

Marin County Office of Education Overview of School District Reorganization

Types of Reorganization

Four types of reorganization are most common:

1) Territory transfers: ^(not us) Transfer of a portion (or portions) or all of one district to another.

* 2) Formations of new school districts: Typically, these are unifications that involve (1) reorganizing entire elementary and high school districts or portions of them into unified districts serving kindergarten through grade twelve or (2) reorganizing or splitting an existing unified district into two or more new unified school districts. Although unification is the most frequent new district formation, new elementary or high school districts also may be formed from combinations of existing districts.

3) Unifications with components (i.e., Thompson unifications): Unifications where one or more of the feeder elementary school districts are completely within a high school district and are excluded from action to unify the portion of the high school district in which it is contained. The governing board of the elementary school district must receive approval for exclusion from the agency approving the unification (either the county committee in school district organization or the State Board of Education). (EC 35542)

When someone doesn't want to participate

4) Lapsations of districts: When certain conditions are met (most typically when the average daily attendance of a district falls below specified levels), the county committee on school district organization is required to lapse the district and annex its entire territory to one or more adjoining districts. (EC 35780)

Reorganization Process

- Process for reorganization dependent on how reorganization is initiated. Options for initiating reorganization proceedings include:
 - a) County Committee on School District Organization may, on its own initiative, prepare tentative plans and recommendations for reorganization
 - b) A Petition to Reorganize submitted by 10% of the registered voters of the entire school district
 - c) A Resolution of a city council, county board of supervisors, board of a special district or LAFCO
 - d) A Petition to Reorganize submitted by 25% of the registered voters in each district being reorganized
 - e) A Petition to Reorganize submitted by a majority of the members of the governing board of each affected school district

