ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Saturday, July 23, 2011
1:06 p.m.

Location

Arizona Western College
Schoening Conference Center
2020 South Avenue 8E
Yuma, Arizona 85365
(Main Location)

Arizona Western College
San Luis Learning Center
1340 North 8th Avenue
San Luis, Arizona 85349
(Remote Location)

Arizona Western College
Parker Learning Center
1109 Geronimo Avenue
Parker, Arizona 85344
(Remote Location)

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair (Remote-San Luis)
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director (Remote-San Luis)
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Willie Desmond – Strategic Telemetry
Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel

Reported by:
Michele E. Balmer, RPR
Certified Reporter No. 50489
www.courtreportersaz.com
PROCEEDINGS

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good afternoon. Let's go ahead and get started.

Now, before we begin, we want to make sure that everybody that wants to speak is able to speak, and they would need to fill out this form. So if you don't have a form, make sure that you pick one up at the entrance and fill it out and you will get a chance to speak.

Okay. Thank you all for being here, and thank you, AWC, for letting us use this venue. My name is Jose Herrera. I'm the co-vice chair along with Scott Freeman, who is not able to be here but who is watching the streaming, so say hi to Scott.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Hi, Scott.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. What we'll do is we'll start off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What I would like to do is have my fellow Commissioners introduce themselves and say a few words, starting with Commissioner Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good morning, everyone. My
name is Rick Stertz. I'm from Tucson, Arizona. I am one of
the two Republicans that are on the commission, and I'm very
honored to be here.

    Thank you all for coming out. It's a blustery and
hot Saturday, and I really appreciate it. Our goal today is
to capture as much information from you as possible. If you
don't fill out -- as Vice Chair Herrera said, if you're not
going to be speaking today and you haven't filled out one of
the yellow forms to speak, there are blue forms that are
back in the back of the room as well. I encourage every one
of you that wants to voice an opinion on this process to
make sure and fill out that blue form. That information is
going to be made part of the overall record. And what we're
doing right now is that we are capturing information from
cities across the state so that we can be building the
record.

    So I'm honored to be here. I'm honored to be down
here in your city and to listen to all of the things that
you have to say. Thank you very much.

    COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Good morning. My name is
Linda McNulty. I'm also from Tucson. I was appointed to
the commission by Senate Minority Leader David Schapira.
I'm excited to hear -- see everyone here today and to be in
Yuma.

    I would like to introduce our legal counsel to my
left, Joe Kanefield; and our Executive Director, who is walking that way, Ray Bladine. And to encourage you as the process goes on, if you have questions or additional comments after today, that we've got a good staff and a good team put together. Please feel free to contact our staff's office in Phoenix that you'll see more about on the presentation. Thanks.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We also have Willie Desmond from Strategic Telemetry present. He'll be doing a presentation. We also have Kristina Gomez, the Deputy Director of the AIRC. I think she is at San Luis at the remote location along with our Chair, Colleen Mathis.

And before we get started, what I would like to do, I think I have all of the speaker forms. We will be giving each individual four minutes to speak. We will have someone timing. I think Buck Forst, our chief technology officer back there, will be timing. So you have four minutes, and please honor those four minutes. We want to make sure that everybody has a chance to speak and don't try not to go over those four minutes.

We will be visiting many different parts of the state. We're at Parker today and also at San Luis and, of course, here in Yuma. And we, as Commissioners, will try to make as many of the meetings as possible, but since there's
so many visits to different parts of the state, we won't be at all of them. That's why we only have three here today. And we'll have -- the next one will be at -- in Mesa at the Mesa Community Center on Monday. So for those of you that want to travel to Mesa, do some shopping, you're welcome to come to Mesa as well.

The point of these hearings is to hear the public speak. The Commissioners aren't allowed to respond to questions or to any type of input from the public. All we're doing is listening. So please, if you have any questions, address it to the staff. They would be happy to help you guys out.

So what we'll do, before we start with Willie Desmond, I want to just let you guys know that I am from Yuma. I was born and raised in San Luis. I'm a native. I love this town. And so I want you guys to feel that you are represented. I may no longer live here. I still have family here. I come here all of the time. So this is my hometown as well. I went to Kofa. Any Kofa Kings out there? Go Kofa.

So I'm pleased to be here representing Yuma, representing the Commission, representing the state. So I love this town, and I know that we'll have great input from the people here, input that may differ from what we're doing, input that may agree with what we're doing, and
that's fine.

The only thing we ask is that we be civil, that we respect each individual that is speaking, whether you agree with them or not, do respect one another. I know the people from Yuma are good people and I don't -- I anticipate that the meeting will go as smoothly as possible like it did at South Mountain Community College and the one in Nogales. We had two meetings that were streamed, so you guys can watch them even if you don't travel to those areas.

I would also like to introduce two additional people. We have Luz Hoyes, who, if you don't mind, Luz, introducing yourself and what you're doing.

MS. HOYOS: Yes. My name is Luz Hoyos, and I will be the interpreter for anybody who needs that service today.

(Spanish translation.)

MS. HOYOS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We also have Michele Balmer who is the court reporter. So what we ask, when you are speaking for those four minutes, you speak clearly. Please spell your first and last name and just make her life a little easier. She's got a tough job, so let's help her out.

And what I'll do is hand it over to Willie Desmond with Strategic Telemetry who will give us a great presentation on what is redistricting.
(PowerPoint presentation by Strategic Telemetry from 1:13 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Willie.

And as you can see, we have our website up there, and I would encourage you to visit our website, if you haven't already, to not only view videos of the previous meetings but also to download any forms, any explaining what the commission is, not only Willie's presentation, but also Joe Kanefield, our attorney, and Mary O'Grady's presentation. It has a great presentation on just the overall view on the AIRC. So I would encourage you to visit our website.

What I would like to do now is have the interpreter in San Luis introduce him or herself.

MS. GALLARDO: My name is Maria Gallardo. I live at 366 San Pueblo in San Luis, Arizona.

(Spanish translation.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now can the interpreter in Parker introduce him or herself.

