Friday, September 16, 2011
10:07 a.m.

Location

Fiesta Resort
2100 South Priest Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85282

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Mary O'Grady, Counsel, Osborn Maledon
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:

AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: This meeting of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

Today is Friday, September 16th, and the time is 10:07 in the morning.

Let's begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'll start with the call to order.

Vice Chair Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

And we have a quorum.

Other folks around the room today are our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield, Mary O'Grady.

Our mapping consultant, Willie Desmond.
We have some staff in the room, of course, with us. Our executive director, Ray Bladine, our deputy executive director, Kristina Gomez.

Our chief technology officer, Buck Forst. We have some public outreach coordinators today. Kevin Adelson and Christy Olson. And I think that's it. That's the staff this morning.

Thank you all for being here. We'll get started and move into agenda item 2, map presentations.

We have one from Coconino County Board of Supervisors chair, Lena Fowler. If she's ready, she can come up to the podium.

LENA FOWLER: (Speaking in Native tongue.)

Madame Chairman, members of the Arizona Independent Commissioning -- Redistricting Commission, I am Lean Fowler, chair of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

Many thank you for allowing me to present to you and thank you to your service to Arizona in determining a new legislative and congressional maps for our state.

We understand that the task of
legislative and congressional redistricting is a major undertaking and a significant personal commitment on your part.

As elected officials, we know the full well and personal commitment and sacrifice that we make on a daily basis. Given that we have taken -- you have taken an extra step in volunteering for this responsibility, your commitment to service is even more commendable.

Thank you.

Your role and decision that you will make will have long-term impact on Arizonans.

You may remember our former chair, Mandy Metzger, gave a background about Coconino County at the August 1st IRC meeting in Flagstaff. At the time, she also shared our values, principals as they relate to the legislative and congressional district.

Further, our county manager, Steve Peru, spoke to you again in Casa Grande stating that the County had not taken a formal position on any draft maps from community groups or the IRC at the time.

In the past several months, our Board of Supervisors has spent considerable amount of time talking to our fellow elected officials in the
region sharing our principals and soliciting their views on the subject.

We studied the maps that have been proposed by different groups around the state as well as the what-ifs the IRC consultants have prepared for your consideration. We have applied our principals to those maps in order to give you -- give our views as you go into your final deliberation.

We do not have a map to present today. It is our consid- -- it's our considered view that you have fine mapping consultants and -- at your disposal that you may -- you have listened to the community's perspective in your first round of public hearings that you are now thoughtfully putting that imprint on the what-if maps going forward.

However, we do have our comments and recommendations about the what-if maps of September 12th. So I'm just going to go through the maps.

Undivided Coconino County with north and northeast county neighbors. First, we want to keep Coconino County as whole as possible. We are the second largest county in the country.
As you continue to develop the Northern Arizona CD, we urge you to include Coconino County in a district with the northeast counties of the state. We believe that the communities along the I-40 tend to do more major stopping in Flagstaff and, therefore, have an economic relationship with the area. That is not the case when you go west of Coconino County.

Hispanic Coalition map. We support the Hispanic Coalition for Good Government district proposed map.

It is important that IRC uphold the Voting Rights Act by establishing at least two majority/minority districts. In doing so, I urge you to take very serious -- seriously the map presented to you by the Hispanic Coalition, including the southern and western portion of Yuma County.

What-if congressional river district version 4 and 6A. We support these maps as they include Verde Valley in Coc- -- with Coconino County. They are similar to the Hispanic Coalition map and therefore appear to comply with the Voting Rights Act. And they do not include the Mexico border, which we feel is not in the best interest of
our community of interest.

We also -- we suggest, however, that you look at taking Graham and Greenlee County and make them whole.

What-if congressional river 3 border combination map.

We like this map as it keeps Coconino County whole, but have serious concerns about splitting Verde Valley, which is -- which we consider a community of interest, putting half of it in the western district. We would also want to -- assurance that this map addresses the Voting Rights Act provisions.

Whole counties congressional district map.

Our County Board of Supervisors is very concerned about the rendition of the whole county congressional district maps to date, including those posted on your website on September 14th.

Our concerns include the following: We are not sure these particular what-if maps address the Voting Rights Act provision. Eliminating the Verde Valley from Coconino County area and a community of interest of ours.

And some communities of interest are
spared. Specifically maps create a very real possibility of having a person in urban area of Maricopa County representing a primarily rural and tribal community -- community congressional district.

What-if 3 border congressional district map.

We have concerns about this map as well, as it is -- it does not appear to take into account the Hispanic Coalition's recommendation and therefore may not fulfill the Voting Rights Act provision.

Further, this map splits Coconino County completely in half and puts it in a district that includes the Mexico border.

The district would literally include three borders of the state making it extremely difficult for a congressional representative, no matter how dedicated they are, to appropriately represent the needs of the entire district.

The Arizona strip, the northern -- the northwestern border of Arizona, for example, has nothing in common with the Arizona/Mexico border communities. Again, such map was split both Coconino and Yavapai County.
As for legislative district, we have the following comments: Although the County would prefer to be kept intact as possible in the legislative district, if necessary, we will live with one split. However, we want to ensure that in doing so, that any legislative district includes the greater Flagstaff, which includes the area impacted by the Schultz fire and flood, Doney Park, Timberline, and Fernwood community -- neighborhoods.

We also would like to see legislative district that is similar in configuration with the Northern Arizona Council of Governments area with the exception of Prescott and Prescott Valley.

The NACOG area works together on many common issues and has for many years. That would be Coconino, Apache, and Navajo Counties.

Finally, the significant concern to the County is the community of interest. Community of interest in our area includes not in particular order, regional economic development, ecotourism, transportation, forestry, ranching, and agriculture, institution of higher learning, rural versus nonrural areas of the county and our tribal nations.

In addition, I would like to thank you, the commissioners, for expressing their support of
the competitive districts. Competitive districts
give the voters a legitimate choice.

While we understand that competitiveness
is not the main criteria for forming districts, it
is important -- it is an important consideration so
that it gives the citizens of our state meaningful
choice in the representation at the state
legislature and U.S. Congress.

We, Coconino County Board of Supervisors,
must constantly balance the rural and urban areas in
our county, which have existing perspective.

Our vast rural landscapes or homes to
many residences. We also -- we would ask that you
keep in mind the diversity we have described in
prior testimonies as we -- as you refine the maps.

In closing, I would ask that you hold our
-- your second round of hearings in Flagstaff on
October 6th. Due to the County's -- County
Supervisor's schedule, that is a good time and a
good time in the week. We hope that you will grant
that as a formal request.

We appreciate the dedication of the IRC
members, staff, and for the opportunity to provide
our perspective.

If there is anything that you can -- that
we can do to be of assistance in the weeks ahead, please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Board of Supervisors.

You have met our county manager, Steve Peru, and he's always available to assist as well.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Chairwoman.

Any questions anyone had?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I don't have questions, I just -- well, actually I do.

Ms. Fowler, have you seen our river district version 7A? You had mentioned the two river district version to that 4 and 6A. So I just wanted to make sure that you were able to see that.

And the reason I bring that up is I think you've made some good comments about the river district versions 4 and 6A, but we've also come up with a new version, and I think are respecting the comments made by the Native American leaders and also the Hispanic Coalition and people from as far away as Bullhead City, people from Yuma, people from the other side of the state.
So I think that's a map that I think you will find pleasing, if I may say the word.

LENA FOWLER: I'm looking at it right now with the congressional district river district version 7.

Let me see. I'm trying to go back and see which one we had talked about.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: In creating that map, we did take the public comments with regard to that.

LENA FOWLER: Does that have Verde Valley with Coconino County?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, ma'am.

LENA FOWLER: I'm trying to look at the map right now.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, ma'am, that is the right one.

LENA FOWLER: The right one. Okay.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: It has the Pai tribes, Flagstaff, Verde Valley, Navajo, Hopi, they are all together in that -- would be considered the eastern rural county -- excuse me, district, which appears to be pretty competitive now, based on the information we have now.

LENA FOWLER: And it also still has
Scottsdale and Mountain (sic) Hills, and we are just wondering what's the -- how many voters are in those areas and we are just concerned about the competitiveness.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure -- if I remember correctly, in our version we did remove Fountain Hills from that particular district to make it more rural. I think we ended up doing that.

LENA FOWLER: I think we would like to look at the numbers so --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure.

LENA FOWLER: -- we can see -- just evaluate it ourselves.

The other one is the Greenlee and Graham County.

So thank you for pointing that out.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any other comments or questions?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I just want to thank you for coming straight to us and we look forward to coming up hopefully on October 6th, if it works out with our schedule to meet with you all again.
We really appreciate the input that you've provided us.

LENA FOWLER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ms. McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I just want to say the same thing. Thank you for your very detailed comments. That's extremely -- appreciate it, and for coming here.

LENA FOWLER: Thank you. And we will continue to follow your process and provide our involvement. And thanks for bringing the most recent map to our attention. We will evaluate that.

So thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

So we have another map presenter today.

Sara Presler, mayor from the City of Flagstaff.

SARA PRESLER: I'm at taller than Lena.

Good morning, Madame Chair, members of the Commission. Thank you for having us here today.

Mr. Kanefield, good to see you.

My name is Sara Presler, S-a-r-a, P-r-e-s-l-e-r, and I'm the mayor for the City of Flagstaff.
We are here today to comment in support of Coconino County on the comments they have provided to you and to clarify the maps that the City of Flagstaff has presented to you on previous occasions.

Before I begin, I want to credit you for your diligent and prompt response for our scheduling staff who -- in Flagstaff. I know that you've had a chance to talk with our city manager and you've seen Daryl Melvin here on multiple occasions.

And while we can't get the imprint of Mr. Herrera's head out of our minds, I would share with you that on many occasions, the media and others have tried desperately to pull us apart in our communications. And every time I'm asked, I remind them how hard you are working, how diligent you work, and how honorable it is that we were invited into the kitchen of Mr. Herrera because I don't know that I would do that myself. And if you've seen my kitchen and know my schedule, that's a real big win.

So I just offer you that out of kindness and favor to say to you we are excited you are coming back to Flagstaff. I'm glad I got to talk to many of you in Bullhead City when I know over to
testify there. And we know that while you weren't there physically, that through technology, you were able to accept all of the comments the City of Flagstaff community members provided as part of the record.

So just wanted to own it and say we are excited to see you back and appreciate your hard work. And no matter what outside influences I think try to engage in this process, whether it's early state legislatures or sort of excited media presence, I want you to know that serving in this role is really important and we recognize that.

And so we honor your work and we appreciate it and we understand the level of commitment and dedication that each and every one of you have to this process. I just wanted to begin by greeting you and saying thank you to you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

SARA PRESLER: The City of Flagstaff values a redistricting outcome that is first and foremost compliant with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and does not regress misrepresentation of Native populations in Northern Arizona.

We wish to maximum competitive districts across the state of Arizona. We want everyone to
have the advantage of a competitive district, and we
wish to place Flagstaff in such a district.

We value placing Flagstaff in a district
whose communities share our same transportation,
economic, higher education, governance, and natural
resource interests. And we further clarify to
include that to mean forest health and water issues.
And we value placing the Greater Flagstaff area in a
single legislative district.

We share many of the values that Coconino
County has enunciated to you. In particular, we
modified our own value statement based on our weekly
conversations of the meetings with the County to
include the particulars of forest health, and higher
education in that conversation because while you
have not yet presented definitional terms, we know
our communities best, as elected officials, and want
to be able to help define that for you.

As you know, the City of Flagstaff is in
Coconino County. And in response to Coconino
County's conversation, we would like to offer a
minor modification to the City of Flagstaff's
legislative district map that we previously
submitted to you.

And while it may appear to you to be such
a detail and a random tweak, it's important enough
that we all get up at 4:00 in the morning, as you
do, too, and come here together to talk about it.

So we are leaning toward the modification
of including the Fernwood, the Doney Park, and the
Timberline neighborhood.

As rim communities, we face significant
issues with wildfires and natural resource issues.
And so it's upon that principle that what happened
in the Schultz fire area around Fernwood, Doney
Park, and Timberline had the direct impact on our
watershed. So to not include them would simply be
oversight on our part.

And so I anticipate that at next week's
council meeting, we'll adopt a formal modification
to our map. And while it may feel particular to
you, wow, is it a hot topic in our community.

So I wanted to just come and clarify that
point and ask you to just take a look at
incorporating those neighborhoods that are just
north, northeast of Flagstaff into our map.

Again, the Fernwood, Doney, and
Timberline areas.

We do identify ourselves as a rim
community but we do want to draw your attention
related to the congressional map river district 7a version and say to you that rather than get into the particulars, that we are running in the same direction as you on that map. And so from the bigger-picture view, we would like you to continue to look toward the river district 7a version from the congressional map. And that is a little more closer to our map that we have adopted and submitted to you from the Flagstaff City Council.

We have taken a look at your recent legislative grid maps and the what-if scenario. And the one that more closely aligns and reflects what the City of Flagstaff has submitted to you, noting that minor change, is the option 2 version 5 map.

And so we would just ask you to keep that bigger picture in mind and to keep that direction as you begin to formulate your final thoughts as we head toward the 30-day comment period.

So I'm here today to tell you that I think we have more things in common than we have different. And in rural Arizona, issues like roads and higher education, forest health, and water are issues that define us more than streets and neighborhoods.

And so to keep the bigger picture in
mind, we really wanted to draw your attention today
to the County's comments, the modifications of
Fernwood, Doney, and Timberline, that minor sort of
nuance in the conversation with the City's map that
its adopted and submitted to you for the legislative
district and draw your attention to the
congressional grid map version 7a river district
version and to the legislative grid map option 2
version 5.

So thank for allowing me to comment and
follow my colleague from the Coconino County Board
of Supervisors. And we look forward to hopefully
seeing you October 6th. If it's a different date,
we'll make it work, too. But just wanted to thank
you for your work because it's so important. And
while you know that, I want you to know that I know
that, too, and our community knows that.

I was asked a question. They said,
"Well, they didn't come to us last time. Mayor, do
you think they are going to come again?"

I said, "Of course, they are going to
come again." This is a democratic representative
process. And so it can be a little awkward and can
have a couple of glitches. But at the end of the
day, we are all here for the same bigger purpose.
So thank you for listening to our ideas and for taking them into account and for moving in a direction that reflects what our community sees as our like interests in a competitive environment.

So thank you.

Any questions?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mayor Presler. We really appreciate you coming today.

And actually, the modification you mentioned, it's not a minor one to us. Any details we can get like that are hugely helpful. So thank you for bringing that to our attention.

Are there any comments from other commissioners?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mayor Presler, we do have a lot more in common, and I thank you for the passionate speech. That's why I love Flagstaff. They have great elected officials. Not only a great university, the Ivy league of the Southwest but --

SARA PRESLER: Go Lumberjacks.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Go Lumberjacks.

But I would like --

SARA PRESLER: We come from the same
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I know.

Could you do me a favor and expand on why
you like the river district 7A? I would like -- if
you can give us as much detail as possible.

SARA PRESLER: Absolutely.

The City of Flagstaff has adopted three
things to help us make a good decision. You know,
some folks work on the visual of the map, some folks
work on the criteria and the details related to the
numbers, and other folks work on the value
statement, you know, the principals.

So when we adopted our congressional map
that we have submitted to you and we take a look at
what you are proposing to the community to comment
on, we line up the things that we identify with in
the sense of the river district version 7 keeps as
much as Coconino County whole as possible.

So it really respects the County. And we
are a good partner with our County. I mean, not
only do we have five public meetings of city council
about this topic, right, welcome to my world, but
more importantly, we meet every week with our County
supervisors one on one to talk about these issues.
So we want to line up with their values, too.
So when I look at the map, one, it includes as much of Coconino County as possible. Two, it includes the ideas -- go Lumberjacks -- of higher education and the community college district as much as possible. And the community college district has been coming to our weekly meetings. It includes the forest health issues and the watershed issues that we are dealing with in both our pending litigation with the Navajo/Hopi Nations and with all of our partners in the Little Colorado settlement.

So if you think about the water issues, the forest health issues, the natural resource interest, and keeping Coconino County whole, when I have to weigh all of the potential what-ifs, that's the map that lines up in the direction that we think best reflects not only the map we have submitted to you and our value statement, but arguably takes into account the other factors that we have, meaning compliance with the Voting Rights Act, equal populations, communities of interest under transportation, governance, and economics. Competitiveness is an important factor for us, and compactness and contiguousness. We have adopted all of this criteria just like you have.
So I can't exactly jurisdictionally give you a stamp of approval, but what I can say is that on those specific factors, Mr. Commissioner, we are moving in the same direction.

So if that map or a map that sort of splices and dices and wraps around our map that we have adopted from the City of Flagstaff more closely aligns with the river district version 7 for those reasons.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much.

SARA PRESLER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Comments from other commissioners?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: One thing I would ask you to do is the whole county approach map, that's a work in progress, and I just wanted to make sure it was clear, that map was developed based on following those constitutional criteria you mentioned.

And while we want to respect what Flagstaff's viewpoint is, we got to look at the whole state as well.
And I think -- what I think you'll see is -- I mean, I've got a few more steps in my mind as to how to modify that map and I think -- I'm hoping that it will be -- it will come -- it will be in this -- we'll be moving in the same direction as well on that map and we'll get something that will shape up perhaps similar to the river district 7a in terms of that or in something that will be in line with thoughts of the people that like Flagstaff that you represent.

So I hope -- keep an eye on that one, because I like other aspects of that map and what it does in other parts of the state in terms of complying with the constitutional criteria. And -- but we really appreciate the help on this and I'm really looking forward to coming up and meeting with you all again in early October.

So thank you for coming today.

SARA PRESLER: Thank you, Commissioner Freeman.

And, Madame Chair, if I could just respond to say that we understand this is a fluid process. And so at this point, I think it does both of us better work to say we are moving in the right direction or we are not moving in the right
direction.

And so the City of Flagstaff submitted to you a congressional map. When we line up that map with your river district version 7A, that tells me we are moving in the right direction.

Will it change? Will we need to make modifications maybe even during the 30-day period? Probably. But I just want to reassure you that when I look at this map, I know that we are moving in the right direction and I know that the people are being heard.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: This particular map was -- praising it, but not only people from the Coconino -- from the eastern rural county that are praising this map, it's people from the western rural district as well, from Yuma.

So it's a whole map that's taking public comments into account from all parts of the state, not just the Coconino County area.

And, Mayor Presler, it does help for us when we are trying to finalize these maps or at least come out with a good map to present to the public for leaders like yourself to let us know
you're headed in the right direction with this one and state your reasons why. And you did a really
good job of doing it, and I'm pretty proud of that map and so is Commissioner McNulty. And I
appreciate your comments and they are very passionate. I think you've made some good points
and I am glad you are happy with that map.

