, but today it would appear that the public is largely unaware of what is happening and what questions to even ask.
- The actual strategy for creation of divisions seems to have been driven rather quickly without much public opportunity for public input. The strategy or design seems to have been short circuited to fit the schedule for the November election.

Representation of Granite Bay as a district should be considered a high priority in the design.

- Granite Bay is a largely rural community with unique opportunities for agriculture and animals. Granite Bay's rural nature provides small business opportunities (cottage industries, farm to table venues and, promotion of sustainable practices) enjoyed by many. Our Community Plan was designed to support these activities. With the criteria of "communities of interest". Granite Bay is known for our Granite Bay Community Plan. The Community plan that guides our development should allow us to be a district. If there are not enough people, we may want to be combined with a "like" community.
- With Division based elections the other communities (e.g., Orangevale, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, etc.) already have their own retail service district. This is an unfair advantage. Granite Bay would like to have control over their own an elected official representing the retail service district.
- The Placer County Conservation Plan (going to Placer Board of Supervisors shortly) lists our area as a potential for future development. With economic challenges in the bay area and more companies working remotely, one can reasonably deduct that Granite Bay will be an attractive draw for bay area transplants.

Some questions that would be helpful to know the answers from the current board (my understanding is 4 out of 5 are actually from Granite Bay):

1. Should Granite Bay create their own retail water service district?

a) What are the pros and cons of having one vs not having one?

b) What is the process of creating a retail service district?

2. If Granite Bay is unable to create a retail service district in time for the new division-based boundaries, what options are available?

- Could we get 2 board members representing the wholesale district to ensure fair representation? Can the creation of a retail district be added in a future phase?
- Others?

Thank you for consideration of my input,

Cheryl Berkema

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