MS. LEWIS: My name is Jo Lewis, and I'm an interpreter in California. And, unfortunately, there's no one I need to interpret for today.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you for being there. Somebody might show up. You never know.
So what we'll do is we will go ahead and get started with the comments and we'll -- I think there's people in San Luis; is that correct?

MS. GOMEZ: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: How many?

MS. GOMEZ: We have three people here.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That would like to speak?

MS. GOMEZ: They're not sure yet if they would like to comment or not yet so --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, that's fine. Any time you -- what I'll do is I will try to get as many done here in Yuma, and then I will come back to you.

MS. GOMEZ: Okay. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That is Kristina Gomez, our Deputy Executive Director, speaking.

We'll first start out with the Mayor of Yuma, Alan Krieger. Mr. Krieger, if you could come up to the podium and speak. Thank you.

MAYOR KRIEGER: Thank you very much. I didn't realize I would get point of privilege.

Anyway, thank you for having your commission here in Yuma, Arizona. We appreciate the venue and the facility that you have chose to have this at.

One of the things that is very evident about Yuma, Arizona, is the fact that we are the third largest
metropolitan area in the state. But for too many years we have been ignored, and to the degree that, you know, even on the Phoenix stations we don't even get the weather report. But for too long we have been just ignored, and it's time for Yuma, Arizona, to be at the table at every opportunity and have the representation that we deserve being the third largest metropolitan area in the state. The industry that Yuma, Arizona, contributes to the state and to the nation is also ignored for the most part.

The busiest Marine Corps Air Station in the nation, the most strategic and valuable Army testing site in the nation, and those two elements are absolutely critical to the warfront and the defense of this nation.

The third -- or the second most valuable thing, maybe it is the most valuable thing, is our agricultural base. Billions of dollars of activity happens in Yuma, Arizona, because of our 24-hour yearly activity in agriculture.

And the third is our tourism. People come from all parts of the United States and the world to spend their winters in Yuma, Arizona.

We are soon to be, if not already, the solar capital of the world. The Guinness Book of World Records has determined that we are the sunniest city on the face of the earth.
And we deserve representation in Congress that's going to represent the interests of this community. Now, when I say Yuma, Arizona, I'm speaking regionally, because what happens in Yuma, Arizona, affects every other community in Yuma County up the river and down the river. And we tend to take the heat for a lot of issues, but we also tend to lead. And the fact is that currently our representative in Congress has not really been favorable to Yuma.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before you continue, if you could just do me a favor and keep the clapping at the end so we can clap for everyone. How is that? Because it will go smoothly if we --

(Audience reaction.)

MALE VOICE: No. Specific points.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you please -- if you want to speak, please. I would appreciate that.

MAYOR KRIEGER: That's the situation we're facing. So I want to make sure that Yuma, Arizona, has the representation that it deserves so that we can move forward and move our industries forward, do the things that we need to have done for us so we have the ability to create jobs, so that we can contribute to the state in a way that represents the values and interests of Yuma County.

Thank you.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What I want to do is move this meeting along as quickly as possible. So that's why I appreciate the clapping, but if you guys can do it at the end, that would be great. Because this is going to be -- there's a lot of speakers and clapping does take time.

So Bill Mendoza with the San -- you know what? I'll have Bill say where he's from. And if you don't mind spelling your first and last name. Well, definitely your last name, Bill.

Can you take the podium, please?

And then after that we'll have Patricia Ware, so if Patricia Ware can get ready, and Marvin Marlatt. So those two will follow Bill. Thank you.

MR. MENDOZA: I'm Bill Mendoza.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you speak into the mic?

MR. MENDOZA: I'm Bill Mendoza, native of Yuma. I just want to put my two cents in. I agree with Mayor Al Krieger that we deserve --

(Inaudible.)

COURT REPORTER: I can't hear him.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, could you do me a favor and the court reporter, can you do us a favor and start from the beginning and speak loudly into the mic.
MR. MENDOZA: What's that?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you do us a favor and speak loudly into the mic and start from the beginning.

MR. MENDOZA: I thought I was speaking way loud.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And spell your name, please.

MR. MENDOZA: All right. Well, I think that our district is more -- have more in common with all along our river here. And we are from the north of Arizona, not from the south or the east. And really, I just want to say that I believe that we deserve, like our Mayor Al Krieger, your Honor, that we deserve our recognition here. And that's all I have to say.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you spell your last name for the record? Could you spell your last name for the record?

MR. MENDOZA: M-e-n-d-o-z-a.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Go ahead, ma'am.

MS. WARE: My name is Patricia Ware.

P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, W-a-r-e.

I'm from Yuma, a native. My family has been here for many generations. I'm a director of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District. It's a 65,000-acre water district and irrigation power district that's east of Yuma from 52E
Recently, there's been a lot of discussion about this in our board meetings and stuff. There's work being done. I'm understanding that there's a map that's being prepared, or different proposals, and one will be presented to the board within the next week. We've reviewed this. This particular one, it seems to be trending in the direction that would be very helpful to our community. It would help bring the agriculture, keep it together, bring it into our own entity. We have not a lot in common with Tucson in the ag part. Nice place, my mother is from there, but it is a different cultural system there.

I would like to encourage you to look at these proposals that are going to be brought forward in the very near future. And one of the primary things that I think is paramount to our survival in the agricultural industry here, of which we farm about 1,000 of those acres, some of these proposals don't split -- this particular one does not split our district or any other thing, and it utilizes some natural boundaries like Barry Goldwater Range and the river.

Again, I thank you for coming. I appreciate it, and thank you for the time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Marvin we'll have
Edward Foster, the Mayor of Quartzsite, and Dr. Constance Uribe. She's a doctor at, I think, Yuma County Medical -- well, she's representing Yuma County Medical Society. So if you could get ready to speak after Marvin.

MR. MARLATT: Yes, thank you. I am Marvin Marlatt. I am a farmer in the Wellton area, and I serve as vice president of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. I address you today on behalf of that district.

The lifestyles and livelihoods of the residents of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and the other irrigation districts and communities along the western border of Arizona all depend on the proper use and management of the Colorado River.

