



CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Discussion and Consideration of Letter(s) of Opposition of SB 226 (Cabaldon) Community College Territory Transfers

MEETING DATE: May 15, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Swanson, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PURPOSE OF REPORT: ☐ Information only ☒ Discussion ☒ Action Item

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD:

The City Council is being asked to discuss and approve letter(s) and authorize the Mayor to sign.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Current California law outlines specific procedures for reorganizing Community College (CCC) districts through territory transfers between existing districts. This process typically begins with a petition filed with the relevant county superintendent of schools. The petition requires signatures from either at least 25% of registered voters in the affected territory or a majority of the governing board members of each district involved.

Before a public hearing on such a petition, the county committee is obligated to provide comprehensive information to the public, the affected governing boards, and the Board of Governors. This information includes a description of the proposed transfer and a detailed report analyzing various aspects. These aspects include the employment rights of employees in the affected districts, the financial implications of the transfer for each district, and whether any of the districts involved are governed by city charter provisions and, if so, how.

The existing law grants the county committee the authority to approve a transfer petition only under specific conditions. For uninhabited territory transfers, approval is contingent upon the consent of the territory owner(s) and the governing board of the receiving district. For inhabited territory transfers, additional conditions must be met, including the receiving district's governing board consenting to all transfer conditions via a signed agreement and the county committee determining that the transfer will not increase costs to the state. Furthermore, the law addresses situations involving territory spanning multiple counties, requiring inter-county coordination in the reorganization process. The Board of Governors also plays a role, providing notice of approval or disapproval after considering input from interested parties and furnishing written reasons for any rejection.

The proposed law introduces a significant exception to these existing procedures, specifically targeting the transfer of territory from a CCC district meeting particular criteria. These criteria include being located in a county divided among three or more CCC districts where most of each district's population resides in other counties, and the territory being transferred (wholly or partially) to one of these qualifying districts. In such cases, the bill would bypass existing district transfer procedures, granting the Board of Governors the authority to approve the transfer either on its own initiative or upon receiving a petition from a district's governing board or the relevant county committee. The bill mandates that the Board of Governors ensure any approved transfer and related agreements comply with existing laws concerning employee rights, record disposition, finances, property, and obligations

during district reorganization. Notably, any territory transfer approved by the Board of Governors under these new provisions would be deemed approved under existing district reorganization law without requiring an election.

OPTIONS:

1. Move to approve the letter of opposition and authorize the Mayor to sign.
2. Other direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

☒ None ☐ \$ Budgeted Item? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Budget Adjustment Needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): ☐ General Fund ☐ Measure P Fund ☐ Measure V Fund ☐ Other:

Comments:

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

- ☐ Goal #1: Make Clearlake a Visibly Cleaner City
- ☐ Goal #2: Make Clearlake a Statistically Safer City
- ☐ Goal #3: Improve the Quality of Life in Clearlake with Improved Public Facilities
- ☐ Goal #4: Improve the Image of Clearlake
- ☐ Goal #5: Ensure Fiscal Sustainability of City
- ☐ Goal #6: Update Policies and Procedures to Current Government Standards
- ☐ Goal #7: Support Economic Development

SUGGESTED MOTIONS:

No action necessary. This item is to receive and file.

☒ **Attachments:** 1) Proposed letter of opposition