



National Headquarters
MALDEF Nonprofit Center
634 S. Spring Street, 12th Fl.
Los Angeles, CA 90014
TEL: 213.629.2512
Fax: 213.629.0266

**Atlanta
Program Office**
500 West Lanier Avenue
Suite 908
Fayetteville, GA 30215
Tel: 678.559.1071
Fax: 678.559.1079

**Chicago
Regional Office**
11 East Adams Street
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603
TEL: 312.427.0701
Fax: 312.427.0691

**Los Angeles
Regional Office**
634 S. Spring Street,
11th Fl.
Los Angeles, CA 90014
TEL: 213.629.2512
Fax: 213.629.0266

**Sacramento
Program Office**
1512 14th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916.444.3031
Fax: 916.444.7207

**San Antonio
Regional Office**
110 Broadway
Suite 300
San Antonio, TX 78205
TEL: 210.224.5476
Fax: 210.224.5382

**Washington, D.C.
Regional Office**
1016 16th Street, NW
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.293.2828

August 22, 2017

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Michael Adams
President, Board of Trustees
Antelope Valley Community College District
3041 West Avenue K
Lancaster, California 93536

Mr. Edward Knudson
Superintendent
Antelope Valley Community College District
3041 West Avenue K
Lancaster, California 93536

Re: Demand for compliance with California Voting Rights Act
California Elections Code §§ 14027 and 10010(e)

Dear Mr. Adams and Knudson:

As you know, we have received complaints from Latino voters in the Antelope Valley Community College District that the use of an at-large election system for the election of trustees results in Latino vote dilution and prevents Latino voters from electing candidates of their choice.

We sent an initial demand on March 23, 2017 demanding that: 1) the Board convert its at-large elections to a district-based electoral system; and 2) pursuant to California Voter Participation Rights Act (“CVpra”), Cal. Elec. Code § 14051, pass an ordinance consolidating the AVCCD’s elections with the statewide election by January 1, 2018. Your March 27, 2017 response indicated that NDC Research had completed a demographic study of the District and presented them to the Board, and that you were “currently” developing a districting plan to establish voting districts, and that those actions, along with adoption of a resolution to move the elections to even years, demonstrated your intentions to fully comply with all elements of the CVRA by implementing a by-District plan “in the near future.”

Having observed no activity regarding these efforts over the next three months, (other than re-contracting with NDC), we sent a July 12, 2017 letter reiterating the gravity of the District’s voting rights violation and to emphasize the importance of a timely conversion to a district-based election system.

Mr. Michael Adams
Mr. Edward Knudson

August 22, 2017

On August 14, 2017, the Board voted unanimously, without discussion, and despite community protest as to the proposed 2020 date of implementation, to approve a proposed timeline for implementation of district-based elections.

The Board's proposed timeline is unacceptable as it does not remedy the California Voting Rights Act violation because the at-large electoral system, unlawful under the CVRA, will continue to be utilized in the November 2018 Board of Trustees election. There is simply no justification whatsoever for a two year period for design and public comment, particularly since you have already engaged in much of the demographic work necessary to complete the task, and first engaged NDC for this purpose in 2015.

Please consider this letter further written notice under California Elections Code § 10010(e). We demand that Antelope Valley Community College District convert to a district-based election system in time for the November 2018 Board of Trustees election.

We request your response to this demand by September 12, 2017. In the absence of a satisfactory response, our clients will be forced to seek judicial relief in the form of an action to obtain an order converting the election system from at-large to by-district together with other relief provided for in the CVRA, including an award of litigation and expert witness costs, and attorneys' fees. The District can avoid the imposition of a judicially-mandated plan, including district maps designed or approved by the Court, by taking appropriate action without the filing of litigation.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tanya G. Pellegrini
Staff Attorney
MALDEF

cc: Barbara Gaines, Vice President
Lew Stults, Clerk
Laura Herman, Board Member
Steve Buffalo, Board Member