In light of this, it would best serve these areas to be part of a congressional district stretching from Yuma County, up the river to the Utah border, and reaching east, as needed, to include some of the population of the west side of the Phoenix metro area.

This would enhance the likelihood of us having a representative who would develop an intimate understanding of the issues and concerns of those of us who live near and depend upon the river and who could effectively represent our concerns in Congress.

I realize, however, that you on the commission may decide it is necessary to place some of the communities in
the southwest corner of Yuma County into a congressional
district which may include portions of Pima County.

If you must, therefore, divide Yuma County between
two districts, I ask that you avoid choosing a district
boundary such as Interstate 8, which would needlessly slice
through the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District,
as well as through the communities of the Yuma Foothills,
Wellton, Tacna, and Dateland. A much better choice would be
to place the district boundary along the northern edge of
the Barry Goldwater Range and County 14th Street, with area
north of that line placed in a district that also includes
La Paz and Mohave County.

I learned yesterday that the Pinal County
Governmental Alliance has developed a congressional map
proposal that they intend to present to you soon, perhaps
this coming Wednesday. I have no opinion regarding the
desirability of their proposal in other areas of the state,
but I will say that the boundary line they propose through
eastern and central Yuma County will serve us well.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Marlatt, can you spell
your last name for the record?

MR. MARLATT: It's M-a-r-l-a-t-t.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MR. MARLATT: And if you would like, I can leave a
written draft of my comments.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Please. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: So Edward Foster, are you here? If you could --

MAYOR FOSTER: Yes, I am.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: If you could please approach the podium. Thank you.

MAYOR FOSTER: I'm Ed Foster, Mayor of Quartzsite, Arizona.

(Applause.)

MAYOR FOSTER: We don't have quite the criteria or credentials of Yuma. At least in January/February, we do become a very large city in Arizona and a very big tourist attraction.

But more so, the communities of the river valley or the river zone of Arizona, Western Arizona, need a consolidated voice in the Congress. We are ignored in Arizona by our state government and by the federal government by virtue of where we're districted right now.

I mean, this is not a political issue. This is a socioeconomic issue. And we need someone who represents the western Arizona communities to listen to our concerns, to act on our behalf, and not in the big cities of Arizona.

That's what I'm mostly here about. Okay. Thank you.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Dr. Constance, if you could please start approaching the podium. And after that will be Jim Lang, the president of the People For Ethical Redistricting. And after that will be Richard Linge, Professor, representing himself.

DR. URIBE: Good morning. Thank you for your time coming here. I'm Dr. Constance Uribe. C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e, Uribe, U as in undertaker, R as in rigor mortis, I as in intercourse, B as in batman, E as in easy.

(Applause.)

DR. URIBE: I'm a surgeon representing Yuma County Medical Society. My father's people came from Mexico at the turn of the last century and I was raised here in Yuma.

I came back here to set up my practice. I've been here for 31 years in private practice, and it wasn't because I couldn't get a job anywhere else. I chose to come to Yuma like many of my colleagues did.

We know the boundaries of Yuma County and it's rich in cultural diversity. We have the gaming tribes from the tribal Indians. We know about our popular Silver Spur Rodeo, and we have the famous tamale festival down in the southern part of our county.

The residents in south county come to Yuma to
shop, and they send many of their children to our private
schools here in the city of Yuma. I, for one, take my
Golden Retrievers to Somerton for boarding. Right now, as
we speak, I have a brand new Golden Retriever puppy boarded
for one month down in Somerton for obedience training. And
I know Russ Clark will tell you that I probably should go
there myself.

Yuma physicians work in clinics in the south
county area, and I personally see their referrals. Yuma
Regional Medical Center has a close working relationship
with WAHEC, and the hospital recently received -- accepted
an $840,000 donation for its new residency program from the
Regional Center For Border Health located in south county.

It wasn't along ago when La Paz was actually part
of us. And to the north is Mohave, another county enjoying
the same pleasures the peace and quiet the rural community
world affords. Beside having our citizens with various
Latino backgrounds like my family, Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma
Counties have members of the Havasupai, Quechan, Mohave,
Cocopah and other Indian nations in their boundaries.

What else Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave have in common
is a lifeline. It's called the Colorado River. This
creates a natural boundary separating us, for the most part,
from California, but it unites the three counties with
similar interests. We're still rural not because we have to
be, but because we want to be. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Jim Lang, please approach the podium.

MR. LANG: Hi. Jim Lang, L-a-n-g.

In Part 9 of your charge, it says that you must respect communities of interest, and all of the river communities have agricultural bases.

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

And, whereas, we are much more conservative than Tucson, and if we have representation from Tucson, we're not being represented.

It seems to me that I agree that the Colorado River should certainly be the western boundary used, and possibly as high as Lake Havasu, and then east as far as we need to go to encompass the Indian tribes and get the population goal of, I think, 703,000.

I think that in Number 8 of your charges it says there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination. And I was wondering, I know you can't answer questions, but I was wondering if by discrimination -- by no discrimination you mean that you cannot -- not take into effect the needs of, I guess, the fourth generation Americans or Caucasians, or whatever it is, you know, whoever is supposed to be the
dominant cultural group.

And it seems to me also that there's being -- an erroneous assumption is being made between the link between ethnicity and political will, because I think there's more of a connection between people living in the rural areas and the urban areas. And people living in the urban areas have a -- the Phoenix area and Tucson area will be a lot more liberal than the rural areas of the river communities.

And I think the most important thing is to make the district resemble the voters, the change in the voters, and not thwart the political desires of the voters, which just enhances the feeling of voter disenfranchisement. So what we need to do is not mangle the map to try to gerrymander a result. Whereas, if we just use the guidelines here of compactness and contiguousness, you'll have one unit that votes not uniformly but in a majority.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before we go to Richard, what I want to do is check in with our friends in San Luis and also in Parker.

Is there anybody who would like to speak in San Luis or Parker?

MS. GOMEZ: Not at the moment.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. I'll check in again in a couple of minutes.

MS. GOMEZ: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And then after Richard we'll have Cecil Boelts, Bob Lovelace, and Don Shooter.

