

The Bulletin

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CCCD boundary changes could reduce Compton board membership

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The proposed redistricting of the Compton Community College District could result in a loss of one vote on the board for Compton, leaving the Hub City with only one vote instead of the two it has now.

State law requires that boundaries of community college districts be reviewed every 10 years in order to keep the individual trustee areas "population balanced." The review is underway now, and four options for redistricting have been presented on the CCCD website.

The district now has four trustee areas. The Compton area has two votes. The remaining areas are Paramount, Lynwood and Carson, which also includes West Rancho Dominguez and Wil-lowbrook, which each have one vote.

The four proposed boundary maps divide the district into five trustee areas, in which voters would only vote for the trustee in their areas. This would leave Compton with only one vote.

A public hearing was held on Nov. 15. At that time, CEO Keith Curry established a Redistricting Committee that will gather community input regarding the proposed redistricting plans and present the information to Special Trustee Thomas Henry.

In January the special trustee will approve the names of individuals selected to the Redistricting Committee at the monthly board meeting. The committee will hold its first meeting to develop an outreach and information plan, with assistance from district staff.

Another public hearing will be held in March during the

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Omega Psi Phi members look forward to the next 100 years of service in the community.

Omega Psi Phi celebrates a century of service

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is celebrating 100 years of service and 50 years in the Hub City. The Compton City Council honored the fraternity on Tuesday, Nov. 15, for its continued community service.

Omega Psi Phi began on Nov. 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The founders were three undergraduates, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their faculty adviser, Dr. Ernest Everett Just. The name Omega Psi Phi comes from the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul."

"We are very excited to be celebrating our centennial this year by sponsoring many terrific events," Qwame Dow, vice bacilleus of Omega Psi Phi's Tau Tau Chapter said.

The group works with Peace for Kids, the Compton Mental Health Initiative and its own version of Toys for Tots.

"More than 250 of our fraternity brothers turned up to celebrate at the University of Southern California," Dow said.

The group lives by the saying "Omega Psi Phi till the day I die," and some members are branded with the omega symbol as a testament to their dedication.

"I am branded, but it is no longer a requirement," Chapter

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Council authorizes PRAG to assist with line of credit

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Compton City Council unanimously approved a resolution on Tuesday, Nov. 22, authorizing the city manager to enter into an agreement with and issue a purchase order to the Public Sector Advisory Group, or PRAG, for financial advisory services related to the proposed line of credit negotiations.

The line of credit alleviates the lack of cash flow in the city during the first two quarters of the fiscal year, which has left the city behind on its bills. The bulk of the revenue arrives in the third and fourth quarter.

Once the line of credit is secured, the city can pay bills on time, avoiding late fees and helping to restore its credit worthiness.

The city manager, city treasurer, and city controller are holding discussions with Bank of the West and may also begin discussions with other banking institutions regarding the establishment of a line of credit. Representatives of Bank of the West have indicated the need for the city to engage an independent financial advisor to

assist with the negotiations, and it is expected that other banking institutions will make a similar request for an independent financial advisor.

"They will help us with legal issues other cities faced, and helpfully assist us to secure a line of credit from the bank," interim City Manager Lamont Ewell said. "After looking at other companies, PRAG is a highly regarded company."

PRAG will convert the current cash flow into what the bank requires to extend a line of credit.

The cost of the service, \$50,000, is being allocated from the city manager's budget, as approximately \$400,000 in the budget does not have any destination.

"Given the needs of the city we felt this issue takes priority," Ewell said. "Any other issues requiring that money are going to be deferred."

"I cannot give enough praise for PRAG," Compton resident Lynn Boone said during the meeting. "I want to praise the city manager for looking at this company. They are outstanding."

Talks between the city and Bank of the West are ongoing.

All smiles for the holiday



Hub City community members came together to help at the Thanksgiving turkey giveaway held on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at City Hall.

Turkey giveaway a community success

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The season of giving continues in Compton with more than a thousand people gathering to distribute and receive turkeys at the seventh annual giveaway at City Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The event was a collaboration between Assemblyman Isadore Hall, Omega Psi Phi and Councilman Willie Jones. More than 12,000 turkeys have been distributed to residents from Compton and the surrounding communities over the years.

