



June 11, 2026

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey
PO Box 1728
Salinas, CA 93902
By email: COB@countyofmonterey.gov

RE: Legal Requirements for Board of Supervisor Appointments to Special Districts

Dear Ms. Ralph,

While examining the rules governing special districts in Monterey County, LandWatch determined that the County has violated the California Maddy Act in its process of appointing board members to those districts. We request that the County remedy this error by posting upcoming vacancies on the boards of all special districts appointed by the County and establish a procedure for the Board of Supervisors to consider all applicants.

The California Maddy Act requires the County to “prepare an appointments list of all regular and ongoing boards, commissions, and committees which are appointed by the legislative body of the local agency. This list shall be known as the Local Appointments List.” There are requirements for the content of the list, and a requirement that the list be posted on its website or at a designated public library. (Gov’t Code sections 54972-74.)

The Clerk of the Board maintains a web page which contains the information required by the Maddy Act for a number of district boards, commissions and committees, but omits more than a dozen special districts, including seven cemetery districts in South County, five fire districts, two recreation districts and two water districts. There may be others, but LandWatch did not compile a complete list. The boards of these districts are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and are therefore subject to the Maddy Act.

In addition to posting all upcoming vacancies, the County should establish a procedure for appointing members to these special district boards. The current process appears to consist solely of individual supervisors forwarding the names of proposed board appointments to the Clerk’s office, which then places the appointment on the Board of Supervisors agenda for routine approval. It appears that if a special district is solely in the boundaries of a Supervisor’s voting district, that Supervisor has been assumed to have the authority to effectively appoint those Board members. This process does not constitute an appointment by the Board of Supervisors, especially if the

Board has not been given all the names of potential appointees. It is also unknown whether the opportunity to apply to serve on the board of the special district has been advertised or made known to the public in any way. The County should have a uniform procedure to ensure a fair process.

I am happy to discuss this letter and provide a specific list of the aforementioned districts. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this matter to the County's attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DeLapa". The signature is stylized with a large "M" and "D".

Michael DeLapa
Executive Director

Cc: Monterey County, County Counsel Susan Blich (blitchsk@countyofmonterey.gov)
Chief Assistant County Counsel Kelly Donlon (donlonkl@countyofmonterey.gov)