MR. LINGE: My name is a Richard Linge, L-i-n-g-e, and I am a professor emeritus at AWC and currently adjunct. My area of interest here is the community college district. It was established in, oh, somewhere around 1960, and they were offering classes from 1963, I believe, in an area that included all of Yuma County.

Since that time, La Paz County split off, I think 1983 or something like that, and now AWC has the uniqueness of offering classes to two counties, an area that comprises, I'm told, about 10,000 square miles.

I did a little research and found that a portion of that, the class offerings from the main campus here and its satellite campuses, include San Luis and Somerton. I also understand that one of the proposals for redistricting includes one, as mentioned earlier, that splits the county somewhere south of Yuma. I don't know where.

From what I found, about 18 percent of the student population for AWC attend classes in San Luis or Somerton. That's from the website of the college, and those statistics are from this past semester, Spring 2011.
I have no idea, nor probably does the college --
well, maybe they do -- how many students actually commute
from the south county area to the main campus to attend
classes. I know some do, because I see them in my classes.

So that's kind of my area of interest, and what I
would like to not have happen would be to have the community
college district be split so that there are two different
congressional districts representing the college because of
probably the diverse views of those representatives having
an impact on the running of the college.

And I thank you for listening.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Before we have Cecil Boelts speak, we have -- I
forgot to refer to Mr. Shooter as State Senator Shooter, so
I apologize for that. We also have State Representative
Russ Jones, and also Senator Frank Antenori. So I would
like to -- okay, sir.

I apologize. Senator Frank Antenori is not here.

I think a look-alike is here.

MR. BOELTS: My name is Cecil Boelts. C-e-c-i-l,
B-o-e-l-t-s.

I would like to request that we have a district
made up of communities of interest. We -- several of us
went to the meeting 10 years ago and requested that, and we
didn't quite get that. We were given a district that
elected a representative who boycotted his own district. We
don't need that again.

(Applause.)

MR. BOELTS: We need a representative who will pay
attention to the needs of the agriculture, the military, and
the tourism industry in our district. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Bob Lovelace, can you please
step up.

MR. LOVELACE: My name is Bob -- you can write
that backwards, if you would like -- Lovelace,
L-o-v-e-l-a-c-e. It's pronounced "Loveless," actually, but
I made it easy on you.

I would like to implore you to, as this committee
and our lawmakers in our state and our lawyers that might
going involved in this, to make this truly an independent
commission like it's supposed to be and administer a fair
and balanced redistricting.

Take us out of Tucson. You have heard it already.
We have nothing in common with Tucson. And the only reason
that I and many more here can think of for wanting to split
off Somerton and Gadsden and San Luis is this is all about
Grijalva and what he likes to have, and we're getting tired
of that down here.

(Applause.)

MR. LOVELACE: I think that anybody -- I think that even Strategic Telemetry, sir, can understand where we shop. We shop in Yuma, Arizona, we shop in San Luis, and we shop in Somerton. And not all of San Luis shops at the Walmart in San Luis.

Anybody can understand where we recreate. We recreate from San Luis all the way -- it's already been said -- up to Lake Havasu and in between, all along the Colorado River. I like to go and fish over in the Indian reservations.

And if you want to identify a cluster, gentlemen, committee, there's your cluster right there. There's a broad cluster and there's your artery, and that's been described here several times by citizens here. There's your artery and there's your cluster.

And we're talking about it being rural. Just look at our counties and go straight up. For crying out loud, you start with Yuma and just go straight up along the Colorado River. Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, straight up. And what have you got? Just like it's been said, you've got rural, you've got agriculture. We depend upon the Colorado River and we need, like it's been said, a river district. We don't need --
(Applause.)

MR. LOVELACE: I lost my sign-maker. He's here but he didn't get his sign.

We don't need the main drain out of west Tucson. We've got a river.

Another thing, this should not be about packing minorities into safe districts. That should not even enter into this.

(Applause.)

MR. LOVELACE: And I want you to make a special note of that.

And I want to say something about the poor representation that we have gotten, just like it's been said here. What, is Grijalva --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, just for the record, your four minutes are up. So just to honor everyone, I would appreciate you wrap up within ten seconds. Is that okay?

MR. LOVELACE: I'll wrap it up in ten seconds.

Did Grijalva have a premonition? He closed down his Yuma office, moved it down to Somerton, and then he announced to our state that those seeking his assistance should go down to the Somerton office or to the Tucson office to get it. Is he psychic?

(Applause.)
SENATOR SHOOTER: My name is Don Shooter, just like it sounds.

(Applause.)

SENATOR SHOOTER: I just want to bring this to your attention. And I know you can't respond, so I apologize for that, because I would love to hear the response. But this is the Arizona Capitol Times. It is not known to be a conservative newspaper.

It says, "What we are not IRC-ing: Map drawing panel spends half its time meeting behind closed doors."

And during those meetings you selected Strategic Telemetry, a firm that worked on the national scene for the Obama campaign, worked -- is well-known, is well-known to have a certain bent. So we don't appreciate that. We don't think that's the way you do business. If you're supposed to be an independent commission, you better start being independent, and I'll tell you why.

You've got -- I'm just going to tell you. You've got two-thirds, and the Democratic party, which is heavily, heavily influencing this procedure; the biggest party in the state of Arizona is the Republican party. The second biggest are the independents. So -- and the third and least party in all of this is the Democratic party.

So you've got two-thirds of your population that you're leaving out in the cold, and people in here in Yuma
aren't going to put up with it. I'm just going to tell you, we're going to do whatever it takes to get this straightened out and done right. So --

(Appause.)

SENATOR SHOOTER: So I just want you to know that we're watching like a hawk. And you may have gotten away with some things, but there better not be any gerrymandering districts to take people out. This is a national effort done by the Democratic party to influence what -- because they know that most legislatures in the United States are controlled by the Republican party, so they have concentrated their efforts and their resources on commissions like this that they can influence.

And all I'm telling you is it says "independent" up there. You better be independent and you better give us a river district. That's all I've got to say.

(Appause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

I would like to see if Yuma -- excuse me -- Parker or San Luis have anybody that would like to speak.