most common way for successful reorganization

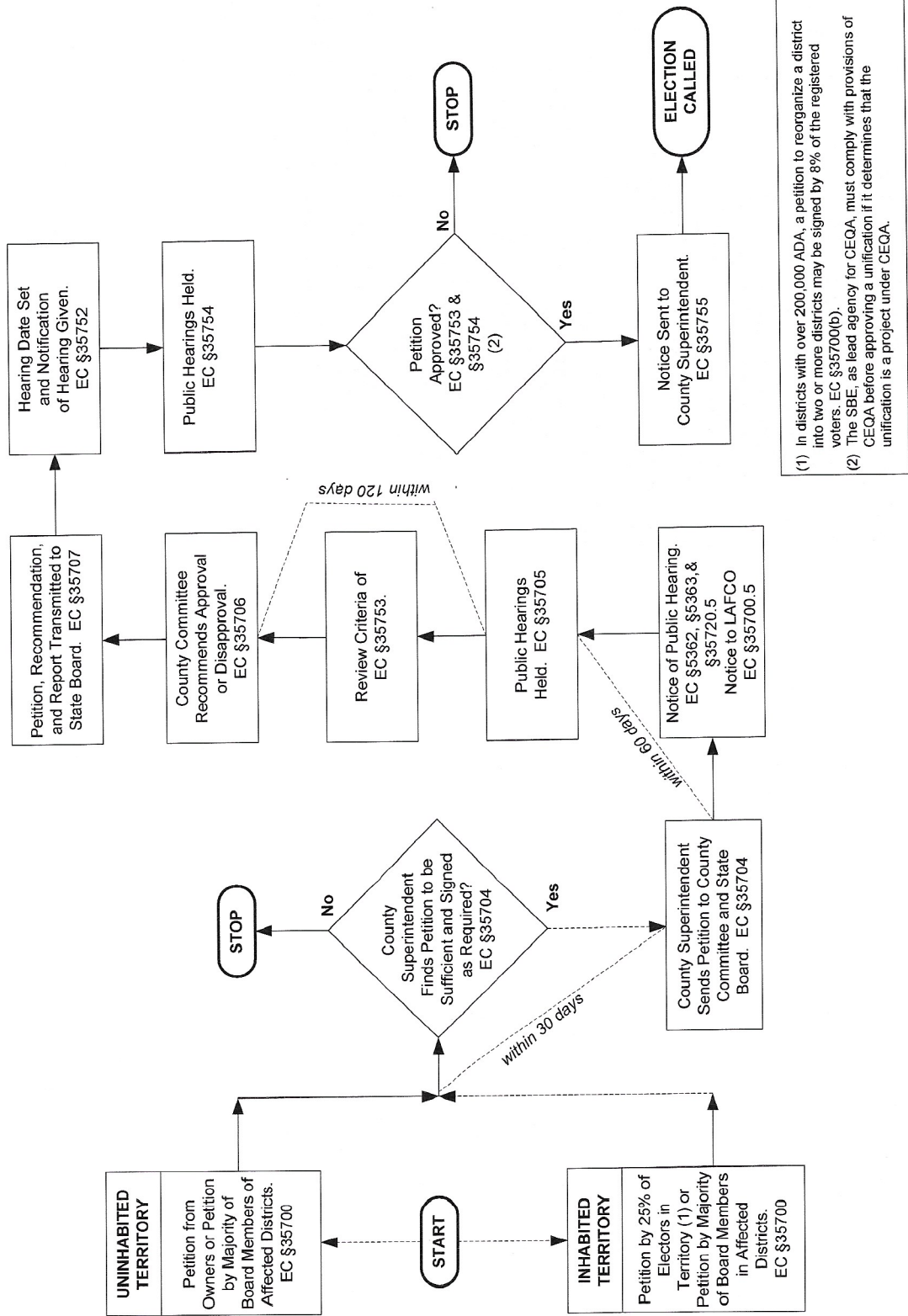


- For options (a)-(c) listed above, the process entails:
 - 1) County Committee holds a preliminary public hearing to grant or deny the Proposal to Reorganize
 - 2) If approved, the County Committee adopts a tentative plan and recommendations and sets another public hearing in the proposed area of reorganization (within 60 days after adopting recommendations)
 - 3) County Committee conducts feasibility study to assess the criteria set forth in Education Code Section 35753
 - 4) County Committee adopts final recommendation, and if it approves the plan, the proposal, feasibility study and recommendations are sent to the State Board of Education for approval
 - 5) State Board complies with CEQA and holds a public hearing
 - 6) State Board approves or disapproves of the petition
 - 7) If approval is given, the County Superintendent calls an election in the territory determined by the State Board (at next viable election date – at least 88 days in advance of election)
 - 8) With successful election (majority vote), file reorganize parcel map with State Board of Equalization by December of each year, with reorganization implemented in the subsequent fiscal year (e.g., map filed by December 2020, reorganization implemented in 2021-22 fiscal year).