And I would encourage your leaders from Flagstaff and others in the County that if they like that map, to share their thoughts with us as well.

SARA PRESLER: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, I do appreciate that. And I can say with complete assurance that looking at the concepts that are brought forward and knowing that we can have a real conversation about how Flagstaff and the Verde Valley and Coconino County really belong together.

And then even though I went to high school in Bullhead City, I probably don't belong in a district with Mayor Hakim, right? I mean, I love him to pieces, but, I may not belong in the same district as him.

So as we talk about those issues, it's really good that despite political parties and public media pressures and the other conversations
that are happening, that I know and we submit data
and information to you and we work with you, that
you're responsive from a neutral and fact-based
perspective.

And so I want to commend you and
appreciate to you, you know, our expression of
thanks beyond political lines, beyond public
conversation because this is real work that we are
doing here.

And I appreciate you, Madame Chair,
saying that it's not minute because to us, it's
ture. I stand here and go, really, am I going to
advocate for Fernwood and for Doney Park? But it's
meaningful because that is an area that we care
about. And what happens in that fire and flood area
impacts our watershed, our forest health, our
transportation, our education. So it's something
we've got to make that little change to and we
appreciate you taking note.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

Any other comments?

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Madame Chair, I'll
just say thank you for coming here, for your very
kind comments about our mix-up and for your detailed
focus on the maps. It's extremely helpful.
SARA PRESLER: It's great to see you. And I believe I saw you in Bullhead City.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Yes, indeed.

SARA PRESLER: If you make it up there, you can make it everywhere.

It's great to see you, ma'am, and we look forward to seeing you again in Flagstaff, all of you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Go Lumberjacks.

SARA PRESLER: Go Lumberjacks.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much. Our next speaker is Brandon Kavanagh from Flagstaff Forty.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Actually, before I start, I've got another slip to turn in for someone else from Flagstaff. I don't know if I should turn it in up here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ray will take that.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: I appreciate you bearing with me here. I've just come down this morning. I'm a little sleep-deprived. My son was born ten days ago.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Congratulations.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: I'm very happy to be
here. So if I -- hopefully I'll stay on course here and the caffeine will keep me going.

Well, as I said, my name is Brandon Kavanagh and I'm one of those people that grew up in Arizona and I was born and raised in Flagstaff, and I will admit I did run away for a while.

After high school, I ran screaming from the state of Arizona and I went to college at Georgetown and I went to law school at George Washington.

And after passing the Maryland bar exam, I began practicing law in D.C. However, I say that, but I saw the error in my ways and it only took eight years in Washington D.C., which is a wonderful place to go to school but not a good place to live.

And I came to Arizona. I came back to Arizona. I came back to Flagstaff specifically. You know, that's pine trees, there's fresh air, there's plenty of places to park. You know, there's things there that you just -- you have to keep all of these ideas together as to what is the quality of life.

And I definitely have come back to Arizona to appreciate it. And I've also spent five years working down in Phoenix. I took a break and
then I moved back to Flagstaff to raise my family where I grew up.

So I definitely come here speaking as a small business owner, as a member of Flagstaff Forty, and as a fan of the opportunities that we have here and what we can do to enhance the quality of life of where I have decided to call home.

Now, I certainly appreciate that all of you have had a lot of testimony already, and as I understand yesterday, even a family emergency. So I'm going to keep my comments short.

What we've got here is that as a member of Flagstaff Forty -- and I believe you're already familiar -- very familiar with our organization. We are a group of committed business leaders. We work together and we are trying to address the critical needs of our area.

And what we are looking at is not just what makes Flagstaff good, but also what makes Arizona good. Because what makes Arizona good helps make Flagstaff good.

And we certainly acknowledge that we are not just an island up there in the north, that we need to be connected to different communities and we need to have good synergy there.
Now, my particular background focuses on economic development and through real estate law and business law. I have served as the chair of the State Bar of Arizona business law section. I am currently a member at large of the executive committee of that session and I'm also involved in the Arizona Association of Economic Development.

And we often discuss what we can do to bring and attract more businesses to Arizona. Not just Flagstaff, of course, but to Arizona in general.

And certainly, it was last week that a national study came out that ranked Arizona 49th -- 49th in our economic outlook and our ability to attract entrepreneurs. And that's something we need to work on. That's something that we need to focus on and it's something that your redistricting issues can definitely impact.

Now, specifically Flagstaff Forty looks at the alignments of communities of interest, and it's something that we are very focused on, especially in these difficult economic times we're really looking at the economic corridors. We are looking at the question of preserving and enhancing those economic corridors.
And we certainly have that concept that we appreciate the eastern rural congressional district approach. And the recent maps, of course, certainly as 7A has been talked about a lot today, you know, and maps very similar to that as well as yesterday's hearing revealing that you were committed to two rural districts and a competitive district. And we very much thank you for that and we support that approach to things.

Now, of course, Flagstaff has over a 20-year history of aligning with the eastern communities in a congressional district and we have worked together with those eastern communities on those issues of quality of life, on those economic development issues, and we certainly would like to keep that going.

Topographical, land management, tourism, lifetime perspective, you've heard all of these terms and we are here to say them again. We certainly want to support that common philosophy of land management.

And as you heard definitely brought about by the County and the City, the issues of water issues, the winter weather as well, recreation, forest management, all of those things certainly
speak very specifically to us and they speak with the communities of interest that we would want to align with.

Further, also, I'm a registered Independent, and so I very much appreciate the idea of a competitive district. And it's definitely something that the eastern rural target. And the way that that's been brought together definitely appreciate that idea and that potential of a competitive district.

Also we note, of course, that the 2001 IRC only drew 3 out of 30 districts that were competitive. And so we very much support that idea, although I understand it's also being beaten up quite a bit and brought up.

And so we appreciate that you do have to focus on trying to make everyone happy and probably being -- eliminating that success and, therefore, almost like a good settlement as an attorney, you know, everybody comes away a little bit unhappy. But unhappy to the point that everybody is able to get a lot of what they need, even if they don't get everything that they need.

So competitiveness brings more citizens into the political process. It's certainly -- you
know, I can testify to that myself. You know, as an Independent, I like to see what's out there. I like to see what's coming from both sides. It gives us a wider array of voters and it gives us a wider array of who is potentially elected.

Both of these factors lead to good solutions for what's facing our state. And I think that's definitely something that I would stand up and talk about, that it's not always about political parties, it's about the process. It's about getting your voice heard and it's about getting your community's voice heard.

So you've heard about the Verde Valley alignment and the I-17 corridor. And Flagstaff Forty definitely appreciates that and supports that approach.

And so again, that's another reason why saying 7A and any other maps that are like 7A are certainly something that we would be in support of.

So I thank you for your time investment in the issue. You definitely will be impacting Arizona for the next ten years. So very much appreciate your efforts and anything you can do to help all of our communities.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Do you mind describing who is the makeup of the Flagstaff Forty in terms of the political affiliations? I'm just curious.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Actually, we cross all lines because we are a group of -- technically right now I don't believe we are correct in saying we are Forty. I think we're a few short. I think we're like 36 right now.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: 36.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Right. But Flagstaff Forty is a group of community business leaders. And membership does require ownership or management status in a local business so that we are very much focused on those local business issues. It cuts across all parties, across all types of philosophical issues.

As a matter of fact, sometimes when we have internal discussions, the different types of discussions we have are very interesting because all sorts of different issues and topics and approaches are discussed in our meetings. So we are
very much not weighed in any particular party. So we are very much focused on the community and the particular views of the business owners in that community.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Just to confirm, this is not a Democratic organization or Republican organization. It's a mixture of all of them?

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Correct. As a matter of fact, I don't even think that I have any knowledge necessarily of the political registrations or leanings of any of the other members in Flagstaff Forty. It's not part of our organization at all.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The reason I ask this is that I want to talk about the -- or focus on the praise that's coming for that particular river district version 7A. It's coming from both sides of the isle.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Yes. And while, of course, I don't have any official authority to -- as said before, to put any kind of stamp on that, we certainly appreciate the concepts and the thought process that is going in the direction of 7A and any maps that would be similar to that.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I appreciate that. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any other comments?

No questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I just want to thank you for coming, for the attention that you're paying to the details of the process. I wish every community in the state was able to focus on the details the way that you have here this morning. And I expect as we move ahead, we'll hear more and more of these kinds of things. But it is very helpful.

BRANDON KAVANAGH: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Teri Grier -- forgive me if I'm mispronouncing that -- a consultant for Flagstaff Forty -- or 36.

TERI GRIER: Members of the Commission, my name is Teri Grier, and I represent Flagstaff Forty. And I may be available to answer some of the questions that you have asked.

Let me give you a little bit of an overview of Flagstaff Forty and kind of how they came about.

You may know that there are economic development groups in -- or hubs in different parts of the state. Flagstaff had an economic development
council and they basically were folded into other entities.

And so this group came from a group of interested business people and different entities around the Flagstaff area that wanted to make sure they continued having representation in the Flagstaff area that worked with other economic development groups in the Phoenix area and in the Tucson area.

So your representation includes everything from Northern Arizona University to the community college to the hospital, to different business owners. So it includes your major industry in the Flagstaff area to some of your small businesses.

So it has no political affiliation and it's specifically focusing on economic development and business-related issues to try to put the best minds in place to address some of the pressing issues to help move Flagstaff forward and keep them basically on the cutting edge. So hopefully that helps address that issue.

And specifically, I appreciate the fact that you asked the question, why do people like map 7A?
I would like to back up a second and say as someone who is tracking the hearings -- and you all have sat here for -- at this point you're now logging hour 12 in a three-day period and I've gotten to sit from my recliner at home and I can look at the maps from home and take notes from home. And the fact that you have done such an amazing job at allowing people to be part of the process, even when we are not following you everywhere, I really want to thank you because I've been able to pull up the maps, go alongside, take my notes, and go back and rehear the hearings.

And I know you often hear the other side of the story, and I wanted to make sure you heard the side of the story from someone who -- it's part of my job, and my job depends on it. And I've been able to follow right along.

With that being said, I think the fact, Commissioner Freeman, that this map is called the river district and then it was drawn specifically to address issues related to the river district and it also happens to address the other congressional district is a tribute to your map consultant and to the work you guys are all doing.

The testimony that I have heard from the
last two days is that you were committed to having
two rural districts and that one of those two
districts was going to be a competitive district.

You heard testimony from Mayor Presler
that they like the fact that our communities of
interest were represented here. But specifically,
this is a competitive district. It basically is
within 5 percent.

And when I testified before you in Casa
Grande a few weeks ago, I talked about the benefits
of being in a competitive district. From a
first-person perspective having served on staff for
Congressman Renzi and the benefits of that, no
matter which party was in control, how it assisted
the members. So I think that you have succeeded in
that.

I think there were some questions
yesterday regarding rural and regarding Pima County
and communities of interest and how you have
communities of interest in the Southern part of the
state and how it relates to the Navajo Nation.

And from a perspective of a staff
member -- if I could take my hat off and put on a
different hat -- it is very hard to tie a
congressional district of 50,000 acres together
unless you basically divide it up into hubs and realize that you have different constituencies and that you're managing each one those hubs, that you have a farming hub, you have an agricultural hub, you have a hub for mining, you have a hub for your Native American population, and you have a separate hub for each one of those.

And so from a perspective of management, that's one of the things that whoever ends up with that district is going to have to deal with.

The commentary and the relationship to the tribes yesterday was very telling where they talked about that they were able to form a coalition and that their relationships had actually grown stronger.

We had eight tribes. Congressional District 2 represented seven tribes. So you saw that they were able to form a bond when they were asking to not crack. And so I think that that's something very important and that's something that we honor.

One of the other things that was mentioned was in relationship to Flagstaff and the economic impact. And I went home and I did some statistics, and Flagstaff as an economic hub, in
2008, their taxable sales were 1.6 billion. And so when we look at this as an economic hub, it's really important.

You heard testimony today from the chairwoman of the county supervisors that all along I-40, especially to the east, and all up and down the I-17 corridor, that basically is a traffic pattern.

In addition to that, it's the largest employer in the area. And the larger employer actually is the government and they employ 19,000 so it has a population of 65,000. And of those, the jobs are 19,000.

So when you're looking at who is commuting in and what those traffic patterns are and what the profits are, the taxable sales and the employers I think that's something to keep in mind. So from what do you like about 7A, compactness well as impact compact at you can get, competitiveness, communities of interest, I think you're on the right track and I just wanted to say thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: One of the things
that I like when people talk about why they like a
certain thing or why they don't, they give specific
information and it's factual, and I appreciate that
from you and from the people that agree with you.

And you talk about competitiveness, you
know, when -- the importance of having a competitive
district, whether it's one term it becomes a
Republican legislator or a Democratic the next time,
is that that individual, whether it be Democrat or
Republican or Independent has to campaign throughout
the whole district if it's that competitive.

You can't ignore one of the districts
because you think, you know, they don't align with
me. You can't. You can't do that.

When we went to Bullhead City, they had
the complete opposite. They live in a district that
is so uncompetitive that that particular
representative for -- that represented Bullhead City
hadn't been there in about two years and they were
fuming. They were very -- they were not happy with
that individual. And that's what happens when you
create districts that are not competitive. That
that individual who is elected doesn't have to go to
certain areas because they -- he or she has his base
and they don't have to go there.
So I appreciate you making those points about the importance of competitiveness and how everyone will be represented, whether it's a Democrat legislature and has brought the Republican constituents or conservative constituents, they will be represented as well because they need to be heard.

So I can't thank you enough.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Other comments or questions?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I just want to thank you, Ms. Grier, for coming and speaking with us. And it's -- I know you'll appreciate it's a very complicated problem with many degrees of freedom. And we've been all over the state. We've heard a lot of voices from various parts of the state and they don't all jive, and that's something we have to sort out.

And I think we are all trying to put together a map that makes sense for Arizona, and, of course, most importantly, follows the Constitution.

So really appreciate -- I appreciate your assistance and input. And like I told the other
speakers, I'm looking forward to our meeting up in Flagstaff. And did I watch the last one online as you watched out by your -- outside on the patio. I was sitting in my office watching an empty table for a time until we got that squared away.

But thank you again for coming down today.

TERI GRIER: Well, thank you for your service.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We appreciate it. I think that concludes all of the comments from the Coconino County area, City of Flagstaff, Flagstaff Forty. We really appreciate all of you coming out and providing input to us today.

I hope Mr. Kavanagh is able to get some sleep in the coming days, but I doubt it.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You know, just one final comment. I do appreciate it when we have organizations that come and are obviously lobbying the IRC for favor of a map or their area, that they
disclose who they are. It just -- it makes -- it's refreshing that, you know, you come -- Flagstaff Forty, you guys come and talk about obviously what your interests are. Obviously, you have an agenda, and that's okay. But you at least disclose who is representing Flagstaff Forty. It's not this secretive organization, and I appreciate that. I really do. And I appreciate that from you and other organizations that have done that because if you're lobbying the IRC, you should be disclosing you are representing. And I appreciate that, so thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I would also like to just mention some congratulations to our staff, especially Buck Forst, who is making it possible for people to watch this process from their recliners. He's kind of an unsung hero in all of this. And we don't always succeed, but we do most of the time and we've been really fortunate to have Buck make it happen for us. So thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Buck.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. So that concludes agenda item 2 regard to map presentations, unless there was somebody I missed that had something to tell us on this agenda item.
Okay. We will move to agenda item 3, review, discussion, and direction to mapping consultant regarding ideas for possible adjustments to congressional grid map based on constitutional criteria. This is a recurring agenda item for us, doing this at every meeting, of course, looking at both congressional and legislative maps.

I know that we gave some direction to our mapping consultant, Mr. Desmond, yesterday, and he was able to complete some homework for us and there should be a whole counties version 6D.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair, is there a way -- could we take a quick break -- just a five-minute break?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, sure, we can do that.

So let's -- we'll take a quick break. A five-minute recess. It's 11:04 a.m.

(A recess was taken from 11:04 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'll conclude recess now. The time is 11:22 and we were on agenda item 3, getting ready to talk about constitutional criteria for the congressional grid map, but I understand that some members of the public might
want to address some of the information that was just presented. So I thought I would do a call to the audience for this.

And also we thought it might be helpful to pull up version 7A of the river district map so that just -- everyone has the context and maybe Mr. Herrera can talk about it from just a basic standpoint, give people a sense of what's on it.

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Madame Chairman, before that could I make my comment?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Of course.

So Lynne St. Angelo, representing self from LD 26.

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Thank you.

S-t, period, A-n-g-e-l-o, Lynne,

L-y-n-n-e.

I had a comment on the river district 7A that is being considered, and I just wanted to point out some things about it.

Basically this map cracks the most competitive congressional district in the state of Arizona. Even according to Mr. Desmond and all of the calculations, CD 8 was the most competitive congressional district. This basically cracks it in half.
And what it does is take Cochise County, which is very rural, and pushes in into a very large part of Tucson, which is very heavily Democratic and very compact as a city and then it takes Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke and puts them -- whoa, am I okay? Can you hear me -- with the Navajo Nation.

And I guess you guys only came to Oro Valley one time to the Oro Valley town council meeting room and you probably didn't drive around and see our area, so I just wanted to let you know what Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke and Marana are like that you've now put with the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation also asked for a rural district. Okay. That is what they requested and part of Pinal County on the eastern side is pretty rural until you get to Saddlebrooke and also Graham County and Cochise are very rural, but those have been taken out of the Navajo Nation district the way it is now and put with Oro Valley.

Saddlebrooke is the first thing you come to from the Navajo Nation where is it coming down, as the way it's drawn, and Saddlebrooke is a very large community, like 7,000 people cut by Saddlebrooke Boulevard. On both sides of Saddlebrooke Boulevard are two very large golf
courses. And around those golf courses are the community rooms, the restaurants, and all of the housing developments are centered around the golf course.

As you come down just a little further, five miles down, you hit Oro Valley and first thing on the west side of Oracle Road is Sun City, which is also three big precincts that are surrounding a golf course and all of the houses there, same thing as Saddlebrooke, are built around this golf course.

And coming down a little further down Rancho Vistoso Boulevard, which comes off of Oracle Road and wraps around, is Honeybee Canyon, Stone Canyon, and then Rancho Vistoso golf courses.

Each one of these are very large communities built around golf courses.

Then on the other side of Oracle Road on the east side coming down, there are two more golf courses, same thing, housing developments, residential homes there, community centers and restaurants built around two very large golf courses.

Then going across Oracle Road on the east side is Oro Valley Country Club, which is another very large community, a precinct in itself, built
around a golf course with houses and restaurants and country club.