MS. GOMEZ: No, sir.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

The next three speakers will be -- I think it's Lorna Brooks representing herself; Sandra Brown representing herself; George Reiners representing himself; Brenda E.
Wilson representing herself. So the next four.

So Lorna Brooks.

MS. BROOKS: Hello, welcome to Yuma. I'm a Yuma native, born and raised here. Lorna, L-o-r-n-a, Brooks is B-r-o-o-k-s.

All the towns of Yuma County, as well I'm going to include Gila Bend and Ajo in this, we are all closely interlinked, as well as with La Paz and Mohave Counties.

And as the sheriff of the Yuma Crossing Corral of Westerners and a long-time volunteer at the Arizona Historical Society, I know these are facts. These ties, these links go back 150 years.

There were many, many years where we could not get to Phoenix or Tucson with any ease. You had the Apache attacks and all of that. So commerce was fairly limited to the river, and the steamboats were going up sometimes as far as Mohave County, if I've got that one right.

So the Colorado River has always been the lifeblood of these communities. Merchants have had stores, you know, even 120 years ago, they would have a store in Yuma, they would have one up near Bullhead City and in the Parker area and over in Gila Bend. The stagecoach stations were the same. So even to this day, farmers and merchantmen are all interlinked. They still have stores even over in El Centro, but we can't talk about that now.
But there are all of these links and ties. It also includes families. As the good doctor was saying earlier, you have family over in San Luis, Somerton, Yuma, up in Agua Caliente, Wellton. We're all interlinked. The farmers, people have spoken to that. The farmers all up and down the river and over as far as Gila Bend are all linked, too, through the natural resource conservation districts, the irrigation districts. They all work together. They all know each other. And today, there is a tremendous amount of visitation between all of these communities. In our Westerners group, we have people coming in from Agua Caliente to attend our meetings. We have people coming from San Luis, Somerton, and sometimes from Quartzsite to attend these meetings. The Arizona Historical Society offers tours all over the place.

I want to add in here that the Barry Goldwater bombing range is an integral part of Yuma County, as well as Yuma Proving Ground. My proposal is to run our district up as far as Gila Bend and Ajo, to include them, and to keep the Goldwater in our district and to run our district all the way up as far as Utah, if necessary. Like a lot of people have been saying, the Colorado River is the lifeblood of this entire region.
are rural. We are agricultural. We have these familial
ties. And our history goes back even farther than
Phoenix's.

So for all of those reasons that I listed, I think we need to have our own district. You can call it the river
district, whatever, but we do need our own representation
here. And we don't have anything in common -- I went to
school in Tucson. There's nothing in common between Yuma
and Tucson, or really even Phoenix. So we need our own
representative.

(Applause.)

MS. BROOKS: I want to add that the Arizona
Historical Society recognizes that fact on their map. If
you go online, it's just a little tiny map, but this entire
river region they call the Western Region. And all of the
museums, all the way up as far as Bouse and Chloride and
Bullhead City are part of that Western Region. Thank you
very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sandra Brown.

MS. BROWN: Thank you for coming to Yuma today and
providing us the opportunity to make our comments.

My name is Sandra Brown, S-a-n-d-r-a, B-r-o-w-n.

I have lived in Yuma County for the past 37 years. My
husband and I moved here in 1974 to begin work at Yuma Proving Ground and have since made Yuma our home. I'm here today to request that all of Yuma County be kept together and then be combined with like communities in the western part of the state along the Colorado River. I would like to see Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, and perhaps the most western parts of Maricopa and Yavapai counties combined into one congressional district.

These communities are all primarily rural and mostly agricultural communities, with the exception of the two large military installations in Yuma County. We have much greater commonality with the aforementioned counties than we do with parts of Tucson and southwest Phoenix suburbs of Avondale, Sun Lakes, and others.

Additionally, this part of the state encompasses many of the Colorado River Indian tribes, many of whom are interrelated. And I believe these should remain together and be combined into one district.

I've also heard rumors that one proposal splits Yuma County with everything east of the Gila Mountains separated from the rest of Yuma County. This makes no sense. The communities of Wellton, Dateland, Martinez Lake, and other small communities are an important part of Yuma County and should remain a part of our state, legislative and congressional districts. By no means should any part of
Yuma Proving Ground or the Marine Corps Air Station be split into separate districts.

I urge you to give serious consideration to my input of creating of a Colorado River district. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA:

MR. REINERS: Good afternoon. My name is George Reiners, G-e-o-r-g-e, R-e-i-n-e-r-s.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Actually, it's going to be more read than speak, because I'm not quite as gifted as some of the people that have gone ahead of me, but we share very similar thoughts.

Representative Grijalva has indicated that he no longer wants to represent Yuma. He considers us to be racist because we voted for his opponent during the last election. There have been reports that there's a movement afoot to grant his wish by moving the city of Yuma out of his district. I believe that I have a way to fulfill his dreams while keeping Yuma County intact. My suggestions are provided for your consideration.

According to the 2010 census, Arizona now has a population of over 6 million. Now we'll have nine districts. Based on that, each of the districts would need to be about 710,000 people. And if we have just a Colorado River district, it's going to be tough to do, because
Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma counties only account for 416,000 people. So we are going to have to go a little bit further east.

My recommendation would be to go along Interstate 10 to approximately South 91st Avenue in Phoenix, south of the Gila River Indian reservation, follow the eastern boundary of that, encompass the entire Gila River Indian community, south on Interstate 10 to Interstate 8, west on Interstate 8 to Highway 42, south on Highway 42 to the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation, and then follow the Tohono O'odham boundary east and south to our southern border and back to Yuma. That may get you close to the numbers that are needed, but you may need to do a little bit of adjustment.

Those are all communities of interest. Three counties on the Colorado River share the same goals, same thoughts, the same lifestyles. And we have -- the rest of the district would have multiple Indian communities as well as a large Hispanic population. And they're all communities of interest, but they're all combined in one area in one district that's going to think alike.

