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June 24, 2020

**VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL**

Patricia Ganer, Board President  
Board of Trustees, Buena Park Library District  
7150 La Palma Ave.  
Buena Park, CA 90620  
E-mail: [marymac@buenapark.lib.us](mailto:marymac@buenapark.lib.us)

Re: Demand for Compliance with California Voting Rights Act

Dear Ms. Ganer:

We write on behalf of Latino voters in the Buena Park Library District (the "District") who are concerned that the use of an at-large system for the election of the Board of Trustees results in Latino vote dilution and prevents Latino voters from electing candidates of their choice. We reviewed demographic and electoral information pertaining to your jurisdiction with particular attention to the protections of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 ("CVRA"). Based on our investigation, we believe that the District is in violation of the CVRA and must convert to a by-district election system.

The CVRA, states in relevant part:

An at-large method of election may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class[.]

Elec. Code § 14027.

Latino residents of the District are a "protected class" within the meaning of the CVRA. United States Census Bureau population data shows that Latinos constitute about 30% of the citizen voting age population of the District. It appears, however, that only one Latino has ever served on the Board by appointment, and that no Latino candidates have ever been elected to serve on the Board. Based on our review of election returns and demographic information, we believe that the lack of success of Latino candidates results from the inability of Latino voters to elect candidates of choice due to racially polarized voting among the electorate, and that continued use of at-large

Patricia Ganer, Board President

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elections therefore violates the CVRA. We demand that the District convert its at-large election system to a district-based election system for the District Board of Directors election in November 2022. Under the authority of Elections Code § 10650, the District can effectuate that conversion by passing a resolution, and we demand that it do so without delay.

We request your response to this demand within 60 days of receipt of this letter. In the absence of a satisfactory response, we will 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 attorneys' fees and litigation and expert witness costs.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tanya G. Pellegrini  
Staff Attorney  
MALDEF

cc: Irene Castaneda, Trustee  
Dennis Salts, President Pro Tem  
Richard Rams, Secretary  
Al Salehi, Trustee  
Mary McCasland, Library Director