Continuing on further into Oro Valley, close to where you were, on La Canada Boulevard is the Hilton golf course. And around it is a very large community built around it, same thing. And there is the town of Oro Valley, the real commercial district and the Oro Valley town council is on that road.

As you go up that road, La Canada to the north, on the east side of it is the other side of the Rancho Vistoso golf course, and all of the community up there is built around that.

Directly across La Canada Boulevard is our -- a private airport where those homes are also built around an airport, and many of them have barns for their airplanes and they drive them down the little roads and take off from that airstrip.

So this is all now still Oro Valley.

Moving down Tangerine, a little bit further, like a mile down, you come to the mountain, which is Marana. Dove Mountain is built around -- Dove Mountain Boulevard on both sides of that are three different golf courses, same thing. These are communities built around golf courses.
So as you can see, this is -- to put this with the Navajo Nation is really ludicrous. I mean, there is nothing in any way that resembles a rural setting like a Navajo Nation.

So that alone -- you should just send this map, at least at that portion of it, into a review because it doesn't make any sense at all and especially from a community of interest.

It also has cracked CD 8 in half and manipulated it around so that two halves of it are now separated completely from each other. And it was the most competitive district in the state before this map.

So anyway, those are my comments on that and -- but to say that this is a community of interest with the Navajo Nation, it makes no sense. Especially I think it goes up and also wraps in Casa Grande, which again, is a community, you know, with its own shopping centers and residential areas and golf courses, too.

So those are my comments on the map. I don't think it in any way represents the communities and would not serve Oro Valley, Marana, or Saddlebrooke at all well.

Thank you so much.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can I just address some issues?

The -- I'm so glad that Ms. St. Angelo cares about competitiveness as I do. The river -- excuse me, the District 1, which is -- was 8 -- I think we're talking about the same thing. She talks about it not being competitive.

Based on these numbers, and again, we have limited information, but river district -- excuse me, District Number 1 has 53 percent Republican advantage over the 47 percent of the Democratic, based on the 2008, 2010 election.

So when talking about competitiveness, this is based -- again, based on the data that we have now, it's pretty competitive. So I want to make sure that that issue is corrected.

And also the -- I think Ms. Grier, am I pronouncing your name correctly -- did a really fabulous point about talking about the communities of interest within that particular district, though. Yet they might differ but they are still within a competitive district that will have their voices.
I heard.

So I respect that comment. I think you said it very well, which kind of addresses Ms. St. Angelo's concerns. So I thank you for that, to helping me out with those comments.

That's it.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

We have another person who would like to speak.

David Cantelme, representing FAIR Trust.

DAVID CANTELME: Thank you, Madame Chairman, members of the Commission.

I also had some comments on the points that were made yesterday by the tribal interests.

Can I address those or should I save them for the end of the meeting?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: You can address them.

DAVID CANTELME: Members of the Commission, I found those remarks, as I'm sure you did also, to be very moving, very informative, and very grateful that we had the opportunity to hear those remarks.

I would like to review briefly with you some of Arizona's historic sad and lamentable
treatment of her first people's, because we
sympathize and we agree with many of the comments
made yesterday.

It was not until Justice Levi Udall wrote
the opinion for the Supreme Court in Harrison versus
Laveen in 1948 that Native Americans first got to
vote in this state, and that was after World War II
and many of the code talkers and Ira Hayes and other
heroes from our Native tribes have defended this
country.

After the advent of one person, one vote
and the Voting Rights Act, it's still sad to say
that in 1970s -- in the 1970 redistricting cycle,
there was still poor treatment of the Navajos, in
particular. As then Chief Judge Craig wrote, "There
is ample basis to suspect that the Indians were done
in," end quote. That's from his opinion and in
Clear versus Williams.

Even as late at 1981, the pattern and
practice of abusing the tribes continued. As a
young lawyer, I was part of a coalition that fought
to stop that mistreatment, in particular, the way
the San Carlos tribe was treated. It was divided
into three legislative and three congressional
districts, which was a clear violation of the Voting
Rights Act, and we did stop that. In that map it was prevented.

So what are the take-aways from yesterday's comments?

One, I think everybody in this room is probably in agreement -- do not split reservations. And I'm sure you will not do that.

Second, respect the wishes of the tribes where they would like to be placed.

Third, I think Chairman Ned Norris of the Tohono O'odham -- I know I'm not pronouncing it the way it should be, but that's the best I can -- made some very moving remarks. And we would strongly urge that those be taken into consideration and be listened to.

Fourth, we also agree with Steven Titla, counsel for the San Carlos tribe who suggested that you draw two rural Congressional districts and that neither of those two districts take in any part of Metro Phoenix or Metro Tucson.

And with all of those remarks, we are in complete agreement.

Now, turning to what's before you today, river district version 7A, members of the Commission I want to point out that I commend the effort here,
but it's got several significant defects and those need to be brought to light and they need to be considered.

First, Pinal County. As I look at this map, it cuts Pinal County into four separate districts. Pinal County does not want to be cut into four separate districts.

I can certainly sympathize with Coconino County, but you have to consider Pinal as well. And to cut it into four, to me, makes little sense.

Now, there are occasions particularly to avoid splits of reservation where counties must be cut. There's no way around it because, at least by my way of thinking, not splitting reservations has priority over splitting counties.

But nonetheless, four splits seem to me of what is still a rural county, although it's urbanized, as we all know, seems to be too much.

Second, if I'm reading this correctly, looking at it, and I can see that my eyes aren't at what they once were, if you look at the river district, District 4, it comes in and takes the San Tan Valley on the east side.

Members of the Commission, that makes no sense whatsoever from a community of interest
perspective. Why would you put the San Tan Valley in with Bullhead City or Lake Havasu?

Steven Titla said yesterday, and we agree, as I mentioned, do not bring the rural districts into Metro Phoenix or Metro Tucson. That makes no sense by my lights, and I don't think by most of the comments that have been made to you.

Third, Ms. St. Angelo is correct. This map makes District 1 less competitive. It is right now a very competitive district. It can be drawn, if it's kept entirely within Pima County so that you have almost an equal population registration of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents or other parties.

That would have the effect of respecting communities of interest, respecting county lines, and increasing competitiveness. I don't say 1 isn't competitive at all. I say it can be improved and at the same time serve the other goals in the state Constitution.

And last, and I think this is a serious mistake, members of the Commission. If you look at District 8, that sits as a cap or hat on top of the Metro Phoenix area.

I live in that district the way it's
going to be drawn in Cave Creek. And here is the
defect in it. That's the area when growth returns
to Arizona, and we know it will return, that's the
area of high growth in Maricopa County.

So you're going to have a district that
when that growth returns, is going to be seriously
out of whack population wise.

I know it's not one of the criteria in
particular. Maybe it's implied in the notion of
equal population, but I think you ought to keep in
mind all other things being equal, what are the
growth areas. So what districts are going to get
out of one person, one vote quickly. And that's an
area that will very quickly.

The last point, ladies and -- members of
the Commission, this one is very hard for me to make
out on the version that I'm looking at, but I'm
looking at District 6, I believe it is. District 6,
which takes in the Gila River Reservation part of
Pinal County, Salt River Reservation and it looks
like it takes in part but not all of Scottsdale.

Here is the point I would make there,
members of the Commission. It looks to me as though
Scottsdale is divided into three districts. And I
would say to what end?
Joining Scottsdale with that portion of Pinal doesn't make a lot of sense from the neutral criteria perspective, and those neural criteria are important. They are not the be all or end all, but they certainly are criteria that should be considered.

It would seem to me that this is a worthy effort but it's got several areas that could be improved from looking at it from the perspective of the state constitutional criteria.

And so I thank you again for your consideration.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair, I have some questions for Mr. Cantelme.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Do you mind waiting?

DAVID CANTELME: No, not at all.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You know, I'm looking forward to meeting with the Navajo Nation because we have been talking to them, but I suspect that they will find the river district 7A pretty favorable and -- but just like I asked the Flagstaff Forty people, who do you represent?

DAVID CANTELME: Sir, I represent the Fair Trust.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I understand that,
but what is it?

DAVID CANTELME: I've said it many, many times.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I'm hard of hearing and I --

DAVID CANTELME: Then I'll say it again for you, sir. FAIR, F-A-I-R Trust.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: But --

DAVID CANTELME: And that's as far as I'm going. Let's not play this game, Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No, I just like the fact --

DAVID CANTELME: We're not going to go there.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Actually --

DAVID CANTELME: I'm not going to answer your question.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can I speak?

I like the fact that when people are representing this Commission, that they expect us to be transparent and to do everything in the open and be as honest with the public as possible, and I think we are trying to do that.

But when you have organizations that try to lobby us and they don't let us know who they are
other than a name, that bothers me. And I have no

doubt, Mr. Cantelme, that you -- and I heard really
good things about you and -- but I'm not talking --
I'm not talking about you, I'm talking about the
organization you represent.

I as a commissioner would like to know
who is lobbying us.

DAVID CANTELME: Mr. Herrera --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I hope you respect

that.

DAVID CANTELME: Mr. Herrera, I respect

you very much, sir. I've been cordial to you every
time --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: So have I.

DAVID CANTELME: Very few encounters that

we've had, which haven't been many.

The complaint has been made. The

Secretary of State dismissed it immediately as

frivolous. We have complied with the law in every

respect, sir. That's as far as I'm going to go.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. I appreciate

you not disclosing the information. But I

appreciate those that have, and I would encourage

people that approach us to disclose who they

represent. I think we have a right to know as a
Commission who is lobbying us.

DAVID CANTELME: Sir, we are not lobbying anybody. We've not engaged in any lobbying. That's been determined by the Secretary of State. That's an over-and-closed issue, sir.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Cantelme.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Any comments from other commissioners?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Yes, I have a comment, Mr. Cantelme.

DAVID CANTELME: Please.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: When you come up here and make comments that we think this and we think that and you will not disclose who "we" is, you put yourself in a position that is completely apart from, for example, the people we just heard from, from the community of Flagstaff who represent real people with real community concerns.

I can only assume that you are constructing arguments based on the constitutional provisions in various ways that advance the positions and the interests of whoever it is that you represent rather than providing us with legitimate comments based on real people with real
concerns.

And so as I've said earlier, that goes, to me, to the weight of what you have to say to us because I don't know who you represent. I can only make assumptions about who you represent and that colors for me a great deal every comment that you make.

That may not concern you, the fact that what you say to me is colored by the fact that you won't disclose who you represent.

This particular vote may not be of concern to you, but it is important to the process. And I just want to make clear that I agree with Mr. Herrera and that's the reason I agree.

If you're going to come in here and you're going to make very detailed comments about things but you won't tell us on whose behalf you're making those comments, I can only assume that those comments are based on and motivated by self interested individuals who won't disclose themselves rather than based on the real interests of individuals who are coming before us every day and telling us who they are where they live.

DAVID CANTELME: Ms. McNulty, I appreciate your comments, and, ma'am, I very much am
interested in your vote and I've always tried to
treat all members of the Commission very
respectfully.

I seek to persuade you only by the power
of the logic of my positions, by the points that I
make, by the analysis that I offer. And every
position that I've ever advocated before this
Commission could be summed up very simply. It's no
different from the article that Mr. Kanefield and I
wrote. It is follow the state Constitution, which I
know you intend to do.

And I pointed out here in my comments on
map 7A what I think are serious defects and its
inability to attain those criteria.

And when I speak to that, I'm very --
very plain and very specific. This map cuts Pinal
County into four districts.

I know you have to weigh a lot of factors
and I know that no county can be treated -- no map
is perfect. I know you're going to weigh all of
these factors out.

I pointed out that District 1 would be a
much more competitive district if it was wholly
within Pima County. To me that makes sense. I've
told you that I agree with the position that we are
at particularly yesterday by the Native Americans.
And those are heartfelt and those haven't changed,
Ms. McNulty my view in 30 years in doing this. I've
never said anything today or at any time I've
appeared before you that's contradictive in any way,
any position I've ever taken before this Commission,
the predecessor Commission, or the courts of law.

And I do apologize for using "we." That
is a lapse that lawyers unfortunately fall into. It
is what some call the royal "we" or whatever "we."
If it would suit anybody better, I would be happy to
use "I."

The points that I have given I think I
can defend intellectually. There's no hidden
agenda. Every point that I have made here today is
one that has sound basis behind it. You may not
agree with it, but nobody can say that it's not
intellectually honest or that it doesn't come in
support of internal logic.

And on that basis, I'll stand on it.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: The flaw in your
logic, Mr. Cantelme, is that we do have to take into
all of the criteria, and it's a very difficult job
to assemble them to achieve a final product that
works for all of the citizens of Arizona.
Anybody --

DAVID CANTELME: I agree with that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- can use any of
the criteria to make an argument that favors a
particular interest. People can pick and choose
criteria that support arguments that favor a
particular interest.

And all I'm saying to you is that
although your arguments may make sense from a
logical perspective, given that you will not
disclose who you represent, we can only make
assumptions about that. And in my mind, that means
that you are picking and choosing arguments based on
the folks that you -- to advance the interests of
the folks you are representing who you are unable to
disclose to us.

And all I'm telling you is that that,
from my perspective, goes to the weight of your
testimony. We are both lawyers, so you know what
I'm talking about. And the weight of your testimony
is very thin as a result of that.

And that's just -- you know, I hear what
you're saying intellectually. I mean, all of the
arguments make sense. But what I have to do -- what
we have to do -- what the five of us have to do is
pull together these districts for the best interests of six and a half million people in this state.

And so when I hear an argument, I think about who is that that argument is being made on behalf of. Is it truly being -- is it made being -- on behalf the people in Northern Arizona who are struggling to make a living, is it made on behalf of the people in the eastern side of the state who want to pull together a truly competitive district so that they get people out at election time to participate in the process so they have a stake in it? Is that who the argument is being made on behalf of or is it being made on behalf of a group of federal or state legislators who have a vested interest in keeping things as they are.

So those are the things that run through my mind whenever I hear you speak, whenever I hear you pick and choose an argument that supports a particular provision or a particular position.

And I've listened. I've been congenial, as you say, as you have, and I don't intend not to do that, but I do feel the time has come where, you know, some of the elephants in the room need to be talked about and, that's one of them.

DAVID CANTELME: Well, I appreciate those
Let me just add one thing. I don't want to debate this back and forth, but I do think I need to mention this.

I think it's really important that we all respect each other. I think civility is critical. And I think the key to maintaining civility is let's look at proposals as they are made and let's analyze them on the merits. Let's weigh those merits and let's also look at consistency.

If any person coming before you is consistently taking the same positions, positions which are very defensible positions, it seems to me that that adds weight to those positions.

And I'll conclude my remarks with that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: And the most merit, from my perspective, is representing the concerns of six and a half million individuals in the state of Arizona rather than the concerns of individuals who are unable to come forward and disclose who they are.

DAVID CANTELME: You know, I appreciate that. I was born in Arizona. I've grown up here. My family goes back four generations before 1850 in the state. There is nothing closer to my heart
other than my family in Arizona.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: This isn't a personal attack against Mr. Cantelme, so I hope he doesn't take it that way. I don't know him but like I said, I have a lot of respect for him based on the information I've heard from Joe, who appears to be a close friend with him.

So this is an issue of what we are trying to do for the state and what's in the best interest of the state, not -- and I think we are being civil and we are not playing games.

I think we -- what we are doing is the right thing. I think that people in the public expect us to, on any organization that approaches us and tries to influence us, that we ask them to disclose who they are. And there's nothing wrong with that. And I think -- and I've been very consistent in asking every organization that approaches us, who are you and who do you represent.

So I've been very consistent and cordial with anyone, no matter their political leanings.
Doesn't matter to me because I respect them all. I just need to -- I'm trying to do the right thing here and asking every organization that's trying to influence us, just tell me who you are and who you represent. That's it. It's as simple as that.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: First, I don't know how to define the personal concerns of all 6.5 million people in the state. I see those concerns reflected in the Constitution. And so I think -- I know we are all trying to follow the Constitution. That's where the people have spoken. The words on paper are what we have to work with.

But my real point is more of a procedural point. We started down a path at yesterday's hearing where we have allowed public comment to get into a question-and-answer and perhaps debate, and I'm concerned that -- I know you're running the hearings and it's within your discretion, and I appreciate that, but my concern is it might get away from us here if we continue down that path. And perhaps we should go back to where we were handling it before where the public comments and at the end of the comments we can either respond to criticism
or direct staff to take up the matter or place it on a future agenda item and that will allow us to both take in public comment, which is very important, and proceed with our work, which is developing these maps.

And if we are going to move -- I don't know if there's more comment on this issue, but if there isn't, then perhaps we should go ahead and look at a couple maps before we move on.

I know we had sort of talked about today being more of a work study day for us, trying to get some time for us to focus on the maps. So I would appreciate it if we could sort of get marching through the agenda here so we can get on with that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Freeman, I'll just say that I agree with you going forward, but I would also add that it was time to say a couple of things about that situation and now they've been said.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We do have actually another member of the public who is addressing this particular agenda item. So since we've started that way, we'll conclude that way.

So Pete Bengtson, representing self from Pima County.
PETER BENGTSON: My name is Peter Bengtson. That's B-e-n-g-t-s-o-n. I represent myself. I don't even represent Betty. She comes up and says whatever she wants to say.

Let me first comment -- I agree with what Mr. Freeman just said. I think you started getting into discussions that can get away from us, so I think you should stop and I'm not going to expect a response.

My main point is I haven't been paying too much attention to these maps. The commissioners and Mr. Desmond are just overwhelming putting maps out, and so I was hoping that you'll settle down on one and I can comment on.

A lot of what I have heard this morning and I see in this 7A map looks like a reasonable starting point for the congressional map. And it would be great if -- and I've also made a comment on the Internet, I believe I did, that I think you guys need to stop putting out what-ifs and concentrate on one and start improving it. You don't have a lot of time.

This 7A looks quite reasonable to me. I like the fact that you've got the two rural districts. I really like the fact that you are not
splitting the Indian reservations.

It's -- trying to get equal populations in all of these districts is difficult. You're not going -- you're going to have to split counties and split cities to get equal populations.

And I will go home and look at the details on this one and send you some specific comments, but I would hope that you would focus on one map in the future and then I can pay more attention to it.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

So, Mr. Herrera, did you want to just provide some background on the 7A district map since there's been so much discussion of it today? And we are on the congressional agenda item. I thought it might be helpful.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure.

We can start with the eastern -- or the western river district -- the river district -- what's called river district 4.

And again, we -- I think we based that particular district on the comments we heard from the public both in Yuma and Bullhead City, Lake Havasu, is that they don't want to be represented
from someone that is residing in Maricopa County, that they want a truly rural area by the river. I guess communities of interest, they have a lot in common.

So that's why we created that particular one. And the comments were they don't want Flagstaff in this district or the Verde Valley, that they wanted -- that they want the communities to stay together and to be represented by a congressman that has the interest of that community in mind.

