



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 2004 AGENDA

SUBJECT	
Exclusion of Forks of Salmon Elementary School District from the Proposed Unification of Etna Union High School District in Siskiyou County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the request by Forks of Salmon Elementary School District (ESD) to be excluded from the proposed unification of Etna Union High School District (UHSD).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has not heard this specific issue previously. However, the SBE has approved the exclusion of a component elementary school district from a proposed unification of a high school district on 16 separate occasions since December 1995.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Education Code Section 35542(b) allows the SBE to exclude component elementary school districts from unification of the high school district. This provision of law was enacted January 1995 to promote unifications of high school districts. Previous to this provision, district initiated attempts to unify a high school district required resolutions of approval by the governing boards of the high school district and each component elementary school district. Upon successful unification, each district would go out of existence and be replaced by the new unified school district. These conditions made unification of a high school district difficult because it was a very unique situation when the governing boards and residents of all affected districts were willing to eliminate their districts. Section 35542(b) allows those districts ready and willing to unify to proceed, while maintaining the independence of the component districts not ready to unify. Secondary students residing within the excluded elementary districts retain all rights to attend the same high schools they would have attended without unification.

The previous 16 actions by the SBE to exclude component districts from unification occurred at the time the SBE approved the unification. This request by Forks of Salmon ESD is the first time a district has requested exclusion by the SBE prior to local analysis and recommendation regarding the proposed unification. The California Department of Education (CDE) supports this prior approval of exclusion. Since exclusion is a

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

discretionary act by the SBE, prior approval of the exclusion assures that the unification proposal considered at local public hearings and analyzed by the county committee on school district organization is the same proposal that will be acted on the SBE. In fact, CDE is attempting to make it a requirement, through current legislation, that districts obtain prior approval to be excluded from unification of the high school district.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

There can be no determination of fiscal effect until the unification proposal has been submitted to the SBE for analysis and approval.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: RESOLUTION #04-01 Resolution to Opt Out of Unification of the Etna Union High School District and Its Feeder Elementary School Districts (2 Pages) (This attachment is not available for web viewing. A printed copy is available for viewing in the State Board of Education Office).