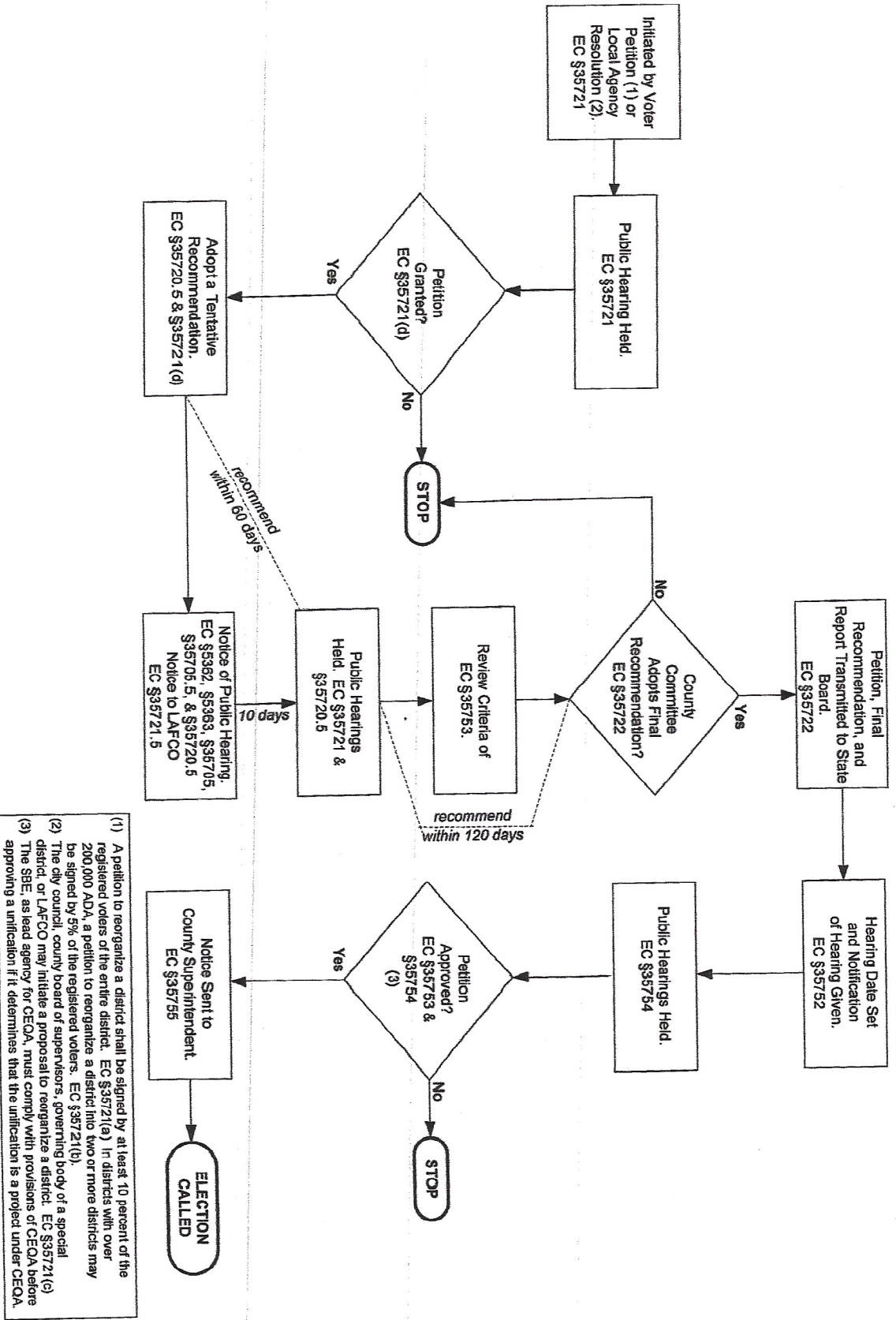
- For options (d) and (e) listed above, the process entails:
 - 1) County Superintendent of Schools verifies the petition and notifies County Committee and State Board of petition
 - 2) County Committee holds a public hearing in each affected district (within 60 days of the receipt of the petition)
 - 3) County Committee conducts feasibility study to assess the criteria set forth in Education Code Section 35753
 - 4) County Committee makes a recommendation to approve or disapprove the petition and a recommendation on the area of election. If it approves the petition, the petition, report and recommendations are sent to the State Board of Education for approval.
 - 5) State Board complies with CEQA and holds a public hearing
 - 6) State Board approves or disapproves of the petition
 - 7) If approval is given, the County Superintendent calls an election in the territory determined by the State Board (at next viable election date – at least 88 days in advance of election)
 - 8) With successful election (majority vote), file reorganize parcel map with State Board of Equalization by December of each year, with reorganization implemented in the subsequent fiscal year (e.g., map filed by December 2020, reorganization implemented in 2021-22 fiscal year).



UNIFICATION INITIATED BY OWNERS, 25% PETITION, OR DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARDS



UNIFICATION INITIATED BY 10% PETITION OR LOCAL AGENCY



(1) A petition to reorganize a district shall be signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters of the entire district. EC §35721(a) 1r districts with over 200,000 ADA, a petition to reorganize a district into two or more districts may be signed by 5% of the registered voters. EC §35721(b).

(2) The city council, county board of supervisors, governing body of a special district, or LAFCO may initiate a proposal to reorganize a district. EC §35721(c)

(3) The SBE, as lead agency for CEQA, must comply with provisions of CEQA before approving a unification if it determines that the unification is a project under CEQA.

Compelling Reasons for Reorganization

— Start here

- Enhance community identity of an area by having a commonality between an identified community area and the schools that serve that area (e.g., city limits)
- Creation of financial or operational efficiencies
- Educational program enhancements or opportunities
- Local control and accountability on policies and decisions
- ???

