

**DETERMINATIONS ON
OBJECTIONS TO AT-LARGE ELECTION SYSTEM
FOR HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL REORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2002, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Los Angeles County (“LAFCO”) considered and approved the application submitted by Hollywood Vote, Inc. for Hollywood special reorganization pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the “Hertzberg Act”) and all amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, LAFCO’s approval provided the legislative body of the new city shall consist of five (5) members elected at large, and that the first election of City Council members shall be held concurrently with the election on the question of special reorganization; and,

WHEREAS, June 5, 2002, Mr. Alan Clayton, Research Chairperson of the California Latino Redistricting Coalition submitted during public comment on the proposed reorganization, a proposed districting plan establishing five (5) single member districts for the election of city council members in the proposed city; and,

WHEREAS, on June 5 and 6, 2002, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (“MALDEF”) submitted opposition to LAFCO’s proposed at-large voting system for the election of city council members for the proposed Hollywood city; and,

WHEREAS, that opposition was based on MALDEF’s contention that implementation of an at-large voting system may violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, on or about July 5, 2002, the City of Los Angeles submitted a letter requesting reconsideration of the Commission’s decision approving the petition for special reorganization; and,

WHEREAS, the City’s request included, among other things, a request to reconsider LAFCO’s determination that the city council members be elected at-large, rather than by districts; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of MALDEF’s opposition and the City’s request for reconsideration, LAFCO commissioned an electoral analysis in order to consider the effects that an at-large election system would have in the proposed Hollywood city.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Local Agency Formation Commission for Los Angeles County, having considered the issues raised by Mr. Alan Clayton, MALDEF and the City of Los Angeles, and the findings and conclusions of its consultant with respect to the electoral analysis, does hereby find, determine, and resolve as follows:

1. Although community leaders, groups and residents participated in community meetings conducted in the Special Reorganization Area, no objection was made during those meetings to the proposed at-large voting system for the election of city council members for the new city.
2. In reconsidering LAFCO's adoption of the at-large voting system for the Special Reorganization Area, the commission considered and evaluated all of the following:
 - a. Mr. Clayton's proposed five (5) district districting plan for the proposed Hollywood city;
 - b. MALDEF's objection, which alleges that:
 - (1) There is a significant, geographically compact, Latino population in the southeastern part of the proposed city;
 - (2) In the proposed city, Latinos constitute almost forty percent (40%) of the total population and thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting age population;
 - (3) The southeastern portion of the proposed city has distinct communities of interest and concerns that are different from much of the rest of Hollywood in the areas of educational attainment, affordable housing availability, and the quality of city and neighborhood services;
 - (4) The southeaster portion of the proposed city contains populations that are characterized by lower per capita incomes and educational attainment levels than the rest of the proposed city;
 - (5) Latino registered voters would constitute approximately seventeen percent (17%) of the proposed city; and
 - (6) Under an at-large voting system, it is possible that the Latino community would be unable to elect any candidates of choice to the city council.
 - c. The City of Los Angeles' written request for reconsideration, which included, among other things, a request to reconsider the determination that the city council members be elected at-large, rather than by districts.
 - d. The written report dated July 7, 2002, by Stephen P. Klein, Ph.D., regarding the success of candidates preferred by Latino/Hispanic voters in the Special Reorganization Area.

That report, which was received by LAFCO and made available for public review and comment, concludes that :

- (1) Hispanic-preferred candidates won in three of six races analyzed (Sheriff, Mayor and Lieutenant Governor). The Sheriff and Mayor races were considered more probative because they were both local and non-partisan elections.
 - (2) In the Attorney General contest, the Hispanic-preferred candidate (Calderon) lost in the proposed city area and in Mr. Clayton's majority-minority district, District 5. In the Insurance Commissioner race, the Hispanic-preferred candidate (Martinez) received only 41 percent of the Hispanic vote, but finished second city-wide. These results would indicate that in both contests, the Hispanic vote was not cohesive.
 - (3) Although no candidate received a majority of the Hispanic vote in either the Attorney General or Insurance Commissioner contests, Hispanic-preferred candidates came in second in the citywide area. This would indicate that Hispanic-preferred candidates received a significant number of non-Hispanic votes because less than one-fifth of the area population have Latino or Spanish surnames. These results suggest that Hispanic-preferred candidates are likely to win seats in a multi-seat, at-large contest in a new Hollywood city.
 - (4) Only in the City Attorney contest did a Hispanic-preferred candidate fail to win area-wide but came in first in District 5. However, one contest would not establish a pattern of majority bloc voting defeating a minority-preferred candidate.
 - (5) Hispanic-preferred candidates would win as many, if not more, council seats under the system adopted by LAFCO as they would under a district system.
 - (6) There would not be a dilution of Hispanic votes in an at-large system of voting for the city council of a new Hollywood city.
- e. A written report dated July 17, 2002, by County Counsel on the objections to the at-large voting system. The report was submitted to LAFCO and made available for public review and comment.