I came to Yuma in the early '70s on deployment. I fell in love with the place. I wasn't able to get back here until '97. I was able to retire here and I absolutely love it, and I don't want to see it being destroyed by a
representative who does not care about this community.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Brenda E. Wilson, we will have Theresa Ulmer speak; Sharon White representing herself; and Steven -- it starts with an M. I'm not able to understand his last name. So he will speak --

MR. MILLER: Steve Miller.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Steve Miller. Thank you.

MS. WILSON: My name is Brenda Wilson. B-r-e-n-d-a, W-i-l-s-o-n.

And I am from here, Yuma, but I represent minority women from Quartzsite who are fair -- who are afraid they will not be fairly represented in the Colorado River district if it is split in half. Please keep the Colorado River district intact. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MS. ULMER: Theresa Ulmer, T-h-e-r-e-s-a. Last name is U-l-m-e-r.

And on a personal note, I just want to thank the Commissioners for their work and for fulfilling the voters' wishes, which is to keep this nonpolitical. So thank you for your work.

(Applause.)
MS. ULMER: On behalf of the board of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, we would like to offer the following comments regarding the redistricting process.

Let me begin by telling you who we are. We are Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, which is a political committee that supports activities of Planned Parenthood Arizona. Just like this commission, our board is made up of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, both from Tucson and Phoenix.

As for Planned Parenthood Arizona itself, presumably you're all aware that Planned Parenthood Arizona has been providing medical services and counseling to women across Arizona for over 75 years. Today, Planned Parenthood provides these services through 14 health centers in 11 cities across our state, including here in Yuma.

Here in Arizona, over 80 percent of more than the 50,000 patients we serve annually receive preventative healthcare, including livesaving cancer screening, STD testing and treatment and birth control. As a provider of charitable care, we are often the only health provider available for many of our patients.

We are both excited and hopeful about the redistricting process. As a healthcare provider which regularly participates in the legislative process, often not by our choice, we have witnessed firsthand the deterioration
of civic dialogue in our state's legislative process. There is almost no bipartisanship at all, to speak of, on either side of the aisle. Legislation is heard in stacked committee hearings with a near complete disregard for both the facts and the rights of the interested parties and citizens that are being heard. Results are valued without regard for due process, and typically those results seem predetermined.

To us, at least part of the problem stems from the lack of competitive legislative districts, once again on both sides of the aisle. As a result of this lack of competitive -- of this lack of competition, legislative races are too often decided in primaries. We know that primaries are dominated by the voters within the given political parties, and we firmly believe that primaries are disproportionately dominated by the extreme elements of each of the two major parties.

Finally, and most importantly, when legislative races are decided in primaries, it obviously eliminates the effectiveness and purpose of general elections. The key result is lower voter turnout. And to us, low voter turnout is undemocratic, and that's with a small D.

We know that this is not one of the express criteria set forth for this commission, but to us it would seem to be a fundamental goal for the commission to make
sure that the maximum number of voters are motivated to
participate in Arizona's electoral process.

We know that as a result of Arizona's past record
of discrimination, our state's redistricting process is
subject to oversight by the United States Department of
Justice. We know that part of the voting rights analysis is
the maintenance of minority/majority districts. We
recognize that this commission must respect this legal
obligation and historical misdeeds that underlie it.

However, this legal obligation should not be the
sole controlling factor in this commission's work. In our
view, this legal obligation has served as an excessive
justification for districts that are too heavily leaning
Democratic -- and that's with a big D -- which in turn
results in the creation of other districts that lean too
heavily Republican. This may well be the interest of the
two parties to secure safe seats, but it's not the interest
of Arizona. Arizona needs safer seats and more competitive
districts.

Finally, we recognize that there's no single
panacea for what we perceive to be the degraded state of
Arizona's legislative process. More competitive districts
alone and seats will not produce --

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

MS. ULMER: -- a more dignified legislative
process. And thank you for your time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have Sharon White, if
Sharon White can come up and speak, please.

Please be aware we do have a timekeeper. He's
letting me know when the time is up, so I'm well aware.

MS. WHITE: I'm Sharon White. It's S-h-a-r-o-n,
W-h-i-t-e.

I'm representing myself, but I plea for you to
keep Yuma County intact, not dividing the county into ethnic
groups. That would be totally unAmerican.

Yuma County is a diverse group of people of all
walks of life and ethnic background. History tells us that
American is the great melting pot of all people and has not,
does not, and will not in the future divide its people and
discriminate against any groups.

Our strive is to ensure that all groups are
represented equally, giving everybody a chance to have their
voice heard. I'm asking you to design our district into a
river district up and down the Colorado, which is the
lifeline for our existence. We all have one common
interest, and we're all small, agricultural communities with
a strong military and Native American presence. We have
nothing in common with Tucson or Phoenix.
I'm fairly -- thank you for your time considering all of the suggestions in our district for the best of all of our citizens. And I want to say, too, how dare anybody to deliberately gerrymander our voters. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Steven Miller. You don't want to speak?

MR. MILLER: No.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Russ Clark, and then Paul D. Jackson, and then William R. Lotto or Ladda, I think.

MR. CLARK: Four minutes. Russ Clark, R-u-s-s, C-l-a-r-k.

Proposition 106 was passed by the voters of this great state because they were looking for something. They were looking for fairness and equality, and they were looking for a system that didn't include a favorite to one party or another.

I fear what they've got they would be disappointed with. I think what we've got, instead of a lack of partisism, having the legislature do it, which is obviously partisan, we've got hyperpartisism. We get to select five people all of a sudden, two that are partisan Republican, two that are partisan Democrat, one that potentially is partisan; we don't know. Unfortunately, what we end up with is three heavily partisan Democrats, two partisan
Republicans.

But I think given the system -- it is our system. It's what we've got to work with. Given the system, what we've got to work with is to make these voters that voted for Proposition 106, at least give them something back that we're doing our best to make it fair, doing our best to make it look right. And, unfortunately, we haven't done that either.

We have reports of closed-door meetings, reports of shredded documents, a hiring of a company named Strategic Telemetry, which has connections to the Democratic party. That's going to make us nervous.

Now, I understand that gerrymandering is a time-honored tradition right here in America. It started in the 1800s. And I think that's something that the voters don't want anymore. I think the voters would not like gerrymandering. Unfortunately, there's been an indication --

(Appause.)