"We are helping community members in need, not just the homeless," Hall said. "People are hungry and hurting because they have lost their jobs. This is not a cure, but it offers some relief during this holiday season."

Each Turkey was large enough to feed approximately 10 people,

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Ali looks forward to starting second term on school board 4A

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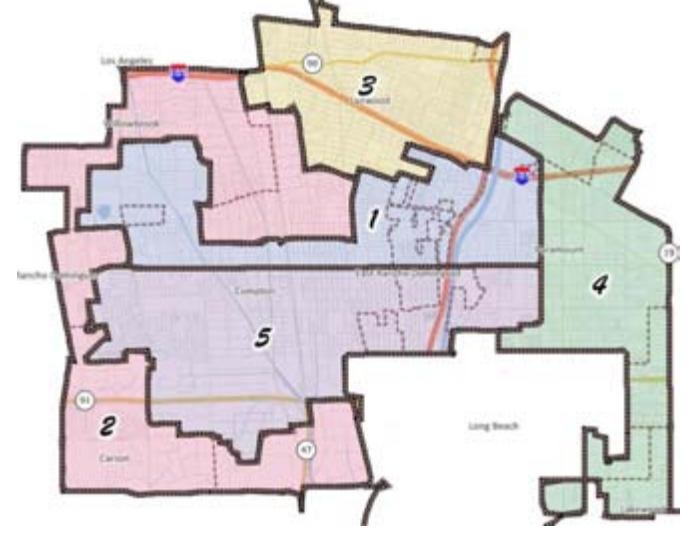
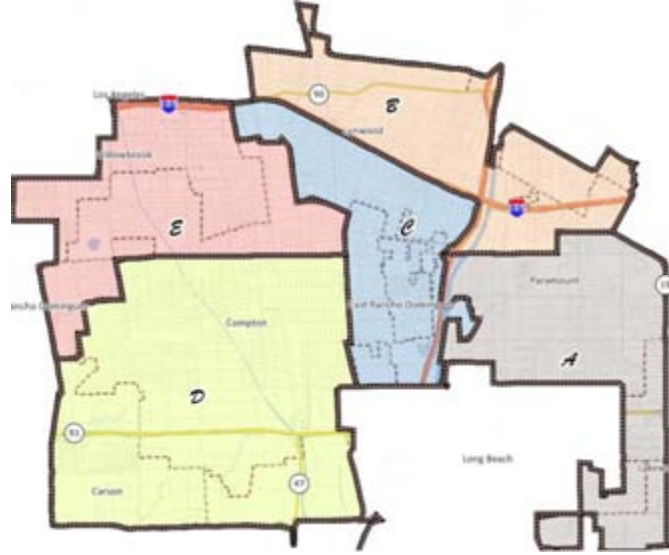
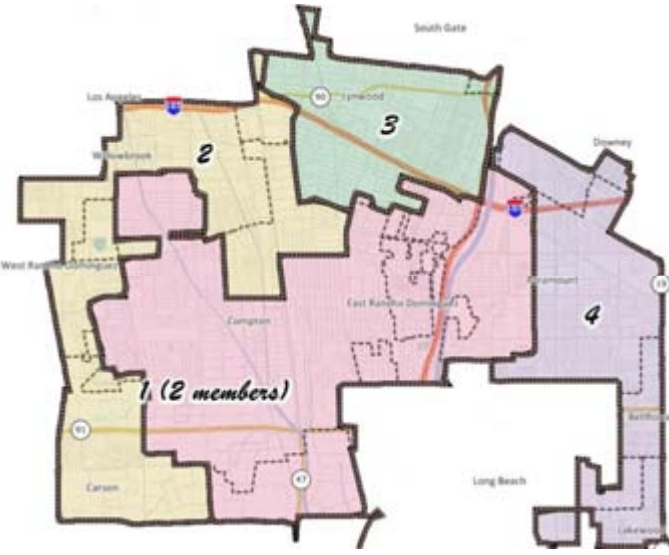


A HOLIDAY FOR GIVING
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Current Compton Lines

Version 1

Version 2



BOUNDARY

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board meeting.

