



CHARTER AMENDMENT **LEGISLATIVE ANALYST SUMMARY**

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and
RULES COMMITTEE

FROM: Carol Roos, Senior Legislative Analyst

HEARING DATE: June 24, 1999

SUBJECT: **SETTING BOUNDARIES FOR SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 6 & 11**
(File 99-0985)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Charter Section 13.110 provides for District Elections of Supervisors in San Francisco, and sets district boundaries. The proposed Charter amendment makes three technical changes that clarify district assignments for residents. First, the amendment would include Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island in the Sixth Supervisorial District. Second, the amendment describes the boundaries of the Eleventh District in the same manner that the boundaries of the other districts are now described; the amendment would not change the mapped boundaries of the district. And third, the amendment accounts for the fact that the City and County limits extend beyond the land area of the City. The amendment provides that qualified voters residing in this greater area including territorial waters and the Farallon Islands, for example, be assigned to the physically nearest on-shore district, rather than to the Eleventh District as now indicated by the broad Eleventh District language of Section 13.110. This amendment is, essentially, clean-up legislation intended to avert potential future problems in implementing district elections, which could arise from the existing wording of the section.

CURRENT CHARTER PROVISIONS

Proposition G, as implemented by Charter Section 13.110, provides for District elections. Eleven (11) supervisors are to be elected, one from each of the eleven (11) districts, effective January 1, 2000. As noted above, Section 13.110 contains some ambiguity about the district assignment of former Naval Station Treasure Island (NSTI), the boundaries of the Eleventh District, and assigns, by implication, potential voters residing off-shore, but within City and County limits to the Eleventh District.

BACKGROUND

San Francisco voters, in November 1996, passed Proposition G, which provided that members of the Board of Supervisors shall be elected by district. The proposition, implemented by Section 13.110 left some potential

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ambiguity about the district assignment of former Naval Station Treasure Island, the boundaries of the Eleventh District, and potential other voters residing off-shore, but within City and County limits. The Charter amendment includes the following provisions:

- The amendment specifies that Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands would be included in the Sixth Supervisorial District.
- The amendment describes the boundaries of the Eleventh District in the same detail as for the other districts.
- The amendment assigns qualified off-shore electors, if any, to the geographically nearest on-shore district.

ISSUES ANALYSIS

Regarding Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands, the map accompanying Proposition G (please see attached) identifies them in District 6. The precinct number assigned to former NSTI is also consistent with the numbering of on-shore Sixth District precincts. However, the text of Section 13.110 is silent on former NSTI. As the section is now worded, therefore, the islands fall under District 11, which encompasses all other areas not specifically iterated in the text. That is, the provisions for district elections and the implementing Charter section are inconsistent regarding the islands, and are counter to the intent to include the islands in the Sixth District, to which they are connected by the Bay Bridge.

Regarding the Eleventh District, Section 13.110 defines it to “comprise all of that portion of the city and county not otherwise described as constituting the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Supervisorial Districts.” The description of all of the other districts includes specific streets and lines that form their boundaries.

The City and County limits extend, under state law, beyond the shoreline, past the Farallon Islands, to the edges of Marin County and Angel Island, and through the middle of the Bay. When the Supervisorial Districts were drawn, the San Francisco shoreline was used as the outer limit of the districts. No provision is made for assigning qualified electors in San Francisco territorial waters to a district, except in the existing catch-all provision of the Eleventh District. Therefore, existing Charter Section 13.110 includes ambiguity about former NSTI, the Eleventh District, and potential other qualified voters residing off-shore, but within the City and County limits.

CONCLUSION

This amendment is basically straightforward, and contains housekeeping measures to avert potential future problems which have been identified, and which could cause confusion in implementing District elections smoothly. There is no known controversy about the amendment, to date.

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