MR. CLARK: -- that gerrymandering is what we're going to get. We're going to get some gerrymandering, we're going to get some partisanship, and we're going to get that and we're afraid of it. We've got a real obligation -- this panel has an obligation to prove to the voters that they did the right thing to get some independence here.
And, unfortunately, what has gone on so far, and we're early into it, is that we have an Attorney General that has said, I've had enough. I'm throwing up the red flag. We're going to do some investigations. Too many closed doors, too many shredded documents. What are we hiding?

My feeling is that if we have nothing to hide, we're transparent. And my feeling is if we have nothing to hide, we have open-door meetings. We've had the opposite of that. We've had hyperpartisism.

As far as our community goes, our community includes south county and north county. And I know that it is your obligation, you have to chop it up because you can only put 700,000 in there. You can go ten blocks in Phoenix and meet a stranger. Ten miles in this county, we call them neighbors. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. JACKSON: I'm Paul Jackson. It's P-a-u-l, J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

And my question is to the committee today, is where is the map? There's supposed to be maps written right now for the first round of meetings. There's supposed to be -- here, I'll read what it says: The commission is supposed to provide -- oh, sorry.

"The redistricting commission shall first draw
district maps that are equal in population in gridlike patterns across the state."

These are supposed to be proposed maps that they propose of population demographics and all that kind of stuff. They're supposed to be presented here so we can see them so we can critique them. And my question to you is, is where is those maps?

I find it real strange that our Congressman Grijalva, around the time this commission was started, moved to Somerton.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. LADD: My name is William Ladd. W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Ladd, L-a-d-d. And I will apologize because I don't have a teleprompter. It's in the shop. I haven't focus-grouped my stuff, so I just -- I'm winging it.

The United States is a great experiment. Prior to our Constitution, and even now in most parts of the world, all of the people are ruled by rulers, despots, kings, and other kind of unsavory folks.

We did it differently. When our Constitution came about, it starts out, if you look at it, "We the People," and it's in letters about five times as big as everything else because that's important. "We the People," give our power to the government, not the other way around. The
government doesn't tell us. We tell them.

(Applause.)

MR. LADD: In our system the rights come from natural rights from God, from the deity, whatever you want to describe it as, not from the government. Therefore, the government cannot take them away.

We are a Republic. What does that mean? It means that we vote for people to represent us. That is why this is so important today. How do we select the representatives? It's important that we get this right.

Right now, we have a commission. We don't have the legislature, people who we voted for, people that are responsible to us. We have a commission that's not responsible to anybody. It's supposed to be two Democrats, two Republicans, and one independent. From what I understand, the independent isn't very independent.

So I am very, very cautious. I'm very disturbed that the results of this will not be what the people want. We need representation, we need accountability, and we need it now. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Betsy Gottsponer.

MS. GOTTSPONER: Betsy, B-E-T-S-Y, Gottsponer, G-o-t, as in Tom, T as in Tom, S as in Sam, P as in Paul,
-o-n-e-r. And I really wish my mother was up here instead of me.

I'm concerned and I've been listening to all of this. I'm hearing the same type of concerns. We're rural. We may be the third largest population area in this state, even if Flagstaff doesn't believe it, but we do not operate the same way as Phoenix, Tucson or, actually, even Flagstaff. We're our own area.

Now, my people have been here for quite a while. In 1890, my great grandfather was a territorial sheriff. When the territory was set up, there were four counties created, and Yuma was one of them and Mohave was one of them. And we would like to be together again, along with La Paz caught in the middle.

I think we need to go with this Colorado River district, because all of us have the same types of lifestyles. We have nothing in common with Phoenix or Tucson. Their style is completely different. I'm glad we don't have their traffic. I'm glad we don't have all of their freeways. I think I like it better out here. That's why I live here.

We need to have our own representation, though, representing the three things that we've been mentioning all along. The economy of this area is based on the military. Don't split off Goldwater. That's part of our military. We
need the agriculture. This is our farming. We need the river, all along the river. Take it all the way up to Utah. Pick up Gila Bend and Ajo simply because they've always been part of Yuma County before the splits off, and their lifestyle is very much like ours.

And let's not forget the tourists. All of this area survives by tourists, what we call our wonderful winter visitors or winter residents. We need them and they need us. They come here because they like our lifestyles.

This is an area that needs its own representation. We need to have somebody from our lifestyles representing us in Congress, not somebody from a big city who long ago forgot what a river was all about. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think those are all of the speaking forms we have, unless somebody would still like to speak and fill out a form. We can still do that.

But if not, what we'll do is we will have a couple of closing remarks from our Commissioners, and I'll start with Commissioner Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Big crowd. Thank you all very much for coming out today. What I do know is that I'm -- it's been a real honor for me. When I was appointed by Senate President Russell Pearce to be on this commission, we knew that it was going
to be lot of hard work.

And I spent a lot of time looking back, and the very first public hearing that took place was here in Yuma 10 years ago. And the very same -- a lot of the same things that were voiced 10 years ago are being voiced again tonight or today. And I want to recognize that, from my seat, I am hearing that.

Sunlight is a pretty incredible disinfectant. And as we move this forward, for us to be able to be trusted, sunlight is going to have to be a significant component of everything that we do.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So it is incumbent upon what -- the group that's out here tonight to tell your neighbors, your friends, the other people, in some instances your constituents, that it is incumbent for you to continue to be a part of this process, to continue to make sure that sunlight is being shone brightly on what we're doing. That you coming out here today is extraordinarily important.

But this is not a sprint. This is a marathon. And what I heard today was that Yuma County, La Paz County, Mohave County, and the river districts all believe in the ATM, which is agriculture, tourism and military.

And I want to thank you all for coming out here today and giving me the privilege of being able to meet some
of you earlier, and looking forward to meeting some of you
after we're done here today. So thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: I would echo Mr. Stertz's
comments that I appreciate you spending a Saturday with us.
I may be from Tucson, but I love rural areas. I love the
river. I have heard what you said. I appreciate you taking
the time to come out and talk to us.