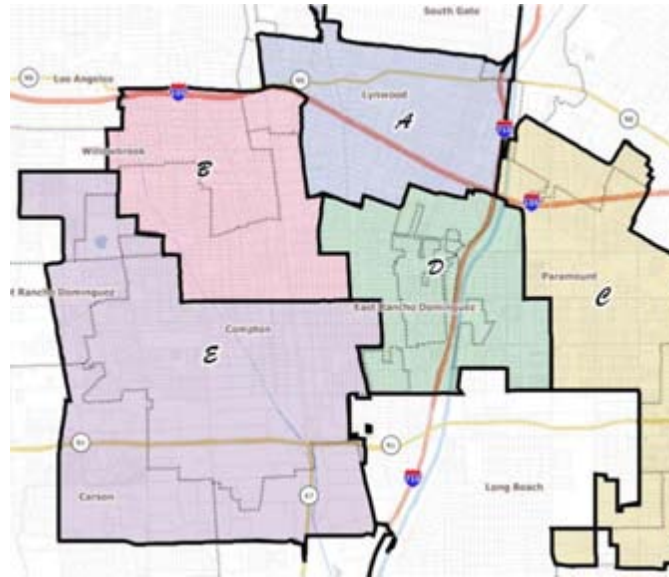
The Redistricting Committee will hold a meeting and forward the strengths and weakness of each of the proposed maps to the special trustee in April.

Henry will hold a third public hearing during the board meeting in May. He will adopt, by resolution of ordinance, the new trustee election areas. He will also submit a waiver for Amending Trustee Elections to the Board of Governors for its July 2012 meeting.

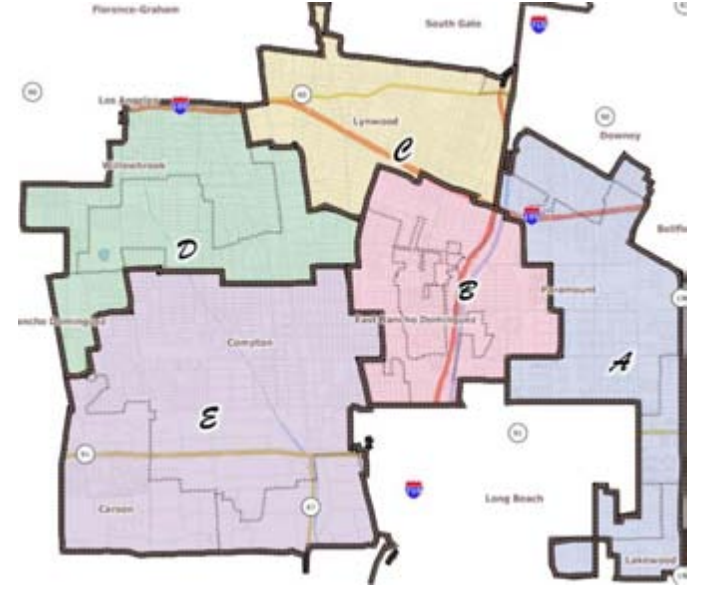
In July the district should receive approval from the Board of Governors. In September the new boundaries will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Recorder's office. In November the new Compton Community College District Trustee areas will be effective for the elections.

"The community will have ample time to give its input on the new boundaries," said Curry. "The advantages and disadvantages of each proposed map will be fully discussed. We hope everyone in the community will attend the public meetings so they will have a full understanding of the reasons behind the selection of proposed changes."

Version 3



Version 4



Redevelopment Agency moves forward with Carson Park improvements

By Chris Frost, Bulletin Staff Writer

CARSON—The Carson City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, voted unanimously on Tuesday, Nov. 15, to overturn an appeal from Western Group Incorporated to refurbish Carson Park, and proceed with CWS Systems Incorporated, the lowest responsive contract bidder.

The agreement is contingent upon the city and CWS Systems reaching an agreement to represent the city in the event of any lawsuit contesting the bid's appeal.