And I think that particular district does that.

It is -- I think it's solidly Republican. It cuts off in the Yuma area where the people in Yuma, the public comments were they had more in common with Bullhead City and Parker than they do with the Southern part of Yuma.

Again, that particular district I think -- it's not perfect, but I think we are getting to the point that I think we have a good product here.

If you go to District 2, that particular district meets the voting rights requirements, which are foremost and most important and it puts areas of interest together and keeps the highly Hispanic areas of Yuma, San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton together with the other border areas.
So, again, I think that that one is based on public comments and also respecting the Voting Rights Act.

And Number 1 -- District Number 1, again -- and I talked about the competitiveness, and we only have currently data from 2008, 2010. But again, when you talk about competitiveness -- and I am glad Mr. Cantelme cares about competitiveness as I do, but it's a pretty competitive district based on this information.

Again, there's a 6-point difference, 6.34. I think most people would say that that's pretty darned good. And what I want to do is get this even better where they are as close to zero as possible. I don't know if it's going to be possible, but that's what we'll try.

So, again, this is a pretty competitive district. If you go up to the -- to 5 -- 5, again, this is based on the public comments. The Pai tribes wanted to be together with the rest of the -- with the Navajo, Apache, Hopi. So that's why we pulled that arm in there, which looks a little odd, but again it's meeting the Voting Rights requirements and it's staying intact with the city of Flagstaff, the Verde Valley, and it just follows
that line. Again, trying to create a competitive
district keeping it away from Pima as much as
possible and also Maricopa County. Again, this is
based on public testimony.

And then if you look at -- if you look at
6 -- with 6, we're trying to -- can you zoom in a
little closer with 6, if you can get as many
areas -- the cities and towns that are in 6.

So 6, what we're trying to do is keep
some communities that have something in common like
Tempe, West Mesa, Ahwatukee, Arcadia area, which is
where I live, and these areas have a lot in common.
And I think what we are trying to do with this area
is create a competitive district. And I think we do
that based on this information. Again, a 6.43
spread with the advantage currently to Republicans.

So let's go to 9.

Can you zoom in a little closer and get
some of the cities in there?

So what we are trying to do with 9 also
is create a competitive district. Right now based
on this information it's not quite competitive.
Again, it's a leaning Republican district with a
13-point spread, but I think we can do a better job
in that area creating -- creating -- being a little
more competitive.

What we are trying to do is keep it south of the 101. And the reason we are trying to do that is this is a well-established area and we're trying to keep it away from the urban sprawl. Again, this is based on public testimony.

Let's go to 7.

Majority-minority district. And again, Voting Rights Act. This particular district has 60.22 HVAP. The benchmark was 57 and the benchmark for the other majority-minority was around 50 -- around 50 and this brings it up to 53.49. So again, we're splitting the Voting Rights Act -- let's see what areas -- 3, the area of CD 3.

Can you zoom in closely, Mr. Desmond, to CD 3 just to get some of the areas that are --

Can you get a little closer?

And the CD 3 is mostly Mesa and it's -- it's a pretty conservative part of Mesa, which I would see as a community of interest, keeping them intact and dividing them around Mesa Drive, which is -- I think that particular area of Mesa probably has more in common with Tempe than they do with East Mesa. So I think the people in East Mesa, if they haven't seen this map, will be pretty pleased.
And one more. 8.

If can you do me a favor, Mr. Desmond, and zoom in as close as you can to 8.

Can you go a little closer? Is that possible?

WILLIE DESMOND: On the east or the west side?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: On the east side.

Now, this one -- unfortunately, with Congressional District 8, we couldn't make it too competitive. It is solidly one political party that would probably represent -- if this is said and done, this is the map we adopt, it will be solid Republican.

Unfortunately, we can't get all of them be competitive, but we're trying to get as many as possible.

But what I will do is definitely be thinking about removing the San Tan from the river district. I think that makes sense and also explore a swap between District 8 and District 4.

So we are still making changes to this map. I think it's getting to the point that -- you know, we're making the changes based on the public testimony. But this is the -- this has been the
only map that has gotten praise from both Republicans and Democrats from all over the state, and I appreciate that. I'm not saying this to praise myself or to praise Commissioner McNulty, but say -- this is getting bipartisan support. This is the only map that has been given bipartisan support. So I just want to make a point.

So that's the map. So hopefully I've explained it.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you for walking us through that. I appreciate it.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure. No problem.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any comments?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Aspects of the map have received bipartisan support. I don't believe all of the map has been -- received --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: It all adds up to one.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Excuse me.

I would like to illustrate some other things about this map.

Could you zoom out please, Mr. Desmond?

Let's go ahead and look at this area that
comes down and gets the San Tan Valley.

    I mean, I think all public comment aside, ultimately the map has to speak for itself. This has to be something that's going to appear in the Arizona Republic or the Star or other local papers and they are going to see a color -- probably on the front page, a colorful map of Arizona.

    People are going to have to look at that map and say, well, it looks like there's -- there's no funny business going on. It makes sense for the state. They are compact districts.

    And this finger where Bullhead -- the district that encompasses the river, Bullhead City, comes down and grabs the San Tan Valley. If you look at that on Google earth, that's a fairly densely populated -- basically suburbia there with lots of Spanish-style homes right next to each other. I mean, that's being put in with Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City and other parts of the so-called river district.

    I don't think that really passes the test.

    It also -- and I think Commissioner Stertz, who unfortunately had a family emergency and couldn't be here today, he illustrated this
yesterday, is if you drive out on the Superstition
and you're heading out to the Arboretum out there in
Superior, I mean, you just go from congressional
district to congressional district to congressional
district, and quite literally, there's probably a
span here of only a few miles where you pass
through -- you got a different congressman right
there and then you're into the district that
encompasses Northeastern Arizona.

That seems to be a pretty significant
problem with this map.

If you can could zoom out and then
refocus sort of on Phoenix central area.

Another concern of mine is it does seem
to be -- there does seem to be a result-oriented
process at work here. I mean, the Arizona
Constitution requires us -- requires us to the
extent practicable, to construct districts that are
equal population, satisfy the Voting Rights Act,
that are compact and contiguous, that respect county
municipal, geographic boundaries and respect
communities of interest. And we are to favor, as
required by the Constitution, configurations that do
that and also create competitive districts as long
as they don't do substantial detriment to the other
goals.

This one seems like we've started with -- if we happened to satisfy any of the other five constitutional criteria, it's by happenstance. I mean, we've got Scottsdale carved up various different ways, we've got every other -- and a lot of these cities are going to have to be divided, but I don't think it should be willy-nilly.

We've got a district that goes from Buckeye to North Scottsdale. I mean, I don't think that's the way -- and it also seems to be consigned to be a heavily Republican district.

So the concerns of competitiveness, I guess don't apply to those voters. But it doesn't seem to make sense in terms of how the Phoenix, Arizona, area fits together.

Let's then -- I would also want to point out we've got a district that has got parts of Scottsdale, wraps all the way around and picks up the Gila River Indian Reservation down here. It includes Arcadia. Mr. Herrera likes to note that he lives there.

I live in Greater Arcadia, too. But not only that, but I'm from there. So I've got -- I haven't gone far in life. I'm still in the same ZIP
code, but I have a real deep sense of what that community is like and what neighborhoods and areas of the town that sort of naturally relate to it and how that area fits together.

And then, Mr. Desmond, if you could please zoom out and then we'll look down at the Oro Valley area and Pinal County area.

Maybe zoom out a little more please and maybe sort of shift that down to the bottom of the screen a little bit. Other way. I'm sorry.

Okay. So here's a district, District 5 in this river district map that encompasses Window Rock, the Navajo reservation, Flagstaff, and basically the Grand Canyon area and the Pai tribes.

We've crossed this county line here to pick up a big chunk of population. Over a hundred thousand people live here. This is Marana, Oro Valley, Casas Adobles, this area where --

We had a hearing down there back in June. We got lots of public comment not only at that hearing, but various other hearings. I can't cite you chapter and verse, streets and corners in this area of Arizona, but I have driven around there. This is a fairly densely populated -- over a hundred thousand people living there. Fairly affluent area
of the state and that's being packaged together with Casa Grande, Coolidge, Florence, Window Rock, Flagstaff, and the Grand Canyon area.

There's some concerns there. Certainly if we are talking about listening to public comment, we're not listening to public comment there with those people because they talked about the relationship with Tucson and their desire to stay with Tucson.

Even if we had a lot of people from Saddlebrooke area that's that little bump there that extends into Pinal County talking about, look, we know we are on the Pinal county side of the line but here is where you should make an exception because we are tied in with these communities here and with Tucson, not with Pinal County.

So we got this urban area that's stuck into a largely rural district that really includes vast areas of the state up north.

We've got a muddied area -- I mean, if there's concern about where do the candidates come from, what areas do they maybe pay more attention to, it could be this area. Then again, this area could be totally -- because it's not certainly the majority of the district, it could be totally
overwhelmed by the other rural districts.

    Either way, I don't know which way it
would fall, it seems sort of problematic to me.

    Also -- and, Willie, if you could zoom
out one more time.

    I mean, it's not an easy problem to
solve. I think it's not -- it's not simple. And if
we talk about public comment, we heard a lot about
rural versus urban and that distinction. And it's
very important for these people that rural areas
stay rural and urban areas should stay urban because
there's some diametrically different interests
there.

    And what we've done here is we've taken
and we heard -- if we're going to talk about public
comment, we heard plenty of public comment about
keeping Cochise County and these rural areas rural
and not putting them with urban Tucson area. That
does that.

    Now, everyone can't have their way. I
mean, it won't fit together. Maybe that has to be
done, maybe not. But I don't think that -- I think
it's -- we should be so definitive in saying this
map complies with public comment and just cite a
couple boxes of binders. I mean, we've got lots of
public comment and taking different positions in different areas and we've got to deliberate and consider on that.

I mean, there are aspects of this map I like, and -- but I have great concerns about other aspects of the map.

So I think -- I know that one thing we asked our consultant to do yesterday was to take the -- this version of the map and print it out -- I've got it here, a big poster -- with an overlay of the whole counties map, that what-if scenario that I've been kind of walking down, taking off the constitutional criteria as I adjusted the -- had the map adjusted and see --

I mean, there's some similarities to both maps, and -- but there's some differences, too. And maybe with some study, the five of us can come up with something that will work, it will comply with the Constitution, it will be a configuration that will give more competitive districts or make the districts more competitive and something that will fit and work with Arizona.

It's something that when we publish it to the public, the public will see it and understand and think that we did our job.
Thank you, Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And achieve preclearance.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Oh, yeah.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: The first time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, the first time. That's our hope.

Thank you, Mr. Freeman, for those comments.

Does anyone have any other comments on 7A?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yeah, Madame Chair. The issue with San Tan Valley -- we're definitely -- the issue that we are addressing -- that I am addressing that I want to move it out of the river district.

And there's other concerns that Commissioner Freeman has that are legitimate -- and this is still a work-in-progress and I wish it were done, but it's not, and we are trying to make those changes. I think we're -- and compromise and also public comment.

But let me talk about competitiveness. We have nine districts and it's impossible to create -- to make all of them competitive,
unfortunately. That would be nice. I would love to make 8 competitive as well, but I think Commissioner Freeman would agree that that's close to impossible to make all of them competitive, but we can try to make as many as possible competitive.

And the issue with 1, I think the point has been made pretty well. It's a competitive district, so Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke could have -- they could elect someone that represents their interests and it could maybe go back and forth every couple of years.

So what we tried to do with this particular map is keep the community of interest whole and not break them up. And that's what it did.

Again, not everybody can get what they want, but we are trying everything we can do to make sure that we satisfy every requirement that we have.

It's not going to be easy, and I'm so glad that Commissioner Freeman paid a lot of attention to this map because I know he likes it. He said he likes it -- aspects of it. Thank you. And I would encourage him to pay more attention to it and focus on the really good parts, as most of us have done.
And actually, we're going to be making changes. And I appreciate your comments, Commissioner Freeman. So don't think I'm ignoring them. But again, this is something that we are continuing to work on and improve every time. I think every time we meet we're making changes and we are making very good changes.

So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It would be nice if Commissioner Herrera could also acknowledge that there is some disagreement and it might be an honest good-faith disagreement.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: But, you don't intend to do that. You tend to only compliment yourself.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Commissioner Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And, yes, I think there are aspects that are good, but I've illustrated some concerns, which I think are legitimate concerns. And I don't think -- while I
think it's -- the Constitution requires us to favor configurations that create districts that are more competitive, I think that if the competitiveness is truly a concern, it applies to every voter. I mean, the policies and rationals behind it would apply to everyone.

And if you say, well, it's not possible to create competitive districts, it sort of gives you a license to pack one party or another in certain areas of the state, which I feel a little uncomfortable with.

But if it's not possible to make -- and I think -- I agree with you, it's probably not possible to create competitive districts in all areas of the state, but then you think you have to acknowledge that, you know, the Constitution doesn't say there shall be one, two, three, four, five, six, or seven competitive districts. It just doesn't say. It says we are supposed to favor configurations that would favor competitive districts to the extent it doesn't do substantial detriment to the other goals. So it could be any number.

And what I think we can't lose sight of is we can't sort of proceed from a result-oriented
process and say, well, there's going to be two,
there's going to be four and those get drawn and
those districts look like they -- they are not going
to work with Arizona and then we sort of back in the
rationale for the other districts and say, well, you
know, we created four that somebody thinks is
competitive and, well, with respect to the other
districts, well, okay, if that district line falls
at county line there, so check, we satisfied that
one. And oh, that actually -- that other district
kept a city whole, so, hey, we satisfied the
district there. Never mind that for the rest of the
district it's crossing, you know, the census places
and county lines and mountain ranges willy-nilly.
That, I don't think is the right approach.

And then lastly on the issue of
communities of interest, you know, we had that
discussion yesterday and now it's coming up again so
I guess I'll have to repeat what I said yesterday,
which is I'm happy that there's an acknowledgement
that communities of interest shouldn't be split. I
mean, that is a -- that could be regarded as
disrespecting it.

And I think the policy and rationale
behind that is that there might be certain areas of
the state where their common interests should not -- people in effect -- I hate to use the word disenfranchise, but it's kind of like that. It's sort of like if you live in a community that has a common interest that you want to take to the state legislature or to congress, if in the redistricting process your community gets split, then maybe a tiny portion of your community becomes a tiny percentage in two or three or four other districts. So you don't get listened to, maybe. Your concerns don't get addressed. So that's why we want to respect them and keep them whole.

There could be circumstances where that could happen where the community of interest is not split, and that's when you put a community down here and you put it in a district that is so fundamentally different from it that is rural and the mountain areas or agrarian and then you put this densely populated suburb in there.

I mean, it's kept whole, arguably, but it might -- it conceivably could be ignored because it's so overwhelmed by fundamental interests.

So people there, they're kept whole, their communities are kept whole, but they may feel like, we're not going to be heard.
So that's another consideration that I think we need to weigh. And as I've repeatedly said, it's not an easy problem to solve. I know we are all trying to work on it, and I will take a look at this map and study it and see how -- I want to help all of my commissioners and I hope you'll listen to my comments because I am trying to be constructive and I do want to take a look at these maps we've got and see if there are ways that -- because I think there are good aspects to the whole counties what-if scenario that we should look at.

I know we'll probably get up a -- bring up another version of that now. So perhaps then I'll illustrate some of the things I like about it. But just 7A I know is a work-in-progress, and we are working on it. I hope everyone understands the sort of whole counties what-if scenario that I've been pursuing, that's a work-in-progress, too. The map that's shown up here, by no means do I think that this is looking like the final map, but I think it's a what-if scenario. It's a work-in-progress and what we ultimately come up with will probably be different.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madame Chair.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ms. McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I just want to make a couple comments on Mr. -- Commissioner Freeman's comments.

There's nothing willy-nilly about the draft map that was put together. It was -- I think it looks at communities of interest within the state and within Phoenix and it's not based on any predetermined number of districts of any kind, but I do think that given that the Constitution says we are to favor competitive districts with the caveats, that we can't ignore those and then hope that there will be some left after we've done all of the other things.

As I've said many times, this is going to be a holistic approach and the only way that we can truly satisfy all the criteria, including competitiveness, is to start by looking at that at the same time as we are looking at all of the other criteria.

So the districts that we have tried to start creating, for example, the district that we talk about within the 101 that's based entirely on the concept that those are established neighborhoods that make sense to be together. The same in the
other district that's more centered in Tempe and South Scottsdale. It's a group of communities that makes sense to be together around the light rail and that also appear to create an opportunity for a competitive district.

With regard to communities of interest, seeing as we are now getting to what we are think or what we are doing here, I would just like to again say something I said yesterday about that.

The congressional districts and the legislative districts are not in and of themselves communities of interest, in my mind. A community of interest is a specific locale of people that have a common historic or cultural heritage that come together to engage in the public debate on an issue their bears on, you know, whatever the district is, whether it's legislative or federal.

And those are things that -- you know, they may be census places, they may not be, they may be neighborhoods, they may not be. They may be like Arcadia, which I'm sure I've been in but I've never known it when I was there, but I'm looking forward to being there, and things like that.

But in terms of the whole district, I think of them kind of like George Bush's points of
light. You know, you have a congress congressional
district and you have all of these communities
within it, and we want to try and build districts
where to the extent possible, they all have voices.

We're not going to be able to create --
and that argues I think for nine competitive
districts. We can't do that. We know we can't do
that, but that doesn't mean we can't have a district
where you have a hundred thousand people that's a
community, that you mix up a seventh of a district
that has a strong voice that's coupled with a
growing community in the northern part of the state
that's coupled with a Native American voice.

Because whoever represents that district,
if it is truly competitive, is going to have to pay
attention to those strong communities.

And I'm making particular reference to
that one district that we were talking about that --
and maybe it doesn't get configured that way, maybe
it's another way. But at the end of the day, that's
what the districts are, is they are compilations of
these various communities of interest.

And when they are competitive, the idea
is that they all get -- the communities get to raise
their voice. The goal is not that they get -- it
can't be the goal that every community of interest
gets to have its own representative. It's just not
just that way.

The goal is every community of interest
has to have its voice, have a voice in the process.
I think that's what we are doing. And that means
that different communities may be together but we
are trying to do the best job we can to give them a
voice.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: A couple things.

I did acknowledge Commissioner Freeman's
disagreement with the map. As I said, he has valid
concerns. I was listening and I acknowledge that.

The second thing, the issue of being
willy-nilly, I really take offense to that. I mean,
if Mr. Freeman has been gung ho with the whole
community -- or whole county maps and the river
district, if you compare the splits, they are not
that different.

So either we're willy-nilly and he is as
well or we both created something that's legitimate
and is taking the six criteria into account.

