

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the City Council Chambers, Yuma, AZ, September 10, 2001**

1. Jim Woodell: "4,000 people in Yuma County, if you cut along the southeast portion of the current draft. Roughly two percent and change in Yuma County, a very insignificant number as regards the border issues that concern the people of Yuma County as a whole. Any way you look at it, change, I suggest a very small change in Yuma County would be a very significant change for La Paz County."

2. David Holm: "I have been cut off from my common area of interest, which is the community of Parker, which we are only a bedroom community of. Also when you cut it off, you cut off Wenden, the Salome area, and have taken this relatively poor farming area, low income area, and taken it and placed it with the affluent, nouveau riche area of Mohave County."

3. J. P. Melchionne: "I think there's commonality with either one of the two possibilities, having a border district or a river district."

4. Verlyn Michel, Mayor of Quartzsite: "If you can't find where Quartzsite is, I'll clue you in. On Interstate 10 west of the C for the word County at the intersections of 95 and I-10. 95 is going to be a CaniMex highway.... Also, the Legislature map, if you notice, has split the town into four pieces. Why? You have the northeast section of the town in the part Mohave County and part of the northwest section. The rest of the northwest section, southwest, southeast, are in Yuma County. This doesn't work."

5. Chuck Busby: "The biggest problem, not only the splits, La Paz County has the largest, and it splits Quartzsite down the middle. I think that's unacceptable, not acceptable to me at all. We have one township, you know, 36 square miles, 3,300 plus people in there, 1.8 million in January, and we don't need to be split, particularly in the Legislative District."

6. Supervisor Clifton: "If I look at the bitter pill, it's the lesser of two evils, how to keep La Paz together. Maybe we'll be forced to go to Mohave. Do we like that? No. Do the numbers reflect that? Maybe so. If it's the only chance to see where La Paz can stay together as a unit, I think that's more important than anything."

7. William Michael Smith: "I'm Chairman of the Democratic Party for the county of Yuma. Initially, my reaction to your map as it pertains to Yuma County, the Legislative District and Congressional Districts, I don't know why we're here, frankly. You did exactly what we asked you to do: Keep Yuma County intact, which you did. I'll address some other issues. One of them is, as it pertains to Congressional Districts.... We're fine down here in Yuma from my party standpoint, but I'm not happy for my colleague, who is Chairman of the Republican party. I don't think it's fair we pack this Congressional District G or other Congressional District with 65, 70, 72 percent Hispanic at the sacrifice

of six other districts that become, for all practical purposes, substantially uncompetitive, I don't think there's but maybe one competitive district out of the eight."

8. William Michael Smith: "La Paz has a lot of historical and present interest with Yuma County. It would be a start to unpack G. You say why would you as a Democrat do that? I think I explained that. I think the whole state is important. I have some good Republican friends here. If my friends in the Republican party are not strong, that makes me weak. Without competition and interest, my party is lost."

9. Gene Fisher: "What I submit is if you put all of La Paz with Yuma, you will be very, very, very close to the plus five percent. And if you need reasons, the Justice Department allows plus five percent deviation. If you need reasons why you do what you do, there are three tribes within that region, the Colorado River Indian Tribe, Cocopans, and the Quechans. You can make an incredibly strong case why you should be putting Yuma and La Paz together, even though you deviate plus or minus five percent."

10. Marilyn Young, Mayor of Yuma City: "The reason for coming up, the reason you say when here before you listened to Yuma County, listened to the County community and we said "Leave us alone" and you've done that. And we thank you very much."

11. Dennis Booth: "Ideally I'd also say somehow the Congressional District which went along the Colorado River, it would be excellent for a community of interest. Not that I want that, I underline, to change what any other communities of interest are. I will suggest to you that rural Arizona is in a battle in many ways for resources of this state. Water is the life blood, the future growth potential, as we see it. Those along the Colorado River have common interest that way, agricultural up the river. Fortunately the US Congress does have something to say about long-term water rights."

12. Supervisor Lucy Shipp: "But if you are talking community of interest, talking the folks that want you to do it, you'll get a hundred percent of Yuma and La Paz county to make us a solid unit as a Legislative District. We were a county. We're still joined at the hip. They're our neighbors. And we like it very much to have that be our Legislative District.... On the Congressional District, I know there's talk of a river district vs. a border district. When here before, I spoke in favor of a border district, I'll do that again. The river district to me, one, is critical importance, water. When you do the numbers, I think it will show that that river district, you need so many people, populace from Maricopa County, we end up being carried by someone from Maricopa County and it isn't going to be the type of local river water person we're looking for. I don't think it will happen with a Maricopa County district. I feel strongly we're better off around the border and urge you look to the federal arena as our concerns. We have border issues. It has to do with NAFTA, has to do with illegal immigration, the causes, ports, the medical care and border patrol. Our issues are border issues."

13. Supervisor Bob MacLendon: "I was a Legislator for 18 years. For 18 years I was constantly a Representative of La Paz County as well as Yuma County. Supervisors were together. Agricultural interests are similar. There were commonalities with the Colorado

River, as far as what happens there. Tourism is big with both counties.... I think of Arizona Western College District, and taxes were paid to citizens by both counties."

**NOTE:** These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant's best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

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