

Judge pauses takeover of EPASD to allow hearing
August 16 set for crucial step in District's pursuit of justice

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East Palo Alto, CA — In a ruling by the San Mateo County Superior Court, the Honorable Judge Roger Piquet ruled in legal conference today that the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and the City of East Palo Alto must not take action to displace the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD) Board prior to a hearing on August 16, 2024. The ruling provides EPASD an opportunity to be heard on the merits of "abuse of discretion" by the City of East Palo Alto on its proposal to merge the District into the City.

"I appreciate the Court's viewpoint that our ratepayers deserve having a hearing on critical concerns the District has with the action of LAFCo and the City of East Palo Alto. The takeover being forced on EPASD deserves full and due consideration, and we will clearly articulate the flaws of the City's attempted action and harm to ratepayers and voters during the hearing," said Dennis Scherzer, president of the EPASD Board. "We seek justice for our community, and we will have our day in court."

EPASD continues to provide services for its ratepayers while the case advances. The San Mateo LAFCo voted Wednesday, July 17, 2024 to advance the takeover pending actions to be taken by the City of East Palo Alto. East Palo Alto City Council would possibly have taken over governance of EPASD on August 1, 2024, however the Court's ruling today will likely defer that date to at least September 1, 2024 or longer pending the outcome of the August 16 hearing.

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