The public comments -- when I was in Oro
Valley, Marana, Saddlebrooke, they wanted to stay together, and I think Commissioner McNulty said that. We're breaking them up. We are keeping them together. And we are keeping them together -- if this were the district we create -- in a competitive district that I don't care if it's a Republican or Democrat, they would have to court their vote because they will not be able to win. If it's that truly competitive -- if it's a Republican that's elected, he or she will not be able to get reelected if he or she is only counting on the Republican vote and ignoring the Democratic.

So that's the whole point of creating competitive districts. You know, the rural districts have hubs of population. To some extent they've taken some population in the urban area, but we're trying to minimize that.

But it's, again, meeting all of the six requirements. It's not easy, as you said, but we are trying -- I think we are doing a pretty good job of minimizing the urban areas into these districts.

So that's it.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.
COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: It's two to one
against me today, so give me some latitude today.

Just one -- I'll comment one aspect of what Commissioner Herrera said, and that is the notion that the so-called river district map is not too dissimilar in terms of splits.

I'll tell you one thing that -- in the river district map, what's for lunch is Pinal County and the southeast Valley. They are split up numerous ways. Pinal County is split four times, Southeast Valley and those communities, they are split up multiple times, and -- which, unfortunately, we didn't get a lot of public comment from this area. We only had a public comment hearing in Mesa. And now -- you know, this area of the state didn't have a seat at the table and now they are getting consumed.

You don't see that in the whole counties approach. You don't see Pinal County split four times. I mean, I acknowledge, you got to split counties to keep the reservation lands whole. You got to possibly split counties to get your voting rights district. And, of course, you got to split Maricopa County and Pima County because there is just too much population there. But you don't see things like what's going on in this map. And I know
that's something we all are probably going to work on. So I'm looking forward to doing that with my fellow commissioners.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would just encourage. I would say -- rather than saying the map is willy-nilly, let's look at that and figure out how we can address your concerns to achieve the overall goal.

I think we talked about San Tan Valley and it looks like that's just a vestige of this being a draft map that needs to be addressed. Same with Pinal County. Let's get our heads together and see if we can figure out a way to improve that and still maintain the -- achieve the overall goals.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I just wanted to say the use of the word "willy-nilly" was probably not the best word. So I apologize. I did not mean it probably the way you took that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Unanimous consent from Mr. Freeman to retract the word "willy-nilly."

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you,
Mr. Freeman.

Madame chair, just quickly let me talk about the splits and see how -- there really isn't -- the congressional -- the whole counties version 6D has unsplit counties at nine. In two districts, four of them. In three or more districts, two of them. That's for Mr. Freeman's version of the whole counties.

In the river district 7A, we have seven counties that are unsplit. Five of them in two districts and three of them in three or more districts. So again, there's a lot of similarities with looking at the splits report.

So again, I know he apologized for the willy-nilly, and I accept it. And again, there's a lot more similarities in these two than there are differences. And I'm looking forward to working with Commissioner Freeman and the rest of you in making them a little more similar.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. That's encouraging.

And that's 12:28 p.m. Maybe we should take a 15-minute break. So we'll be back shortly. We'll go into recess now. Thank you.

(A recess was taken from 12:28 p.m.)
12:53 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We'll enter back into public session. Recess is over. The time is 12:53 p.m.

And I think we've concluded discussions on version 7A for now. Is that accurate? Anybody have any other comments, commissioners?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. So we'll look at what Mr. Desmond produced for us in terms of other what-if scenario congressional grid map full counties version 6D, as in dog.

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes, so for today, we have congressional whole counties version 6D. It's very similar to 6C. The only difference is that when I took -- I was asked to slice up the unassigned area in Maricopa. I started from the other end and -- just to kind of reflect that the population can be divided up different ways.

I don't think this necessarily split more census places or anything. It's just approaching it from the other side.

Also, it's not ready. I don't have data tables to support it or I can't say that it's a finished product, but I could show you river 7C, as
it stands in progress, later, and that was the one you had talked about yesterday where it moved Oro Valley out of the -- out 5. And that one is not ready to go yet. I don't have all of the exports but we could just kind of look at that in progress after, if you wanted to.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ms. McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I just want to interrupt on something completely different, in case there's anyone here from Tucson.

There was news announced that Davis-Monthan in Tucson is on lockdown and that Ron Barber from Gabrielle Giffords' office was there.

I just followed up on that to make sure that nothing had happened in Tucson, and nothing has happened in Tucson. There was apparently a weapon found on the base that wasn't supposed to be there.

The congressperson's staff was in the process of leaving the base when it was found. Davis-Monthan has closed the base so they can figure out what the issue is, but there's no issue and no one has been hurt. Just in case anyone sees that headline, is as concerned about it as I was. So I thought I would make that -- let you know that.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

WILLIE DESMOND: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So this is --

WILLIE DESMOND: This is back to the whole counties. Sorry. I just wanted to let you know that we also had that one so you can plan accordingly, if that's what you're interested in seeing.

Again, just walking through the process of how this whole counties map was developed, it started with the grid map, as all of the other what-if scenarios have. It was then adjusted to respect to county boundaries as much as possible. Adjusted again to not split any reservation areas. Adjusted an additional time to minimize the splits in the rural areas, I believe was the overarching move there.

Am I correct, Commissioner Freeman?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yeah, just to walk through the thought processes on the so-called whole counties map as it's developed, we first took our grid map, we started at that point, and then the first instruction was based on constitutional
criteria, adjust the lines to the grid map so we maximize respect for county lines, recognizing that some counties are going to have to be split by their very nature. So that was number one.

I think the second iteration was, okay, further adjust those lines so we do not split reservation lands.

So now Pinal County has to be split to take care of the TOs and the other tribes up here and Coconino -- well, you didn't get to that.

Oh, yes, we have to go into Coconino County here, too, to keep the Navajo Nation together.

Then I believe the third iteration was -- this could have been the second iteration, I forget, but to take the minority-majority districts, as constructed by the Hispanic Coalition, and overlay -- I believe that was the second step -- overlay that on to the whole counties map. So that created this District 3 and this District 7 here.

Then I believe we further adjusted the map to keep the tribal lands together. So that required us to cross county lines in some places, but I think with substantial justification.

Then I believe the map that produced, we
had -- maybe move the cursor away from there -- I
think District 2 ended up coming -- there was a big
finger that came up here and there was -- this one
had a finger that came in here, and I think it's
because we hadn't quite totally accounted for how
Pinal County -- maximized respect for Pinal County.

So we moved the District 2 line down so
it would follow the Pima County line and then we had
to make some adjustments, some minor adjustments, I
believe to this line that separated 3 from 2 and we
also had to have District 3 gain some more
population, keeping the Voting Rights Act in mind in
the far west rural area of Phoenix to make sure that
Voting Rights Act benchmark was maintained.

And then I believe there was a change
where we -- because for some reason, Pinal County --
the nonreservation land in Pinal County was not kept
whole and we made that further change.

Then I think the next step was District 1
was slightly overpopulated by about I want to say
roughly 40,000 people. So to account for that, we
had to cross a county line. That's the Maricopa
County/Pinal County line. We backed off here, gave
up population and this area is Apache Junction.

So that area was Apache Junction, I
believe would have a strong claim to being tied to Mesa and the rest of the Valley here in the urban area of Maricopa County.

So that seemed like a logical place where we could give up some population and balance out -- make sure we got District 1 closer to the benchmark.

Then -- and you'll have to zoom out on this -- that left us with essentially an entirely urban area, which is the urban area of Maricopa County. It's a fairly compact, nice-looking ball and -- but the districts, as they looked, didn't make -- didn't look right, didn't make a lot of sense at first blush. We weren't trying to do anything with those. We kind of left those.

So what I asked Mr. Desmond to do was -- first of all, just to keep things simple, sort of unassign this area and make it sort of an urban unassigned area leaving District 7 in place, because that's a Voting Rights district, so we leave that alone, and then overlay the grid map again and adjust -- reconstruct, in essence, based on the grid map, these urban districts to try to maximize respect -- to keep them compact, of equal population, and maximize respect to municipal lines.

And what Mr. Desmond said his approach
was to start in the Southeast Valley and work his way up around here in constructing the districts. And that was version 6D of the whole counties map.

WILLIE DESMOND: C.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Or C, I'm sorry, C, which we do not -- which we are not showing here.

And then version 6D, what I did was to illustrate another way that we could do it is to work our way from the west side and construct the districts and to work our way cross. I think Mr. Desmond will probably explain a little more his rationale on all of that.

Now, what I'm trying to do is illustrate there are different ways, perhaps, we could meet constitutional criteria in assembling these urban districts.

And, of course, I think we are required under the Constitution that if we are meeting -- you know, there's no substantial detriment to the other criteria, we would adopt the scenario that created the more competitive districts.

I don't think -- and I would acknowledge that not all -- we haven't even gotten into the communities of interest issue yet, although, I know we've heard a lot of public comment about keeping
certain communities whole because of common
interests.

So I think they have been accounted for
to some degree, but I was -- every instruction given
to the mapping consultant was sort of checking off
one of the constitutional criteria. And really when
you think about -- and maybe zoom back out -- it's
such a complicated problem. It seemed -- and we
heard so much comment about keeping the rural
districts rural and the urban districts urban.
Don't have spokes going into Maricopa County, don't
have them going into Pinal County -- or Pima County.

An approach -- one way to tackle this
problem is to sort of start from the outside of the
state, which is by and large rural, and work your
way in.

And since counties are -- county lines
are one of the factors that we are supposed to
respect and they do comprise large geographic areas.
That was sort of the genesis of this approach. I
think start with whole counties, but whole counties
are not the be all, end all. There are the other
criteria to take into account. There are exceptions
that need to be made, and we are making them as we
progress.
So what that -- an aspect of how this what-if scenario is developed, I really like, is that it keeps this urban area of Maricopa County into a nice sort of contiguous, compact ball and it's something we can work with.

A corollary benefit of the whole counties approach has been that it essentially left us with rural districts. We have two really rural districts. Even District 3, I know it's got parts of west Tucson. It has a lot of rural aspects as well and it keeps the urban districts urban, by and large. It's not going to be perfect. No map is, but it does a lot of those good things.

So those are things that I like.

This, like the river district map, is a work-in-progress and I would think in two or three steps down the road, I do see more changes. I think it may be -- I see probably some more changes up here in the north. So we make sure we account for the Navajo Nation's land.

And I don't know if you have the shape files on there on their land, that maybe we could -- I could get those so I could -- over the weekend and look at where those lands are and how sort of theorize and adjustments that could be made to
northern part of the state.

And, of course, there were numerous ways you could configure, I think, the urban Maricopa County districts, which is something I'm trying to kind of explore.

But otherwise, I mean, the look and feel of the map is one of the things I like about it. It complies with Voting Rights Act. I think we're close on the benchmarks. We could always make further adjustments to make sure we're in compliance there and would pass muster.

So that's sort of a long-winded explanation of the thought processes that went into development of this map.

And I think -- I know we are missing, unfortunately, Commissioner Stertz today, and I don't want to sort of get too enmeshed in the map without his participation and deliberation because I think he helps and contributes.

But I think for today, so at least Mr. Desmond has some homework for next week and with the Chair's indulgence, maybe have him take another crack at least today of reconfiguring the urban area of Maricopa County. And I guess that would be a version -- since I haven't fundamentally changed the
nature of the map, a 6E, if that makes sense.

And if you want to go ahead and draw down again on the urban Maricopa County area --

WILLIE DESMOND: Should I shade the census places again?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yeah, why don't we do that.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: All right.

Again -- so I guess having just seen this map today when I walked into the hearing, I guess the overall -- my sort of overarching comment would be the overall look and feel of it is perhaps make a little more sense to me.

Of course, we are going to have to split Phoenix. We may or may not have to split Scottsdale, although I think Scottsdale is carved up a bit. But my first impression is, well, that makes a little more sense to me than version 6C in terms of the construction of the urban districts. They do seem tight and compact, which is a good thing.

Haven't delved too much into the communities of interest issues at this point.

I guess -- I started at that side -- or we started at this side first and started at that side second. Maybe for the next approach -- and
we've got this north/south alignment here and here.
Could we get this district that keeps more of Scottsdale together?

If we want to talk about public comment,
I do. There was public comment I believe it was at the Phoenix public comment hearing about Scottsdale Road as a divider.

So can we get -- can you reconstruct -- one of the things I would like to see on a reconstructed version 6E is a district that follows generally Scottsdale Road. If we have to pick up more population, you know, Tempe might be an area or Paradise Valley might be an area, might make some sense to me.

These districts -- again, the fact that they are sort of north/south aligned does make sense to me. It's sort of -- in fact, I think it's the way the districts are currently generally constructed.

Over here in the East Valley, a different approach -- rather than having -- this seems to be a product of the fact that this was the last district to be -- this is the leftovers, basically.

So -- and I do think this area deserves some scrutiny and perhaps there could be another way
to make this more -- look a little more compact and
split -- have a split -- and I don't know exactly
where, but it's going to need somewhere to obviously
hit the magic number in terms of population and it's
going to have to split Mesa.

I think -- originally the instruction,
you know, was totally -- maximize your strength for
municipalities boundaries. I think maybe the
instruction should be to sort of minimize splits
because we're going to have to split some
communities. And Mesa -- a Mesa/Chandler split
right there. So this compact area there might be a
goal as well. And I don't have a specific
recommendation, but it's going to depend upon the
population, if that makes sense.

WILLIE DESMOND: And one thing I could
look at, I'm not sure if it would work out, is some
of the splits like in the most northern part of
Scottsdale, I don't think there's a large mountain
of population. That's just kind of a product of
using whole tracts that kind of split it.

It might be possible -- there's some of
the unassigned area, I guess, around Mesa, around --
above Fountain Hills, it might be possible to just
kind of reconfigure the unassigned area a little bit
so that it would allow -- so at least remove one
split of Scottsdale.

I don't know that -- I can look really
quickly and tell you how much population is in this
portion. You know, things like that that just
make -- pass an eyeball test a little easier. If
that's something you want me to do.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN:  Sure. If you can do
it quickly. Nothing is quick on these.

WILLIE DESMOND:  So that one split is
about 4300 people -- or 4400 people. So, I mean,
there's things that -- I haven't moved the
unassigned areas at all, but there's just some small
things like that that might help reduce splits but,
again, it would be again slightly changing the
unassigned area.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN:  So that would take
from 4 and we would have to find 4300 people
basically somewhere else to repopulate that.

Could you zoom out and we can think about
that?

Perhaps a bit more.

WILLIE DESMOND:  We can also have that
for a later --

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN:  Maybe for another
iteration. Maybe I'll leave that for when we start
moving around the northern area of the state with
this what-if scenario. But proceed as directed in
terms of reconfiguring the urban districts.

WILLIE DESMOND: Okay. Are there other
things you would like to see on this or -- I think
since that's the only one that's changed, everything
else is as it was yesterday and the day before.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yeah, can you zoom
out so I can see the entire map, Mr. Desmond?

Let me first talk about the -- there are
some good qualities about this map, so I want to
talk about the -- in this particular map respecting
the Voting Rights Act, the majority-minority
district, so I do commend Commissioner Freeman.

I also want to commend him on -- I think
this map is getting to -- he's trying to create as
many competitive districts as possible. At least I
look at it that way. It's not quite there, but we
are basing it on information that we do have. It
still has some work to it. But, again, it's
getting -- and there's some similarities with
competitiveness with the river district version 7A.

Now, the areas I do want to focus on that
are major flaws in this particular map -- can you focus on Pinal and let me know how many counties -- how many districts it's split into?

WILLIE DESMOND: I believe it's three.
The reservation areas, Apache Junction, and then the rest of it.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: So it's splitting it into three, even though this is a whole county map. Okay.

So then let me talk about the Flagstaff area. Where is the Flagstaff area? What district is it in?

WILLIE DESMOND: The non-Navajo areas of 4.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: It's in the western rural district.

Now, if -- again, public was pretty clear that the citizens of Flagstaff wanted to be with the Navajo Nation. The people of the Navajo Nation also talked about that.

So, again, talk about not respecting communities of interest, this map does that. It ignores the public comments in Flagstaff and also from the Navajo Nation.

Let's look at Globe at the area around
Southern Gila County.

So this particular map puts Globe in the river district; is that correct? Am I reading it correctly?

WILLIE DESMOND: District Number 4.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Which is what I call the river district.

So this separates -- this particular area, which is Globe, southern Gila County, from the copper corridor. Again, a community of interest.

Let's look at San Tan, which is eastern rural -- the eastern rural district. It puts San Tan, which is an urban area, just like Marana and Oro Valley into the eastern rural district.

Again, another major flaw in this particular map.

And it also -- go ahead. I'll let you find it, the San Tan Valley.

Did you find it?

Right there.

WILLIE DESMOND: The San Tan is actually in District Number 1.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Which is the -- is that the eastern rural?

WILLIE DESMOND: No, I believe that is --
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yeah, that is eastern rural.

WILLIE DESMOND: Oh, you're right.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, it's a suburban area in a rural area, just like Marana and Oro Valley.

And then another one, and this is the Navajo -- the people -- the Native American leaders yesterday talked about -- that particular District 1 that they are in, goes all the way from the Utah border to the Mexico border. Again, a major flaw in this particular map.

So again, I pointed out some good things about this map, but again, there's some areas that need to be worked on. And that concerned me. Not only concerned me but also concerned the public comment.

I mean, the Navajo leaders were pretty clear they didn't want this particular map, in terms of that area that stretches all the way down to Cochise. So talk about not having nothing in common, the Cochise with the Navajo -- with the Navajo/Apache area.

So again, those are my comments about the particular map. I have more to talk about, but I'll
take a break.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.
And comments from others?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: Well, I thank Commissioner Herrera for commending the map for complying with the Voting Rights Act.

With respect to Flagstaff and the Navajo reservation, we heard yesterday, the Navajos talk about a district that would grab the Navajos living in the north part of Flagstaff and also extend into these relatively lightly populated areas and pick up the Pai tribes. That's something that can be accomplished.

We also talked about public comment. We heard a lot of public comment at Hon Dah and those folks did not talk about putting Flagstaff with the White Mountains. In fact, in the river district map, which does that, that's ignoring that public comment. So it's not that easy. You know, everyone is not going to get what they want. But to just say in an absolute sense, my map respects public comment, yours doesn't, that's not the case.

With respect to Globe and Gila County, we
heard lots of public comment about -- also at Hon Dah about keeping Gila County whole and not carving it up. The county line has to be crossed a couple of places there because -- to respect reservation land. Otherwise, it's kept whole. I think that's a good thing.

Same thing with Pinal County. We heard comments from them about keeping their county whole. This does that.

