

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 3**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Williams**

December 1, 2014

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An act relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3, as introduced, Williams. Isla Vista Community Services District.

Existing law authorizes the formation of the Isla Vista College Community Services District within the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County known as Isla Vista for the performance of various services, including, but not limited, to public parks, police protection, and transportation facilities.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to clarify and establish the necessary authority for the creation of the Isla Vista Community Services District within the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, and would make legislative findings and declarations relating to that intent.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:  
3 (1) The Isla Vista community encompasses a population of over  
4 20,000 residents situated within an area comprising of less than  
5 one square mile of land in Santa Barbara County. It is adjacent to

1 the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus and  
2 its student population. Including university property, the area totals  
3 about 1,500 acres. Isla Vista represents one of the largest urban  
4 communities in California not governed as a city.

5 (2) Isla Vista faces various challenges in local governance. As  
6 a university town, Isla Vista must accommodate the service needs  
7 associated with its transient student population and a predominantly  
8 renter-oriented community. Isla Vista’s situation is complicated  
9 by its unincorporated status, which limits its local participation in  
10 managing public services and providing needed public  
11 improvements, such as increased lighting, sidewalk and street  
12 improvements, and housing code enforcement.

13 (3) As an unincorporated area, various county agencies provide  
14 services to the residents and businesses of Isla Vista. Since these  
15 agencies must provide services throughout the whole county, Isla  
16 Vista must compete for attention and funding for the services they  
17 need. Isla Vista is represented at the county level by one of five  
18 supervisors and is situated in the largest and most diverse  
19 geographic district in the county. The Isla Vista Recreation and  
20 Park District is the only local district providing limited services  
21 exclusively to Isla Vista.

22 (4) There have been multiple attempts at achieving cityhood  
23 for Isla Vista, however, insufficient tax revenue prevents cityhood  
24 from being a viable solution. In 2003, the Santa Barbara County  
25 Grand Jury found that establishing a community services district  
26 would be the best governance option to expand and improve  
27 services to Isla Vista.

28 (5) Over the last year, the Isla Vista community has been faced  
29 with many challenges due to tragic events, including two violent  
30 sexual assaults, a riot, and a mass shooting that has brought focus  
31 to the unique needs of Isla Vista that can only be addressed by  
32 direct, local governance. Following these events, a local coalition  
33 was formed to determine the best direction for Isla Vista  
34 self-governance and the community services district has garnered  
35 much local support.

36 (6) Additionally, following these events, many trustees on the  
37 UC Santa Barbara Foundation Board expressed a strong desire to  
38 support the chancellor and the university in efforts to create change  
39 in Isla Vista, to ensure a safer and more enhanced community for  
40 students. The UC Santa Barbara Foundation Trustees’ Advisory

1 Committee on Isla Vista Strategies was formed to analyze the  
2 conditions and dynamics of Isla Vista and develop mid- and  
3 long-term recommendations to establish a viable, safe, and  
4 supportive environment. Among their recommendations is that the  
5 State of California create a Community Services District/Municipal  
6 Improvement District in Isla Vista with potential powers of  
7 infrastructure, utilities, garbage, police services, parks, recreation,  
8 cultural facilities, fire, security, and roads.

9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that will  
10 clarify and establish the necessary authority for the creation of the  
11 Isla Vista Community Services District within the unincorporated  
12 area of Santa Barbara County.

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