Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Establishing The Mark West Area Citizen’s Advisory Council And Designating The Referral Area Boundary

Whereas, the Mark West Area in unincorporated Sonoma County, situated in the County’s Fourth Supervisorial District, is a vibrant community for local residents and businesses, and visitors alike; and

Whereas, the Mark West Area is a large unincorporated community in Sonoma County which has a larger population than some of the incorporated cities while its sole political representation is the Fourth District Supervisor whose duties include the entire larger District; and

Whereas, the Mark West Area in recent years has been subject to several major development projects without a community forum of formal review and input by its residents and business owners; and

Whereas, the Mark West Area will continue to be subject to significant development pressures due to a heavily impacted housing market, ongoing development of the Sonoma County Airport & Business Park, as well as inception of SMART Train service; and

Whereas, the County is responsible for local land use and development planning, transit, and public works in the Mark West Area; and

Whereas, Government Code section 31010 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to establish and provide funds for a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county to advise the Board, state, county, city, special district or school district, agency or commission, or any other organization on such matters which relate to that area as may be designated by the Board; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors desires to establish the Mark West Area Citizens Advisory
Counsel (“MWCAC”) to advise the Board and other County decision makers on local planning and management decisions relating to the Mark West Area, to provide a regular forum for citizen participation in the formation of advisory recommendations on those decisions, and to provide a bridge for communication between the County and local residents and businesses, and the general public on local government decisions affecting the Mark West Area;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the MWCAC, subject to the following operative provisions:

1. Referral Area Boundaries - The Referral Area Boundary for projects subject to review of the MWCAC are shown in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (“MWCAC Referral Area”).

2. Membership - The MWCAC shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. All members must reside within the referral area. Two members shall be nominated by the Mark West Chamber of Commerce; one member shall be nominated by the Mark West School Board; one member shall be nominated by the 4th District Supervisor from the Fulton area, and one member shall be nominated by the 4th District Supervisor to serve “at large.” All members shall hold office for a term of two-years or until their successor is appointed and qualified, with the exception of the initial members. Members can serve for up to two terms (a total of four years). All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors and may be removed from office at any time by the Board.

The Board of Supervisors shall classify the initial members into two classes: (1) Class A consisting of three members including one member from the chamber, one member from Fulton and the school board member; and, (2) Class B consisting of two members including one at-large member and one member from Chamber of Commerce. Class A of three members shall hold office for an initial term until December 31, 2018, and Class B of two members shall hold office for an initial term until December 31, 2017.

3. Powers - The designated powers of the MWCAC shall be to review and make advisory recommendations, and proactively advocate on the following categories of local planning and project decisions in the MWCAC Referral Area:

(a) Use permit applications;

(b) Rezoning applications;

(c) General plan amendment applications;
(d) Allocation of franchise fees from CalAm Water;

(e) Transit and Public Works needs in the area; and,

(e) Planning-related policy issues and future development of the area it perceives to affect the public health, safety, welfare, and quality of life in the MWCAC Referral Area; including but not limited to; public safety, fire protection, transportation facilities, water supply, sewerage, flooding, electric power supply, communications facilities, garbage collection, graffiti, public housing, parks, and other community facilities.

4. Duties - The designated duties of members of the MWCAC shall be to:

(a) Attend and participate in meetings of the MWCAC;

(b) Study and analyze appropriate material submitted;

(c) Keep the Fourth District Supervisor informed of any necessary planning-related issues;

(d) Serve on such subcommittees as may be designated by the MWCAC;

(e) Advise applicants of project issues and concerns; and,

(f) Vote on advisory recommendations or motions made by members of the MWCAC.

(g) Engage with community members to gauge community sentiment and learn of actual and potential issues confronting the community, and so she or he may raise these matters for the Council’s consideration.

5. Rules & Procedures - The rules and procedures for governance of the MWCAC shall be as set forth in Exhibit “B,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. The rules and procedures may be amended or modified only upon the consent of the Board of Supervisors.

6. Coordination. All activities of the MWCAC shall be coordinated through the 4th District Supervisor’s office. The Department Head for PRMD and TPW shall designate a primary
contact person with whom the District Director and the designated representative/secretary for the CAC shall coordinate all referrals, and send copies of minutes and MWCAC recommendations.

7. Establishment - The establishment of the MWCAC shall not be submitted to the voters of the Mark West Area watershed.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the MWCAC could investigate the option to pay a nominal fee to a secretary through a yearly disbursement from the CalAm Franchise Fees.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Zane: Gore: Carrillo:  
Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:  
So Ordered.