Now, it does have to -- the lines are crossed in a couple of places here because -- only because of reservation land. And the last place it's crossed is the Apache Junction carve-out, which was -- I would put that under -- to the extent practicable language in the Constitution. We had to do that to balance the population and we did it in a place that made sense. Apache Junction has strong ties to Mesa in the East Valley. So that's why -- that justified that comment for that carve-out in that area.

So that's just a response to Commissioner Herrera's comments. But as with his map that he's been developing, this is still, I'll emphasize, a work-in-progress. There are ways to improve the map, I think, to make it fit a little better with
Arizona. It has some good aspects in terms of it does keep rural districts rural, and that's what's going on here. Cochise County -- all of these areas on the west side -- or the east side of Arizona, it's expansive, and it's expansive because it's lightly populated and you got to cover large areas to swallow up the population.

And what's in common with all of these areas is it is essentially rural Arizona. And that links -- that's a commonality between Cochise County and the more northern parts of the state. It's a rural district.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I said I'd take a break, I'm back from my break.

I didn't know San Tan Valley was rural, but okay.

But I made my points on -- and I commented the map on some of the good points and so I wanted to make sure there's some good qualities about this map, but there's some major flaws. And I stated a couple and let me state some more.

The -- Mr. Desmond, if you could go to the Pai tribes, which is the Havasupai and the
Hualapai.

Now, am I looking at it correctly, is it split? Are they -- are they all in District Number 1?

WILLIE DESMOND: They are all in District Number 4.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Which is the western rural district. And I think the public comments were, again, they didn't want to separate -- they didn't want them separate from the Navajo and the Hopi tribes. And the river district version 7A keeps them whole, is that correct, in the eastern --

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, respecting public comments, which this map does not. It puts them in a district that they won't have any representation. It will be a -- it's an extremely -- it's a noncompetitive district and their voices will not be heard.

And so that's why I thought that in my -- in the river district 7A, they are included in the eastern rural district, which is more appropriate and based on public comment. Again, another flaw with this particular map.

Let's look at the northern -- the
north/south configuration of Maricopa County districts.

So this one connects the urban sprawl with well-established areas of the interior of the city. And I think it -- in my -- in the river district version 7A, it's 9 -- District 9 and we are trying to keep it contained or away from that urban sprawl. This map does not.

I think -- let me see what else did I write down?

And the north/south divide as an effect to minimizing competition.

So again, although there's some qualities that I like about this map, there's some -- there's quite a few issues that need to be addressed. And again, as I was saying when I presented the river district 7A, yeah, there's some flaws in my map and Mr. Freeman was quick to point them out without complimenting some of the things that he liked about the map.

So I want to compliment his map but I also want to point out some of the major flaws of this particular map, which I did.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Mr. Freeman.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: No fair. You're anticipating.

With respect to San Tan, I'm glad Commissioner Herrera acknowledges that it's a densely populated, some could consider sort of urban or at least suburban area. And I acknowledge that, but at least it's kept in Pinal County where it is and it's not connected to, you know, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu.

I know he's going to try to work on that, and I'm glad. Maybe I can help in some respects.

With respect to the Pai tribes up north, first of all, these are vast areas that are lightly populated. And I believe I said earlier, so I'll say it again, there maybe ways we can adjust this line up here to take that into account and get them over there.

As it is, they are all kept whole, and they are kept the Colorado River tribes. But if that's something we need to do to go capture those, that's an adjustment -- that's a further iteration down the road.

In terms of Maricopa County divisions, I mean, that's how Phoenix is laid out. These cities are laid out north/south. They are growing
north/south, by and large.

It does make some sense that we take a look, at least, at a configuration that sort of respects the way to the Phoenix Maricopa County area fits together, respects the way the cities and municipal borders fit together, which is why I'm interested in exploring another subversion of this version that sees how these pieces -- puzzle pieces can be put together in a way that makes sense for the Valley.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The issue with the Pai tribes really is an important issue because we need to respect the Voting Rights Act, first and foremost. So I think that that's -- that's why I bring that up. I think that particular part of the map it really concerning. It really concerns me. We do need to respect the Voting Rights Act. And I think those people represented in that area would have a legitimate gripe. And I want to make sure it doesn't get that far.

We talked to them, we addressed their issues and we put them in a district that they want
to be in, which is the -- with the Navajos and the Hopis. And I think Mr. Freeman -- Commissioner Freeman has addressed that and I think it's something we'll be working on.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

We have actually a public comment on the 6D version.

David Cantelme from FAIR Trust.

DAVID CANTELME: Thank you, Madame Chairman and thank you, commissioners.

I think overall -- speaking overall -- is this 7d, is that the label on it?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: 6D.

DAVID CANTELME: This is an improvement, a significant improvement under the neutral criteria over any map that I have seen so far. And let me explain why I say that.

First, anybody who is familiar with Phoenix knows that the city grew north to south -- or south to north. It's the way it happened.

I was born in Phoenix. I've lived there for 57 years. I can tell you exactly how it happened. And that's exactly what happened.

The 101 is a completely artificial barrier. I lived on 13th Drive two blocks north of
the 101 30 years ago when I was a young lawyer working at Lewis & Roca. Before the 101 was built, it bisected my neighborhood. I watched it being built. It is simply a matter of convenience.

Actually, it was supposed to go down Bell Road and it was moved to Beardsley because of politics. It's got no significance whatsoever to any of the areas south of it or north of it. It's simply an arterial. That's all it is.

Now, in 7A -- I live in Cave Creek. I would be placed in the river district. That makes no sense. My brother and my nephew, who live three miles west of me, would be in an entirely different district. We are in the same area. The church that I go to would be in a different district. It doesn't make sense.

What this does and why I say it's an improvement is because it mirrors the natural growth of the Phoenix and west Valley area and it mirrors the natural growth in the Southeast Valley.

Now, in terms of -- if you could go to the statewide map, please, Mr. Desmond, the statewide configuration.

That unites Flagstaff with the Verde Valley. We have heard that from the Flagstaff
people over and over again, where as 7A divides Flagstaff from the Verde Valley.

Criticism was made that this includes Cochise and that the Navajos did not want Cochise.

That is not accurate. If you look at the map that's posted on your very website of their preferred district, it takes Cochise and it comes around and gets the Tohono O'odham. That is their very preferred district.

Now, that's not going to fly because that's going to affect District 3 and probably put District 3 in violation of the Voting Rights Act. So it's not realistic to come all way down and over and get Tohono O'odham.

But the point is, putting Cochise and anybody who knows Arizona well knows that that is a rural, ranching area. That fits with Greenlee, it fits with Graham, it fits with Navajo and Apache Counties. It make sense to do it that way.

In Pinal, Pinal is cut but only on that map, at least as I see it, based on the location of the reservations. And that, I think we're all agreed, is the primary concern in map drawing, that you not split reservations.

I agree with Mr. Herrera, you probably
ought to reach over, and I don't know that Mr. Freeman is opposed to it, based on comments I just heard, you probably should reach over and get the Hualapais and the Havasupais, and it can be easily done because that population is very, very thin in that part of Coconino County.

So you could easily do that and satisfy the concerns of the Native Americans that live in the Canyon and not really cause any harm to Coconino County or to Mohave or to other counties.

On competitiveness -- now, I don't have the figures. I don't know if you have them. I hope you do, but just from eyeballing it, District 1 in that iteration is going to be a competitive district.

District 2 in that iteration is going to be a competitive district that has probably as many competitive districts by any objective measure as 7A had.

And here is your difficulty. It's no big secret. You have to create the two Latino districts, there's no way around it. And when do you that, you cause some -- you make it harder to make the competitive districts, as many competitiveness districts as we would all like.
It's just a fact of life in Arizona. You have to create those two Latino districts. There's no way around it.

So I would strongly commend this approach. I agree with Mr. Herrera. And don't take offense to this, Mr. Herrera, there's probably some tinkering that you can do that would improve this map, and I think everybody acknowledges that. But the concepts behind it are solid and sound.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I did talk about the issue of competitiveness and that this particular map was trying to do that. So I want to make sure that that's -- that I point that out again because that was a lot of similarities between river district 7A and whole counties version 6D, including respecting the Voting Rights Act, trying to get as competitive as possible.

But I do have -- as I said -- and Mr. Cantelme was correct and I agree with him that we should try to get the Pai tribes in with the Navajo and Apaches.

But I think the Navajo Nation, when they...
were presenting their map, it did not go all the way to the Mexican border. And I think they made some comments that they do not want that.

And although I think that their map did go into Cochise, it didn't go to the border. And I think public comment was pretty clear yesterday that they do not want that to happen. That there's a lot of differences there between the Mexican border and where they are at, and I think river district 7A respects their comments.

And I think we can work with them to create or get as close as possible to creating a map that they be comfortable with. And I think river district version 7A does that more so than this particular map.

And I'm just talking about the eastern rural district. But, again, there's a lot of good things about this map that I like, but we have a lot of tinkering to do on this one, and including the river district version 7A.

So those are my comments.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

Any other comments?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I just want to make clear, we're all clear to respond to criticism, and
although that was some criticism there, I'm not going to respond to it. I don't want to get into a debate back and forth and who gets the last word game like we've kind of been playing. So, no, my answer is no.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Well, I applaud both Mr. Herrera and Mr. Freeman on taking these maps forward. They've both worked hard on moving the river district version and the whole counties ones along. And there are strengths and weaknesses to both of them. And the constructive criticism is helpful. So I hope that we can continue down that path to try to merge those two together in some way.

So our next -- is there anything else on other congressional grid map what-if scenarios?

Willie, you mentioned -- there is a 7C that has been sort of drafted but not completely --

WILLIE DESMOND: It's close. I didn't have a chance to make the layouts and the data tables that go with it and stuff. I can show it to you briefly or else we can wait until those are finished.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Go ahead and show it briefly. We might as well. Because I don't think
we have anything on the legislative maps that's new
to discuss today is that correct?

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes, I don't think we
do.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

WILLIE DESMOND: Okay. So 7C was built
off of the river district. Following some questions
on whether or not parts of Pima County specifically,
Marana and Oro Valley should be with Flagstaff, I
guess, in this one proposed District 5.

So I was asked to reallocate Oro Valley,
Casas Adobes and Marana to District Number 1.
Additionally to have District Number 1 go across the
county line there and get Saddlebrooke in order to
keep Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke together.

When I did that, I believe we lost about
140,000 people from District Number 5. As a result,
District Number 5 needed to be extended down.

Previously it had taken about half of
Greenlee and the parts of Graham County that are
reservation lands.

So the first step was to extend District
5 to encompass whole counties there. After that,
the only place really left for it to go and get
population from District 1 was in Cochise County.
I allocated the entire county then to District Number 5 which turned -- overpopulated it. And so in order to balance the population, I extended 1 into Cochise.

I don't think this is necessarily the prettiest district. Again, this is a working thing. There might be ways to respect municipal boundaries a little more.

But I would also be happy to hear different ways you would like to see that balance done so that when I do present a more finalized version, next week, it's a step closer, I guess, to ultimately what you would like to see there.

So I'll zoom in on that area and we can walk through anything you would like to.

So as you can see, it takes about half of Sierra Vista, and that's primarily where it does get its population from. I think it's -- I'll tell you how many -- so this portion of Cochise that's in 1 is about 34,000 people. Of that, about half are in Sierra Vista, the rest are in the other areas.

Again, it would be possible to maybe keep Cochise whole if 5 could instead -- or if -- it could be kept whole in 1 so that it would this area of Pima and then all of Cochise but then 5 would
have to come in and grab some areas over here.

Does that make sense?

So I could get all of this area again, take about 97,000 people more but then it would have to give up 97,000 people in this area to 5.

And I also should point out that Commissioner Stertz had asked for another version, I believe it's version 7D, which will take District 1 and extend it all the way through Santa Cruz and in turn make a third border district, where the eastern part of Tucson and those areas would be grouped with Santa Cruz and create a third border district, but I haven't had a chance to play around with that yet.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman, did you have something?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, I just wanted to maybe explore some things.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Go ahead.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: What if you only just grabbed -- I mean, one scenario is like you mentioned, you could draw the county line there.

If you just grab Benson, to me, intuitively, there could be an argument that Benson -- put it in that District 1 and keep Sierra Vista whole. So now the effect of that would be
that District 5 would be overpopulated, District 1 would be underpopulated.

So to add some more population to 1, I mean, is it possible to adjust this line, keeping in mind Voting Rights Act concerns for this district, so it's got to balanced just right and it's going to be a line that makes sense, because what would be the population that would have to be added? What are we losing here? Was it 35,000, did you say?

WILLIE DESMOND: That's in the part of Cochise County that's in District 1 is about 34,000 people, 35,000 people.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Total.

So if we only grab Benson --

WILLIE DESMOND: Let me look.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- and this community --

WILLIE DESMOND: So that's about 7,000 people. Probably be a couple more hundred when I have to grab the other areas in order to link it in.

So then we would need to make up about 28,000 people somewhere else.

So I guess what you're saying would be then to extend 1 over somewhere into 2 and then have 2 grab some parts of 5, correct, respecting the --
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, 2 could grab parts of 5 or it could grab part of west -- Southwest Phoenix and grab those Hispanic populations up there, and, of course, that's going to ripple through the map.

WILLIE DESMOND: Well, 1 is the one that needs to make it up. So 1 can only grab from 5 or 2 because those are the only ones it borders.

So under that scenario, 1 would be underpopulated by about 28,000 people. So the first step would be 1 would have to reach the 710,000. It could -- as I mentioned, it could grab that potentially over here or it could grab it, you know, anywhere along the border in Pima.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Right. We know it can be done because whole counties version whatever does that.

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And it respects the county line. In this one, you got this population up here of Saddlebrooke, so it actually makes the job easier. And also got this small population in Benson making it further easier.

So I guess that might be one way to do it, is to -- so we don't split Sierra Vista, is grab
Benson and make some fine -- maybe look at what we did in one of the whole county scenarios to make the -- to balance it out there. That's my thought.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

What is that line in the Tucson metro area. I'm just curious what the boundary is, if you could zoom in.

WILLIE DESMOND: Sure. I'll just start at the top, I guess.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, that would be good.

What is that east/west boundary?

WILLIE DESMOND: So that's Grant Road.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

WILLIE DESMOND: And then Grant Road goes east/west until it reaches -- I don't see the name -- North Tucson Boulevard. It pretty much follows right along that until it -- it goes on that until it hits East Speedway Boulevard to Country Club South to 22nd Street, to -- I'm sorry -- South Alvernon Way. South -- and then this area is not really -- it's not running along roads as much as it is just kind of running along the boundary of municipal Tucson.

Back on East 10 and then Alvernon again
and along I-10 until it hits Los Reales, south along what looks like just an arbitrary census block boundary so Southwest Gas and then down Country Club again, Pima Mine Road and then along the border of Sahuarita and kind of along the border of Green Valley.

I believe this is like an entire census block or a block group or tract. Some kind of larger level of census -- I can't say for certain at this point, but I believe this line comes largely from the Hispanic Coalition for Good Government's suggested district. I know that was the original intent here. So it's probably been changed a little bit at times but largely --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.

Well, in terms of moving forward with this one, I mean, I would be happy to do what Mr. Freeman suggested in terms of just seeing what -- dealing with Benson would do to kind of balance that situation out.

And I'll probably work on this myself and just also think of things individually that I will e-mail to Mr. Bladine that can be sent to all of the commissioners. But I have to do some more thinking.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I was just sort of on the fly there. I don't know if it makes sense or not, but Benson there may be -- if I think about it, it's not a large population center, obviously, but it may -- it's in Cochise County and it ties maybe more towards Cochise County, but it was just a thought to avoid splitting -- at the very least avoid splitting Sierra Vista, give it a try and see.

I know you were focused on this issue here. I mean, it's -- there's the rest of the map to look at, too. But I agree with you, it might be worth our while to -- I don't think it would be too onerous to try to revise and make a different version of this to see where it leads.

WILLIE DESMOND: Yeah. Absolutely.

And this is the type of -- I guess I wouldn't say to the level of fine-tuning, but, you know, going forward, this is the type of thing that can be done in session, almost, where we can play around with these things.

They are not terribly -- it's not a really long time process to make some of these changes and then you can see on the fly option 1, option 2 and allow you to evaluate.
So just keep that in mind as we keep moving forward that we do have the ability to, although it is kind of excruciating for everyone else watching, we do have the ability to work some of these -- work through some of these things as a group and in public session.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Yeah, I might give some content about Benson.

It's on the San Pedro River which flows north and south. It's very much part and parcel of sort of an economic corridor that flows into St. David, south of there is Sierra Vista up and down the border.

So it's much more aligned with the communities along the San Pedro River than it would be with Metro Tucson. It's a growing area. It's probably -- I would say the population is over 5, 6,000 people. Probably heading towards the population of Saddlebrooke.

WILLIE DESMOND: I can tell you. It's 6917.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It's even a little more than I thought. It's growing fairly quickly.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Any other comments on this one?

Okay. We'll then plan on some new versions for Thursday. That's our next meeting date. And all of us are going to have to do some work since we have such a long period comparatively to our normal schedule before we're all in a room together. So I hope all commissioners will be working to come up with some new ideas or adjustments to some of these versions we've already created.

And if you have other great ideas, that we should share those with Mr. Desmond in a way that we can do it through Mr. Bladine first and then on to Mr. Desmond so that all commissioners can then get the information and see what we are -- what ideas we've come up with.

Anything else on maps today?

Do you have what you need, Mr. Desmond to --

WILLIE DESMOND: I think so. There's a fairly long list --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Long list.

WILLIE DESMOND: -- form yesterday. If there is anything that comes up, please send it my
way and I will be forwarding stuff to you as it's been completed to give you more time to look at these as they are going -- as they are being developed.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great.

And the idea is that Mr. Strasma will be at our next meeting, is that right, on the 22nd?

WILLIE DESMOND: Yeah. Ken is planning on being here next week for both meetings and I think he's going to plan on presenting something further on competitiveness that will deal with the new information we have ready to go on registration, possibly on the '04, '06 but I'm not confident in that.

But, you know, just talking about the different ways of blending election results and registration data to give you guys a picture of how those can be used as a measure. So kind of laying out different iterations of those averages and blends and stuff so we can evaluate them, which ones are important to look at with future versions.

I doubt he'll advocate one standalone one. Probably something similar to the compactness combination of different ones to give you relative ideas instead of a bright line.
I'm pretty sure he's not going to say this is the number where something is competitive and this is the number it's not. Just so you know that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you. And I don't think we have any new information on legislative maps today; is that right?

WILLIE DESMOND: Not that I know of. So again, if you have ideas over the weekend, let me know.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We will do that.

