

# County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors

Supervisory District Five

Supervisor Liz Kniss



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BOS-D5-050112-01

DATE: May 1, 2012

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Liz Kniss  
Supervisor, District 5

SUBJECT: Los Altos Hills County Fire District

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Direct the Administration to prepare an Ordinance for review by the HLUET Committee and subsequent approval by the Board of Supervisors, to institute term limits for the Los Altos Hills County Fire District commissioners to no more than two consecutive four-year terms, beginning July 1, 2012, and to stagger expiration of terms so that representatives of the unincorporated County do not expire in the same year. (Kniss)

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

There has been a recent disagreement between the Town of Los Altos Hills and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District Commissioners related to appointing authority of commissioners and future control of the Fire District. My review of the process resulted in this referral for term limits and staggered term expirations for the commissioners. Term limits can produce fresh perspectives that are helpful to governing boards. The Board has approved term limits for all County Boards and Commissions.

This proposal is to limit the terms of the Commissioners of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District to no more than two consecutive four-year terms, beginning July 1, 2012. All terms

should continue to be staggered. In the case of the two LAHCFD commissioners representing the unincorporated County, both terms currently end at the same time. In designing the term limits, please stagger these two positions, one from the other, at least two years apart.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **BACKGROUND**

On May 20, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution to authorize an individual Supervisor to nominate appointees to districts and committees which function only within that individual supervisorial district and to forward those nominations to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors approves appointments to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) Commission, upon nomination of the Fifth District County Supervisor. Applicants to the LAHCFD Commission are accepted from any member of the public, as is the case with all boards and commissions to which we appoint. In addition, the LAHCFD Commission has made it their practice to consider interested candidates and send nominations to the Supervisor of the Fifth District.

The LAHCFD includes the Town of Los Altos Hills and adjacent area in the unincorporated County. The Board of Supervisors is the District's Board of Directors. The Board has delegated District administration and management to a seven-member commission. Five commissioners must reside within the Town of Los Altos Hills and two must reside in the unincorporated County. The District bylaws state two seats are reserved for the Los Altos Hills Town Council.