I would urge you to understand that the people on
this commission are good people. We're doing this because
we love this state. We don't just love Tucson. We don't
just love Phoenix. We love every single part of this state.

I appreciate you taking the time to tell us how
you feel and what you think. And I give you my pledge that
I'm not doing this for any purpose other than the best
interests of the state.

I welcome your comments at any time. As
Mr. Stertz said, this is a marathon. It's not a sprint.
We're going to be working on maps. The reason we're here is
to get your input on those maps. It doesn't make sense to
do it the other way around. So stay with us. If you have
questions as we go through the process, contact our staff,
give us your input through the website, send us maps.

And again, thanks for taking the time out on a
Saturday.
Vice Chair Herrera: Let me make sure that no one from the Parker or San Luis area would like to make any comments because we -- I just want to make sure before we move on with the meeting.

Chair Mathis: Great. Yes, this is Chair Mathis. We actually have a speaker here in San Luis, Sarah Lydick from Yuma.

Vice Chair Herrera: Great.

Ms. Lydick: Hello, I'm Sarah Lydick. S-a-r-a-h, L-y-d-i-c-k.

And I want to say thank you for coming to our area. Thank you for all of your considerations, the things that you're going through. And I look forward with interest to the competitiveness that you place our districts in.

Thank you.

Vice Chair Herrera: Thank you. We did have somebody from San Luis. Actually, we have four people from San Luis back there, so they came to the meeting here.

Chair Mathis: Vice Chair?
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry. We have another speaker, Joe Harper, representing self and from San Luis.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Perfect. Thank you.

MR. HARPER: Hi, my name is Joe Harper, H-a-r-p-e-r.

You know, we've talked about a lot of things and we've mentioned a lot of things today, and one of the things that I would like to mention is the fact that we are a border community and we do cross almost 36,000 people daily through this border, and that sums up billions of dollars yearly for our economy for Arizona.

We have some good ports here. We are working to try to get our new port redone, and we're always competing with Nogales. So I would like to get -- you know, get away from Nogales and get our own representative in a community that we need full attention. I think that we can be a lot more productive through the state if we have a little bit more help, or if our godfathers in the United States give us a little bit more attention.

So yes, I would like to see the Colorado district. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let me make sure, Chair Mathis, is there anyone else in San Luis that would like to
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes. We have the Mayor of San Luis here, Juan Carlos Escamilla from the City of San Luis.

MAYOR ESCAMILLA: Good afternoon. The last name is Escamilla, E-s-c-a-m-i-l-l-a. And yes, I am the mayor for the City of San Luis.

And one thing that I would like to add is we have always had a great working relationship with our sister cities, Somerton, Yuma, and Yuma County as a whole region.

As Joe had mentioned prior, on the border, I mean, I feel that we need a district that represents the whole of this region and also a region that will represent the border communities.

As far as the mapping that's been presented to us, I mean, there's still a lot of questions that we have, and definitely we are going to be forwarding our inputs regarding that. But I would hate to see our region being separated, because we've always worked together.

But one thing that really disappoints me, and I appreciate the comments that we've gotten from some of the local speakers that have been speaking, the frustrations that they have on representation. Well, I understand that, and I don't expect this to be a political forum.

What I ask from my community is a fair
representation, a representation that will represent the
whole region. And I'm not here representing a particular
party. I want to -- I'm here representing my community, for
the best interests of my people.

And I appreciate the comments of the Commissioner
that she is out of Tucson and she loves rural areas. Well,
let me tell you, San Luis is a rural area. And sometimes we
tend to be forgotten because we're on the far end of the
county, and it's very important that we do have a fair
representation.

I applaud your commitment to making sure that we
do get a fair representation, and all I'm asking is that all
those facts are taken into account. That we do get an area
that won't affect us, because we do want somebody -- a
district that will represent all of us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Well, you know, what I want to do is thank the
City of Yuma for welcoming us, the commission, and for
allowing us to use this venue, as well as Senator Shooter
for being here, Russ Jones, Representative Jones, Mayor
Krieger, and also the Mayor from Quartzsite. Thank you all
for being here.

And my goal is to come back to Yuma. As I said, I
love Yuma. And although I grew up in San Luis, I went to
school in Yuma, and you are represented. So I want you to feel that you are being represented, but what I do recommend is, as both Commissioners said, submit maps. We need information from all of you. Your comments are great, but we also need as much information from you as well, including the maps. I think maps are pretty important. Go to our website and find out when our next meetings are. If you have any questions, the staff, the staff is awesome. Ray Bladine is back there, executive director.

If you need to contact us, you can contact us through the staff as well. I don't think we have AIRC e-mails, but I'm sure they can release the e-mails that we created through Gmail or Yahoo.com, because I think I would be okay with that.

But thank you so much for being here. Enjoy the rest of your Saturday. Go eat. I know you're all hungry as I am, so thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera? Vice Chair Herrera?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can I just break in before you completely close?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Of course.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry. I just also want to extend my gratitude to all of these folks in these remote
locations in Parker and in San Luis, as well as all of you in Yuma. This is a wonderful turnout. And it's our first remote location experience, and I wanted to come to one to see what that was like, and it is fantastic.

I have to say I'm super impressed with the videotraming capability and the audio and all of it. And I would encourage anybody in these remote locations for the rest of our hearing schedule to be sure to come to those remote locations, if that's more convenient to you, because you're just as much a part of the process as the folks in the main location.

And I also just want to say it was really interesting hearing from everyone, from a couple of different mayors today, to a surgeon, to offspring of a territorial sheriff. I think that's pretty cool.

And I really appreciate the input, and we heard it all and we thank you for your participation.

(Applause.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Thank you so much. We will adjourn. I don't have a -- we will adjourn at 2:30. Thank you.

(The proceedings concluded at 2:30 p.m.)
STATE OF ARIZONA  
      ) ss.
COUNTY OF YUMA  

        I, MICHELE E. BALMER, Certified Reporter
No. 50489 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that
the foregoing printed pages constitute a full, true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the
foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
ability.

        DATED at Yuma, Arizona, this 3rd day of August,
        2011.

MICHELE E. BALMER  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50489