Just looking at the agenda, the next item, item 5, discussion and possible action on transparency policy, that item we are going to table until Mr. Stertz can be with us. As you heard earlier, there was an emergency family situation, so he couldn't make it today and we would all like to have him here for that. So we will plan on that going on the agenda for Thursday's meeting on the 22nd.

The next item, item 6, is executive director's report.

And, Mr. Bladine.
RAY BLADINE: Good morning. I thought maybe what I would do is as a part of the director's report, jump down and do the future meetings now, and I have an updated list and then I'll kind of put the two together because a lot of what I have is to try to get us updated on the schedule and items.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

RAY BLADINE: Let me see if I have -- yes, I do.

This is the current information that I have and we have copies for the public here also to look at.

Tentatively, we have scheduled -- we have already talked about it, next Thursday, the 22nd, a meeting from 1:00 until 7:00. On Friday, the 23rd, I now have that have 1:00 to 4:30. And both of those locations look like they will be Wild Horse Pass.

And I think it looks to me like unless somebody has changed it, that should still work.

And then going on to next week, I believe --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry, on that Wild Horse Pass, what are the hours that one?

RAY BLADINE: I have Thursday 1:00 until
7:00. No, I'm sorry, 9:00. We start at 9:00. Now, I guess that works with Commissioner Freeman -- I mean Stertz, sorry, who I have down had a foundation meeting until 11:00 on the last agenda I had.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I thought we were meeting all day both those days.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So I did.

RAY BLADINE: 9:00 then to 7:00.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thursday and Friday.

RAY BLADINE: And then I have Friday right now starting at 9:00 to 4:30. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, maybe you can confirm with Mr. Stertz, but I'm pretty sure we were all going to meet all day both days.

RAY BLADINE: He cleared it?

And then for the following week again, I believe you had asked to try to hold that open. I'm not -- we have a few days before we do the posting, but it would be good to get some direction as to what days you would like to try to meet and some times and then we can go ahead and get an agenda posted and look for locations.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I agree.

I know that I have a conflict on
September 27th and it's early afternoon. So whether
we are able to do something in the morning but it
would have to be in Tucson or later afternoon going
into the evening, that would work as well. But,
unfortunately, it's at 1:30 and it would last about
an hour.

RAY BLADINE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: So we could meet
in Tucson that day and we could just break from 1:00
to 3:00 perhaps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, that would
work. But everything else -- so it looks like on
that Monday, the 26th, there's just an hour where
Mr. Herrera is not available. But it's looking like
the rest of the days are all pretty open.

RAY BLADINE: Then let me -- on Tuesday,
the 27th, we would start at 9:00, break from 1:00
until 3:00, then come back at 3 o'clock and that
would be in Tucson on the -- I jumped back on you on
the 27th.

And then do you want to try to do
something on the afternoon of Monday the 26th or
make the 27th your first meeting that week?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think if we
decided that on -- I guess you need to find a place
to hold the meeting?

RAY BLADINE: Let's see. We would not have to post until Friday the 23rd to be able to make a Monday meeting.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Would you have to put a deposit on a room?

RAY BLADINE: Well, sometimes that happens. It really depends on where we go. We probably could find a room, but I think it would also help the consultants if we knew whether they had to be back in town on that day or not.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Oh, they definitely need to be here.

RAY BLADINE: On Monday?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I don't think there's any question. We are going to need them here that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I think we should plan to meet on Monday the 26th.

RAY BLADINE: Okay. Do you want to start after 10 a.m., in the afternoon?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, that would probably make the most sense since there's a conflict from 9:00 to 10:00.

I have a situation where I also have a
possible work meeting that late afternoon, but I don't have the information in front me so I would have to tell you later. But I think that starting at 11:00 and going, you know, until however late is required, we could do that. And I'll get with you as soon as I can actually get my work calendar.

Tuesday, it's looking like everybody is available except my conflict at 1:30. So we can do that suggestion that Ms. McNulty said of breaking from 1:00 to 3:00, but meeting the rest of the day.

Then the 28th, 29th, and 30th are all wide open.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Do we schedule meetings in Casa Grande all three days?

RAY BLADINE: Wherever -- if you would like us to try Casa Grande, we'll make that the first priority. As you know, we've had a couple times where we couldn't get a facility in Casa Grande but we would make that the first priority.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So the 27th would be Tucson, 28th through the 30th Casa Grande, and on Monday, would that be -- Mr. Herrera, is your -- you're probably in Phoenix, right?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So in order for -- it would probably be Casa Grande if we tried to do
something like that where you would have to build in
time so he could drive down after his meeting.

RAY BLADINE: Should we try like a 12:00
to 7:00 on the 26th?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes, but again, I'll
have to check.

RAY BLADINE: You'll check.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And you'll need to
follow up with Mr. Stertz, too, and make sure he can
do all of those, too.

RAY BLADINE: Okay. Then on the rest of
that week, do you want the meetings to start at what
time in Casa Grande, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any ideas from
anybody? Do you want to start in the morning?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think we've been
starting at 9:00 that seems to work pretty well.
And if we're making a lot of progress in session, we
can do that. And if not, we can break and then send
the mapping folks to work and then come back the
next day.

RAY BLADINE: Should we try to reserve a
room until, like, 4:00 and see where we are? In
other words, start at 9:00 and at least be able to
go to 4:00 or 5:00. If on the other hand we turn
the mapping people loose, then we turn them loose,
or do you want us just to try to arrange for something from 9:00 to 12:00?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think we should just reserve the room all day those three days. And if we finish early, great. But if we're making progress, then we could keep working.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I agree.

RAY BLADINE: I don't want to -- what would be "all day"? 7:00? 9:00?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Do they charge us by the hour?

RAY BLADINE: Well, sometimes it's a half. Day charge and we have security charges. There is a financial thing here, but we got to do what we got to do to map.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah. For sure until 5:00. So 9:00 to 5:00 I think is fair since we're starting early.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Will the hotel give us any sort of break since we're a good customer?

RAY BLADINE: We have been working on that, and sometimes yes and sometimes we haven't been able to. But they already really have. They have cut back from the regular rate. If we book
three in a row, we'll certainly try to get a reduced rate.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: That's good to hear because there are lots of good places up here in Phoenix and a lot of people up here in Phoenix too that might be interested in following the process.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree.

RAY BLADINE: I would comment that I was surprised to find that we have had conflict in Casa Grande because I really didn't think we would have that much going on this summer. But we actually had three different places we checked last week and they were all booked. But we won't know until we try again.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And speaking of Casa Grande, is there conference space at the other Holiday Inn Express or no?

RAY BLADINE: No, there is not. We checked that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Because it's an Express. I would like it if it were closer to the freeway.

RAY BLADINE: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The other idea is the Wild Horse Pass, which is where we are going.
next week.

RAY BLADINE: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So they might --

RAY BLADINE: That would be the backup to
try Casa Grande and then if not, see if we can do
Wild Horse Pass then here. We're trying to find
places that have been reasonably priced and as close
to the freeway as we can.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right. We
appreciate that.

Okay. And then it's the week of
October 3rd, and I don't know -- obviously, none of
us know how this will progress. Hopefully we will
have made great progress and have draft maps
generated by then that would allow us to move
forward and actually take them on the road.

Any thoughts on that, commissioners?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: My thought would
be we need to -- just looking at where we are, I
think we've got work to do on the congressional
maps, certainly two days worth of work, it sounds
like. We've got a work to do on the legislative
maps, but I think we are making a lot of progress on
both fronts.

I think we need to be prepared to go out
for hearings by the second week in October. But I'm concerned that if we commit to -- with some other things going on the week of October 3rd, if we commit to be at hearings the beginning of that week, we are really -- we're not going to have the whole of the week before that both to get maps done, to get Strategic Telemetry to do work on them and to comment on them.

So I'm concerned that that's not practical. But on the other hand, I'm concerned that we need to get two sets of maps together that are good draft maps that we can take out. And just my -- we've been talking about the feel of things. The feel of this for me that that week of October 9th makes sense to be looking at as the date by which we have two drafts that are sufficiently well thought out that we can release them and get comment on them. That's just my sense.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: My take away from that is we just need to maximize the days we have available on all of our schedules, and I am trying to do that.

One thought I had looking forward, I don't think we need to commit to these later --
these weeks that are farther out at this point, but we need to do what we need to do, and I'm prepared to do it. It would be nice if we built in a day here or there so I could get my dry cleaning done and a few other things.

I know we talked about Saturday meetings as well, if that allows us to build sort of an off day during the work week and then we can take it up on a Saturday. I mean, I'm certainly open to that. I know we talked about that before, but I don't see that on -- at least I don't think I'm seeing that on the proposal. So I don't know if that was -- some decision was made and those days were off the table. I just throw that out there.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I had thought, too, about October 1st, that commissioners could hold that as a possible meeting date, too. That's a Saturday in case we end up deciding to -- and needing to go meet that day.

Yeah, in terms of that week, I'm -- you know, these draft maps aren't a final exam, they are draft maps. And I'm really anxious to not create something that's willy-nilly, so to speak, but also something that we can be proud of that we have analysis done on that we can take. And I'm very
concerned about pushing this out further, to not start until the week of the 9th.

And I'm wondering, you know, could we start midweek even of that first week in October, maybe the 5th or the 6th and then, you know, the hearings would go into that Friday, Saturday weekend?

And I know no one knows. We don't know exactly what we will happen. But if we could try to strive for that and -- I just think it's really important that we get it done.

And this would be knowing full well that, of course, we are going to be making adjustments to the draft map based upon the input we receive on the road.

So it's by no means the final solution. So that's my thought.

I know Kristina is very interested in us coming up with a time that we can commit to so she can start to reserve places.

RAY BLADINE: Madame Chair, and we can work out whatever needs to be worked out that way, but she also reminded me that October 7th and 8th are two high Jewish holidays, so that wouldn't be good days to have hearings.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. That would mean the soonest would be that Friday, the 7th -- 7th, 8th, that weekend?

RAY BLADINE: Correct. I guess if you were talking about perhaps starting midweek, Wednesday, Thursday, if you were that far along would work, but probably the 7th and 8th we wouldn't want to have a hearing.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Isn't that a Friday, Saturday?

RAY BLADINE: I have the -- yes, Friday, Saturday, 7th and 8th.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, 7th --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: That's a weekend anyway.

RAY BLADINE: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Which are the holidays?

RAY BLADINE: The 7th and 8th.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So that is a Friday, Saturday.

So, yeah, I mean, we would just be starting the 5th and doing the 6th and then not doing it the 7th and 8th, which I guess is an option.
Any thoughts from anybody?

It would be good to get some input from the mapping consultant on what this does to the timeline if we don't start until the 9th of October?

WILLIE DESMOND: I mean, it pushes the timeline back, obviously. I don't know exactly the deadlines and why they are in place. I'm pretty sure from purely a Department of Justice standard -- and the lawyers might be able to comment on this -- there isn't a deadline that's very near.

I think what we have been trying to get this done for is try to accommodate all of the counties which have to go through and redraw all of their precinct lines based off of these maps. So they are eager to see these so that they can form precinct lines to get ready to hold their own elections next year.

I'm not sure other than that. I could have Andrew, who has been really spearheading that in our office send something out to you guys this weekend or early next week to -- you know, speaking to that, how starting the -- would that be starting the 10th, then, or starting the 5th, how those might affect the overall timeline?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes, that would be
great, knowing that we would not be having hearings on the 7th, 8th. So I guess there is the option to start Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th and then continuing on to the 10th, I guess is a Monday, and what that does to timeline. That would be good to know.

RAY BLADINE: We could then go ahead for this week, schedule the two meetings we know about, go ahead and schedule next week. And during some part of this week coming up, maybe talk more about what you want to do on the 5th and 6th after Willie has a chance.

But at least we have enough to get us going on setting up the current meetings we need and then we'll see when you feel would be appropriate to start the second round of hearings.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. That sounds good.

RAY BLADINE: Next item I had, if we have that covered, was just to go over future agenda items and I brought extra copies -- I think I sent you a list -- here, I'll let you take and -- thanks. I think I sent you a list yesterday and now I have to add the transparency policy to this list and just to make sure that we haven't
overlooked anything.

   Just to quickly go over it, monthly we talk about expenditures, and I will, as a part of my report in a minute, go ahead and do that.

   We haven't scheduled dates on some of these, others look like we have completed. I won't run over them unless you would like me to.

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: No, unless others would like to have Mr. Bladine go over it.

   RAY BLADINE: Willie.

   WILLIE DESMOND: We need to add the Ken's presentation on competitiveness. If you would probably add it for Thursday and Friday of next week, just in case it doesn't get accomplished on Thursday.

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And then the transparency discussion is also on the Thursday agenda.

   RAY BLADINE: Okay. Again, I'll revise this Monday and send it back out to you and you can always individually call me and then I'll update it. But we hadn't looked at it for a while, so I thought it would be worthwhile to check.

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: That's good.

   Thank you.
RAY BLADINE: And then I also thought I would take a few minutes and just kind of review where we are in terms of our current budget.

And I'll hand out -- I brought some copies of the -- it's basically the same projection sheet that I had handed out before, and I thought I would just take a few minutes to comment on some of the changes I know about and also to go over some of the expenditures in just a little more detail so you have an idea.

First, just to give you background, actually the -- our budget is and our expenditures are overseen by the Arizona State Boards Office, which is Megan Darian. We send all of our documents through her. She forwards them on to the State Accounting Office and they produce information that she takes and provides in a spreadsheet. So she's been very helpful in getting the information that we need.

The problem with us doing a budget and looking in the future is that about the only thing we can look at definitively is something that happened ten years ago and has happened a little differently. So it's a little bit hard to pin expenditures down in terms of looking forward.
I have looked at what was done last year as a way to try to project for the future. I haven't spent a lot of time projecting out in great detail past December. I've just kind of carried numbers out.

At that point it still shows at the time this document was prepared, a remaining balance of about 580,000. At this point, I would think that our balance will probably be closer to about 450 when we add in the possibility of the consultants we will be hiring and the legal counsel.

If you take a look at the first item under the expenditures, the detail, legal fees 230, it is broken down in detail as to what the billings were through August. We will, of course, have additional billings, and I had budgeted about 150,000 a month for legal services and for Strategic Telemetry.

Up to the current time, we've spent about $613,000. Again September will have some of the August activity, but I think we still are in pretty good shape in terms of living within the appropriation at least to carry out the mapping activities.

Obviously, if we get involved in
litigation beyond what we see right now, that isn't going to fall within the appropriation.

I would point out that last -- ten years at this time, by now the past commission had spent about a million 200,000. We've spent 616, which would tell me that we're not way out of -- we're not overbudget by any means, but it worries me some how come we haven't spent that much. And taking a look at it, it looks like there was a lot more consultant services by this time ten years ago.

And in particular, if you look at the amount that was paid to NDC last time, which included the consultant amounts, it was substantially more, and I can provide you the details from last time.

But basically, we have been -- I think we are still in very good budget shape. Other professional services are primarily the transcripting services, security, and interpreter services. In-state travel is way low because I just noticed we got a bill for about $4500, which is vehicle rental from the state. That's really coming in now for the trips we took before.

We've paid our rent for the year. Office supplies haven't been a lot. We've paid a lot of
what we need to do at front-end costs for purchasing software, Maptitude and the Maptitude online. Those are in the figures of line 8481, which is purchase of license of software, 164,000. We have not spent and don't anticipate spending much on office furniture. We basically have been able to get surplus furniture from the State surplus and that has saved us a lot money.

Spent a fair amount on computers, but again, that's something that you really -- we all really need because it's a very computer-intensive activity that you are involved in.

I would say right now we look like we are in good shape and the balance won't be quite as much as what I had projected at the start of the month and in October I'll give you a new projection, but it still looks to me like we're likely to have an allocated balance of about 400, $450,000.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Any questions or comments on the budget for Mr. Bladine?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thanks.

RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

And I think that's all I had on my report.
I would talk in public input. We don't have all of the data that I can give you a complete report now, but we will do that by next week.

We are continuing to get many comments sent to our e-mail accounts about communities of interest. I haven't been able to get through them all. There's more than there were yesterday, and some people are sending us documents or blank pages more than once. So we are kind of getting spammed right now by some people.

There's obviously legitimate documents, we're recording those, and we will have them in your book. But we are also just getting some blank pieces of paper. And not a lot. Maybe 3 percent, 4 percent. But my inbox has really gotten very large and this weekend I'll clean it out make sure we get response and record those people that have responded to us.

And with that, I think I don't have any more to offer.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Before you go, though, I want to go back to the second round of public hearings.

I am really concerned about pushing this out another three weeks. And I'm wondering if legal
counsel can tell us -- we know analysis has to be
done, the racially polarized voting analysis and the
competitive analysis and -- do the draft maps have
to be completely completed in order for then --
Dr. King to do whatever analysis he would do that
would act as the independent validation?

MARY O'GRADY: Madame Chair, we can do
analysis at any point, it's just a question of how
useful that analysis is going to be. For example,
on the congressional maps, I don't think we need to
be all completed, everything -- all the maps that we
are considering. They seem to be preserving the two
districts and it's just a question of, you know,
whether we have more than necessary or whether --
how effective they are going to be.

Would you like to have -- what do you
envision? Do you envision adopting a draft and
then -- how much do you want before you go out for
second round hearings, I guess? I envisioned him
doing more detailed analysis of the draft map once
the Commission approves it.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right. So how much
time does that take typically, would you guess to do
that analysis after the draft map is completely
finished?
MARY O'GRADY: Madame Chair, I wouldn't have that answer for you today. And maybe when Ken is here next week, we can get you more information on that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And from Dr. King, too. Does he factor into that?

MARY O'GRADY: They are talking now about the analysis and the time frames and the projects. And so he would be part -- he's part of the equation, but since -- Ken would be able to provide some of that information based on the input from Dr. King.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Because what I'm wondering is -- so Friday, September 30th, is our last meeting in Casa Grande on this. And I'm wondering if we could at least set a goal for ourselves to try to have a draft map done by then that then gets some analysis done. And then if we can start the 5th, if that's possible and at least get two days in of hearings and then start in full board that following week with continued hearings.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madame Chair, I think Dr. King will do the analysis while we're out on the road. He'll be analyzing the draft map, which is one reason that I feel it's important that
we have a carefully thought-out draft map to go out with because we don't want to -- we want the analysis to be done on something that is fully formed so that it's easier for us to do the final versions of the map with that input.

If we go out with a draft that's premature, I'm concerned that the input that we get is not going to be that valuable to us and we are going to have a difficult time doing the final maps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Does the racially polarized voting analysis then also occur with Dr. King on the final maps, too? We'll do that again, another round, because we'll be making adjustments based upon on input?

MARY O'GRADY: Madame Chair, yes. And last time -- the only report that I have seen from last time was on the final map in terms of the racially polarized voting. It was prepared after the final map was adopted and part of the submission.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So there's no requirement that racially polarized voting analysis occurs, you know, in a formal way on the draft map?