Carson Park, 21411 S. Orrick Ave., occupies 10.9 acres, and offers ball fields, two basketball courts, a children's play area, a horseshoe area, meeting and craft rooms, a picnic area, swimming pool, volleyball courts and a snack bar.

The project proposes the construction of a 21,210-square-foot building for additional facilities like a gymnasium dance room and a computer room. It also proposes the demolition and reconstruction of the current community center, the creation of 41 more parking spaces and rest room upgrades in the existing facilities.

"The agency received 15 bids for the project by the Aug. 1 deadline," Assistant City Attorney Lindsay Tabaian said. "The two lowest bids came from CWS Systems at \$9.4 million and Western Group Incorporated at \$9 million."

Although Western Group submitted the lowest monetary bid, the agency labeled the document non-responsive. The bid was awarded to CWS Systems on Sept. 6, as the lowest monetary and responsive bidder.

The agency determined that Western's bid failed to identify the portion of work to be performed by each subcontractor, did not designate a C-16 licensed subcontractor for the installation of a fire sprinkler, and erroneously listed an inactive license for one of its designated subcontractors.

"They argued that the type of work could be identified instead of the portion," Tabaian said. "They just listed the type of work."

The staff refutes this, and said the bid document stated and clarified the requirements in several sections.

"Three other portions of the bid document mandated that the

portion of work for each subcontractor listed must be completed," Tabaian said.

Western also contends that it did not need to submit a C-16 licensed contractor to install a sprinkler system because the bid for that work came in at \$40,000, less than one half of one percent of the total contract price, and was not required.

"The staff believes that the sprinkler system bid is inaccurate," Tabaian said. "The breakdown listed the sprinkler expense at \$100,000. Now that they are saying the bid is \$40,000."

Western admitted that it provided an inactive license for Western Roofing, but said the subcontractor does have an active license, and the issue should be waived.

"There was no way for this item to be identified as a clerical error when we evaluated the bid," Tobian said.

"We agree that we did not list the correct license number for the roofer, but they do have a valid license number," Western Attorney David Polinsky said. "We disagree that this cannot be waived, because you have already done this for CWS."

Catalina structures, listed in the CWS contract, has an erroneous license number, he said, and parity in the treatment of the two bidders was not being demonstrated.

"I have done nothing but construction law for the last 15 years," Bruce Rudman, attorney for CWS said. "There is no person that

does not know they have to identify the percentage of the bid, or the amount of the subcontracts, because every project is required to have a percentage of self-performed work."

Rudman said the city has the right to waive a bid if it has a defect, and move forward with CWS, and the company would pay for 100 percent of the legal fees for a bid protest in court.

"We will not indemnify the city in the event of a suit for lost bidding costs," Rudman said. "But CWS will be hot and heavy in a bid protest, and we will provide defense for the city."

Polinsky dismissed the issue of understanding the instructions, and believes ambiguity resulted when the agency determined that percentage meant portion in the bid.

"Your bid instructions allowed listing either type or portion in the bid," he said. "You do have the right to waive a bid if there is a defect, but you also have the right to waive the defect if it is non-material."

Polinsky said it is the desire of Western to build a beautiful park for Carson residents, and believes it is the low bidder.

"You have two very good attorneys here parsing over a judge's decision, that gives each of them something," City Attorney William Wynder said. "The bid from Western requires an amount or percentage of work that is self-performed. Leaving it blank is non-responsive in our legal opinion."

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Thank you, Compton, Carson and Willowbrook voters!

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your vote in the Compton School Board election. It is an honor and a privilege to have been re-elected as your representative of the Board of Education.

Also, I wish to thank all the great churches, unions, public servants and community leaders for their endorsements of my candidacy. Most of all, I would like to give a great big thank you to all the volunteers, family members and friends, who helped me spread my message of hope and inspiration on behalf of the students of our great District.

I am renewing my vow to the children, parents and teachers of the District to continue being a strong advocate and fighter for better education, so that every child is given the academic tools he or she needs and deserves in order to succeed in life.

Sincerely, Micah Ali, Compton School Board Member

www.MicahAli.com

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MICAH ALI Re-elected to the School Board on Tue. Nov. 8, 2011

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