MARY O'GRADY: That's right. All that the Constitution requires is that we have a draft
map and then the analysis of that map will be ongoing as part of the public input. So I wouldn't anticipate that we would have a separate report to distribute with the draft maps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.

So now any -- now that -- I've heard from Commissioner McNulty on this and it's clear that she feels like October 9th, and if I'm misspeaking, tell me, but that it's safest to wait until then, that we would have something.

Do other commissioners have any thoughts on that? I would really appreciate some input.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I don't disagree with Commissioner McNulty. I think if we -- we've made some progress at least here today and this week on the congressional side. The legislative map is going to be a little more difficult nut to crack and we'll need to really focus and buckle down on that. So I don't want to get ahead of myself, but maybe we can see the light at the tunnel in one aspect -- light at the end of the tunnel in terms of one our maps.

But like Commissioner McNulty said, we
want to make sure we do it right and that what we put out to the public makes sense and we're going to be able to at least stand behind it.

I'm sure the public is going to come out and educate us on the error of our ways, and I'm sure a lot of that comment is going to be well taken because we are not going to be able to know every single part of the state, know everything, every aspect of our map and how it impacts the communities it overlays. But it's important that we do it right.

If we get early -- if we finish earlier than expected, that's great, then we go and we can start the 30-day clock at that point and build in our public comment tour. But it's a tough, important job and we got to make sure we do it right. And if it's going to take -- if we need that time, I'm afraid we're going to have to take it.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.

Other comments.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: When we initially moved the date back the first time, I was opposed to it. I thought that -- I had a feeling we were going
to be doing that again coming up again and pushing
the date back again.

So I am not in favor of pushing it back
again. I think we -- these are draft maps that we
will be creating, and draft maps are -- that's what
they are, draft maps. So there will be corrections
done after we come back from public comment because
I'm assuming people will be making great comments
and we will go back and say, okay, this made sense,
this didn't make sense and we'll revise that draft.

So I don't think that the map has to be
perfect. I think we're doing a pretty good job with
the congressional side and now we need to do the
same thing with the legislative side. But I'm not
in favor of pushing it back.

I think if we decide to do that, then we
need to look at the number of public hearings that
we are doing. Either lesson the amount or double
them up because something has to give. We need to
look at that.

And also talk -- when Ken is here or
Andrew is here, we definitely need to have a good
conversation with them to see how this affects us,
and they are not here. And we made a deadline that
we need to stick to and we are not sticking to it.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: One thing that can't give is the 30-day comment period. I mean, the 30 days is 30 days. And how we build in public comment to that is up to us. And I would hate to see any part of it get shortchanged in any way.

I think we've got a very aggressive schedule -- that we've laid out a very aggressive schedule and I'm hoping we can keep as close to it as possible to maximize our intake of public comment.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can I ask a question of legal counsel again?

On the 30-day map -- the 30-day map. The draft map 30-day comment period, when does that clock start ticking? The moment we say we have a draft map and we are going to put it on our website and so here it is? And even if we don't start public hearings that day, it's still -- the clock starts?

MARY O'GRADY: That's right. It starts when you adopt a draft map. There's nothing in the Constitution about public hearings. All it talks about is a comment period, a 30-day public comment
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, I would like to see us try to have a draft map by October 3rd. That's a Monday. And even though, you know, we may not be able to start going on the road, we know there are things happening on the 3rd. But if we started the 5th and 6th and then take that 7th, 8th off and then continue on in the public hearing, that would put us -- so the clock starts -- say we adopted draft maps on the 30th, just for sake of it, September 30th, the 30-day period would end October 30th. And our original timeline with the mapping consultant was October 31st was when we had hoped -- can you refresh my memory on that? Was that to have the --

RAY BLADINE: My recollection from reviewing the schedule a couple weeks ago was, yes, that we were shooting for an October 31st adopted map, and that would be a draft map that you would have actually adopted and had a couple weeks in there after you had had your public hearings and the 30 days to review it.

So we are going to have to readdress that schedule one way or the other --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right.
RAY BLADINE: -- because I don't think anyone is assuming that the draft map you come up with will be the final, and there will need to be time for adjustments after that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Right.

RAY BLADINE: I think there was two weeks in the original schedule for review of the input and revisions to the draft map.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And that seems generous? I don't know. Maybe it's just a week of -- what do you guys think on the adjustments posthearing second round of hearings?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think that depends entirely on the quality of our draft maps, which is my issue. We haven't even started on the legislative map yet. And I think if we go out with draft maps of good quality, then that reduces the period on the other end. If we don't, then we are going to have a very long time on the other end.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I agree.

JOE KANEFIELD: Madame Chair, just looking at the constitutional provision on the public comment, it does say that comment shall be taken for at least 30 days, not that -- suggesting that the period be longer. I just want to draw that
language to the Commission's attention.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: We can be making changes to the draft map or considering changes to the draft map after the 30-day period or even during it I suppose and still be accepting comments on it, correct?

I really appreciate the urgency here. I don't want to suggest that I don't, but I feel that to -- I also think we need to be realistic about what we can accomplish and the job that we have left to do before we go out with draft maps.

That's why I kind of felt like the week of the 9th feels -- just feels better to me. It feels like we've got three weeks in which we have to get these done, period, and then we start wherever we are. But I frankly think we need that. I do.

RAY BLADINE: Madame Chair, my only comment would be, obviously, you have to do what you need to do to get the map, but if you adopt a draft map and you have 30 days, we are going to be into November sometime before you have a final map.

My recollection is that there is a legal deadline in December that every county recorder will be wanting to know when you are going to have the
map for their purposes. Obviously, you've got to do what you need to do, but that pressure will certainly start coming about towards the end of October.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: But, Mr. Bladine, the issue as I just described it, they don't get the map until it's final. And we can do the work on the front end or we can do the work on the back end, but we have to do the work. If we don't do it well and we don't pass preclearance, it's going to take an awful lot longer. And my recollection is that last time the initial final maps were not submitted until November, at least.

So again, while I appreciate the urgency, I'm -- and we cannot let this drag on. We have got to get this done. We have to do it right and that's why I am in favor of scheduling hearings every day for the next three weeks. If we can't all meet, fine, then those of us who can meet, come. We get as much done as we can in the morning and we turn it over to the mapping consultant to make the changes, if that makes sense, and we just plow through this. Those are just my thoughts.

But it doesn't make sense to me to create an artificially -- an artificial deadline, which we
aren't done with the congressional maps yet and we haven't started with legislative maps and we're talking about really six days, six hearing days. I just don't think that works.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Kanefield.

JOE KANEFIELD: Madame Chair, just to be clear, the Constitution doesn't provide any specific deadline that the Commission has to have these maps finalized.

I think when we did our research, I think it was around November 12th of 2001 that the prior Commission had finished its final maps.

But what is -- what has been driving some of this is the concern by the counties that -- I know they have presented to the Commission and Mary and I have also met with them, and that's a December 1st deadline for them to draw their precincts, which they need to know what the lines are for those precincts to fit properly within the legislative and congressional district lines.

And without knowing those lines, it creates some issues for them in terms of -- let me just put it this way: If a congressional or legislative line splits a precinct, it creates a lot of problems for them and they are on a statutory
deadline to have those done by December 1st.

So I think that's probably what drove the process the last time. And the time -- my understanding the Commission was on a timeline to try to get final lines drawn as far in advance of that deadline for the counties as possible so we have a smooth election cycle going into the spring.

Yeah, I think that that -- I just bring that up as a point of consideration.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I thought there was some October 1st deadline, too, that they brought up in the public meeting.

JOE KANEFIELD: Originally Karen Osborn, Maricopa County election director, had suggested that October 1 would be the ideal deadline for the Commission to know -- to finish its duties so the counties could know their lines.

We met with her -- in deference to Ms. Osborn, her concern is it does take a lot of work on the part of the counties to build their precincts. Obviously, it's the same kind of GIS mapping that's being done by the Commission right now through its mapping consultant and other considerations they have in terms of public comment when -- they have to go out to the communities when
they draw precincts because it's very important to people how those precincts are drawn within their counties.

So they need as much notice as they can as to how those precincts are supposed to fit in which legislative and congressional precinct.

So October 1 probably was the ideal timeline for them. That would have given them two months to work their precincts. The longer the Commission takes before December 1st, the less time they have to do that process. So you can see the concern from their standpoint.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Yeah, I just -- I feel like it's a balance. I think it does -- you want to produce a quality draft map and you also at the end want to have some time built in so you can adjust it accordingly based on the second round of hearings.

I tend to favor the fact that we strive towards trying to complete this. And we can work individually, too -- you know, and be doing -- even though there's only five days -- I guess there's six days of public hearings between now and the 30th, we can be doing things on our own and submitting that and working through Ray Bladine so that everybody is
aware of any changes that people give to the mapping consultant.

I just would like to see us be able to at least strive for a September 30th closure to this so that we could actually do something the week of the 3rd. That's my preference. And I'm one commissioner. I'm just stating it.

So we'll see what happens I guess. I wish we could give some more guidance, but there's very strong feeling about not starting until the 9th, but I don't agree with it.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: It's pretty clear that I don't agree with that. So I would tend to agree with your comments. I think -- again, this is draft map. We are trying to get as close to the product that we want, but we are going to have to make changes anyway. I think we will have to make changes after public comment.

So I am in favor of trying to complete it on or before the 30th of September.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

We'll have to see what Mr. Stertz says.

He would maybe be the tiebreaker. I don't know.
Is there anything else on executive director report or the budget or anything that Mr. Bladine presented?

RAY BLADINE: Not that I have.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any questions or comments?

Okay. Let's go the agenda. The next item on the agenda is report legal advice and direction to counsel regarding Attorney General inquiry. I don't know that there's any update that anybody has.

Okay. So the next item would be call for public comment, and I've got a few request to speak forms.

And we'll start with Betty Bengtson, representing self from Pima.

BETTY BENGTSON: I don't have any comments today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, okay. Thanks, Betty.

Our next speaker is Paul Bopko, precinct committeeman for Sun Lakes, in LD 21.

Not here.

Okay. Maureen Bayardi, representing self from Phoenix.
Theresa Johnson from Gilbert.

Martha Jo Billy, representing self from Gilbert.

And if you would, please speak directly into the microphone so that our court reporter gets an accurate accounting and to spell your name, too.

MARTHA JO BILLY: Martha Jo Billy, B, as in boy, i-l-l-y. And I am representing myself. Nobody has asked me to come up here.

And I spoke before. I've lived all over Arizona. I've worked for the Indian Health Service, lived on two Indian reservations and -- since 1957, and it's been my experience all these years that the Indians have been ignored in Arizona and discriminated against. It was as if the people of Arizona, the Anglos primarily, kind of if we ignore them, maybe they will go away.

And they haven't gone away and I am glad to see that you are taking an interest in keeping the tribes together and not trying to be, like, separate and destroy.

They are becoming interested in what's going on. They have, I believe, the highest unemployment rate in the nation. They have the highest per capita volunteers for the service,
probably because they have no jobs.

And it's amazing what I guess all of the money will do. I'm glad that you all are taking an interest in them, but I feel like the State has not taken an interest until the big "C" came, casinos, and that spelled money and suddenly Arizona seems to have taken an interest in the Indians.

And at least, some reason, they are getting some attention now and I'm glad to see that and glad to see that you all are spending time on seeing to it that they get a fair deal in this.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Chris Rossiter, vice president Greater Phoenix Tea Party.

CHRIS ROSSITER: Hi. Chris Rossiter, C-h-r-is, R-o-s-s-i-t-e-r.

I wasn't going to speak today but then something that came up during the meeting reminded me of something that occurred on the August 31st meeting, and I was kind of disturbed by it a little bit. So I went back in the room and wrote down a little comment here.

So again, I'm the vice president of the Greater Phoenix Tea Party. And, Mr. Herrera, we're
open. We represent 2000 Tea Party members throughout Arizona and we are not that hard to find.

I would like to address the exchange of the curt earlier between Commissioner Herrera and McNulty and Mr. Cantelme, who commented on map 7A.

And for the record, I have no affiliation with him.

Ms. McNulty said we need to address the elephants in the room and she said a wise thing. Mr. Cantelme made some very compelling and logical arguments earlier in the meeting.

He was then grilled by Mr. Herrera and Ms. McNulty to reveal whom he was representing as though this would nullify the weight of his arguments and the homage they paid to simple common sense.

I guarantee while that gentleman may not have spoken on behalf of each of the six and a half million Arizonans, he spoke on behalf of at least one, himself. In that I couldn't find fault in anything he said, you can increase that tally to at least two.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Herrera, from my perspective, seems most intent on ascertaining the identity of those behind
individuals speaking against certain aspects of this mapping process as though their intentions are somehow nefarious.

If we are going to go down that road, many people I think would be interested in learning who is behind the group Hispanic Coalition for Good Government.

Did Mr. Herrera ask as fervently who is in their leadership when they first surfaced? This is one of the elephants in the room.

We've had to conduct our own research into this group with a euphemistic and innocuous sounding title and the network behind them. That investigation continues.

Of course we know that their leadership is comprised of extremely liberal politicians, Mary Rose Wilcox, Pete Rios, Richard Elias.

Since this group's maps have been given almost as much weight and notoriety by the AIRC as the Commission's own -- in fact, their maps often are blended with the Commission's, then I think the public might like to be reminded who is behind this group at every meeting during which their maps are referenced.

Mr. Herrera, who constantly touts
transparency perhaps could issue that reminder.

I recall on August 31st, Mr. Herrera encouraged the AIRC staff to investigate any individual or group making a Freedom of Information Act request of the Commission and report their findings.

Mr. Herrera received legal counsel that discouraged such activity and questioned its legality. He still insists that it should be done. Why?

This is an attempt to intimidate and discourage citizens who disagree with him or the AIRC's actions from making such requests under the cover of invoking the word transparency multiple times in a mocking fashion. Will they get hassled if they do? Should the AIRC create their own version of Obama's attack watch which just came out the other day and did not get very good results.

The citizens of the United States have the distinct privilege and blessing of living under a constitutionally limited form of government and we thank you guys for your service -- your public service and you on the counsel are employed to represent us.

It is our responsibility to live lawfully
and it is our solemn duty to monitor and record your actions, not the other way around.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Steve Muratore, publisher, Arizona Eagletarian.

STEVE MURATORE: Thank you, Madame Chair, commissioners. Briefly, my name is Steve Muratore, M-u-r-a-t-o-r-e. I publish the Arizona Eagletarian.

Contrary to what Mr. Cantelme claimed earlier in his comments, competitive districts are not mutually exclusive to voting rights districts for the majority-minorities.

I think that's an incredibly important point to continue to make at least every time somebody makes the clearly intellectually dishonest claim that honoring the Voting Rights Act takes away from competitive districts. That's a very big concern.

I also wanted to say I share the concern that Ms. McNulty and Mr. Herrera expressed about Mr. Cantelme's representation.

Now, he said that everything he poses is intellectually honest and logical. Well, you know, at least one of his arguments isn't necessarily intellectually honest.
Anyways, the key is, from my perspective, that there are untold amounts of money being put into representation for this group that refuses to disclose who they are and what their ultimate motives are.

So that concerns me greatly, and I appreciate the discussion that was had on that subject earlier.

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
I don’t have anymore request to speak forms.

Okay, Lynne St. Angelo, there was one from her earlier.

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Thank you.
Do you need me to spell my name again?
Okay. I just wanted to comment again -- and I am just a person. I live in Oro Valley. I go to a lot of events in Saddlebrooke and I have a lot of friends in Saddlebrooke. So a lot of times I'll speak about -- maybe it's five miles away down the road of us together. I go to Smart Girl Politics, which is an independent group of women who got together online and formed a group of people who meet once a month.
So I'm just a person interested in the process and in the state of Arizona. And I think everyone who is coming before you lives in Arizona and is concerned about the state. And I am concerned that for whatever reason, my comments, because I'm just a person, might be considered less legitimate than another group of people.

So I would say especially as you're going to go around the state, that everyone who comes before you lives in the state of Arizona. We're not coming from someplace else to talk about Arizona. We care about how the lines come out, especially personally, where I live, which is what I usually speak about, Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke, which I go between the two all the time.

There are two maps that were drawn before, version 5 that was shown on September 8th and river 3 border combo version 1-C, that was shown on September the 12th that keep Pinal County almost intact and keeps Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana together in Pinal County rather than absorbing them into a congressional district that is way far away from urban Tucson.

These maps also satisfy all of the criteria that the mayor of Flagstaff presented.
today. It makes the people of Yuma very happy because they wanted to be in a rural district, and the people in Cochise said they wanted to be in a rural district. It keeps them happy.

The Navajos said they wanted to be in a rural district. So all of those groups of people would be happy by those maps as well.

I know you have a lot of maps to drew, but you have actually drawn some maps that did a lot of things in the past, too, that were good.

Oro Valley has a lot more in common with Casa Grande and the southern part of Phoenix towns than the Navajo Nation, which is a rural area and that whole upper part all the way to the border of Nevada and New Mexico, which is where right now that river district map, 7C I think it is -- or 7A that we were looking at today puts Oro Valley in with that very rural all the way up to that northeast corner of the state.

And since they wanted to be rural anyway, I think it's only logical to take us out of that map and put us in a map that is more suited to our communities of interest. And so that we can have representation that represents the areas that we live in. Just as a Navajo Nation would like to have
and they deserve to have representation that represents them, which is a rural district.

The other things that the two maps have, version 5 and river district 3 border combo version 1C is they give Phoenix only four congressional districts. And if you live in Southern Arizona, that's a gripe we have with Phoenix. All the time you hear it at the state level, you hear it at the local levels, that there's this competition kind that we always feel like Maricopa just absorbs everything because they are so huge and overwhelm Southern Arizona.

So those two maps also did that.

And anyway, I just wanted to put those comments in as well.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Mr. Cantelme, representing Fair Trust.

DAVID CANTELME: Members, we're about to -- let me pull this up a little bit.

You are about to close up for the weekend, and I would like us all to close on an up beat. I want you all to know that Mr. Herrera and I shook hands outside, and I want you to know the way I would like to go forward is with a -- with mutual
respect, with treating each other civilly and not questioning each other's motives trying to reason with each other and try to do the best we can.

I realize we don't always see eye to eye, but we do in part. And I think we all see eye to eye in trying to do what's best for Arizona, even if we see that result is somewhat different.

That's what I would strongly urge.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Any other comments from the public?

Okay. That takes us to the last item on the agenda, adjournment.

So the time is 2:54 p.m. and this meeting is adjourned.

Thank you all for coming.

(The hearing concluded at 2:54 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 195 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.

WITNESS my hand this 23rd day of August, 2011.

MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637