ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

October 29, 2011
1:08 p.m.

Location
Yuma City Hall
One City Plaza
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Attending
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good afternoon.
Let's go ahead and get started.
Thank you all for being here.
First, let me thank the City of Yuma for hosting this event with Greg Highland.
Where is he at?
Greg, thank you. Everybody clap for Greg.

We have Mayor Al Krieger as well.
So thank you to both of them for setting up this public hearing.
Again, thank you all for being here.
This is our second round of public hearings. This is the second time we've been in Yuma. And the whole point of this today is making sure that we hear your concerns and your comments about our maps. And I think when you guys came in, there was a large map that was blown up, both I think the congressional and legislative maps.
You should have also picked up a packet.
Now, for those of you that don't have a packet -- that did not get these maps, raise your
hand and I'll have Shane -- back there -- Shields
give you a map. So keep your hands raised, and
Shane will pass a map to you.

So before we start, let's go ahead and do
the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now, before we start with the
presentations, what I would like you to do, anybody
that wants to speak needs to fill out one of these
yellow forms.

And if you don't have a yellow form, you
can raise your hand and I think Shane will be happy
to -- I'm sorry, Shane, I'm putting you to work.

And if you don't want to speak but you
want your comments heard, there is a blue form -- I
think it's still blue -- there's a blue form in the
back where you can fill out your comments and submit
them and they will be part of the public record.

So if you definitely -- if you want to
speak, you definitely need to have this yellow form.

Let me introduce a couple of people.

From the staff, we have Ray Bladine, our
executive director, Ray.

We have -- you can clap for Ray.
We have Kristina Gomez, our deputy executive director back in the back.

We have Buck Forst, our chief technology officer. I think he's hiding back there. He's right there.

We have Joe Kanefield, our legal counsel. Joe Kanefield.

And then we have Willie Desmond with Strategic Telemetry, Willie.

And let's see. I think we have Shane Shields, our community outreach representative as well as Karen Herrman.

And then we have Michelle Elam, our court reporter.

Before we start the presentations, make sure that you speak loudly and clearly. Michelle will be typing everything you say. So spell your first and last name. Spell it out clearly and don't assume she'll know how to spell your name. Even if it's Bob. Just spell it for her. I think we'll be better off if we do that.

And again, your comments will be limited to three minutes. So I would recommend that all of you limit your comments to three minutes. I'll have Alexis explain this.
Alexis, do you mind explaining?

ALEXIS: The mic is on a timer. And once the -- there will be a red light flashing at 30 seconds or close enough and then it will just shut off at the three-minute mark.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now, let me also introduce a couple individuals, the commissioners.

Now, these public hearings are not -- we're not required to all be here. There's so many of them, so what we try to do is divvy up the public hearings.

So we have Commissioner Stertz, Commissioner McNulty, Commissioner Freeman, and Chairwoman Mathis who are more than likely probably watching this presentation via the stream on the web. So please say hi to them.

Hi.

Okay. So before we begin, the whole point to this is for us to hear what your concerns are of our maps. So we want to hear what you like, what you don't like, ways we can improve the map.

We are not here to answer questions.

It's about you and what your issues are and how we can help you.
So that's the whole point of the public hearings.

We also have a translator. So let me not forget the translator.

Maria G. Gallardo -- Gallardo. Can she step up here? Can you -- can you -- for those of you that aren't -- she'll explain.

MARIA GALLARDO: Good afternoon,

Mr. Chairperson -- Vice Chair.

Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a translator/interpreter will be available at all public hearings in order to provide translating services that might be needed by citizens who do need translating or interpreting services.

Please contact me at this meeting so I can assist you.

(Speaking in native tongue.)

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before we begin, what I'll have Willie Desmond do is -- Mr. Desmond do a presentation on the whole purpose of the second round hearings and just give us some background.

WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you.

My name is Willie Desmond. I work with
Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to perform the technical assistance to the Commission as they do the mapping.

I'm very happy to be here today and hear what you guys have to say.

The goal of these meetings is to solicit public comments about the draft maps. So thank you all for attending, and as I mentioned, we're very excited to hear what you have to say.

The draft maps that you will see today are currently under a 30-day review period so that the Commission can learn your opinions.

Before getting into the maps, though, I do want to give just a little background and a quick overview of the redistricting process in Arizona.

Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the state Constitution amended by the voters in 2000 with the passage of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission's -- or Arizona's Commission.

They are charged with redrawing the maps following the most recent census. The most recent census happened in 2010, and following the 2010 census, Arizona was allocated a ninth and additional congressional district.
There are six criteria outlined by Proposition 106 in the Arizona Constitution. The first of these criteria is that all plans must comply with the United States Constitution and they must comply with the Voting Rights Act.

The next criteria is that they must -- all plans must have equal population.

These first two criteria are federally mandated and any redistricting plan that anyone has in the country has to follow these two criteria.

The other four criteria are Arizona-specific and part of Proposition 106, and they are to the extent practicable, the districts must be compact and contiguous; they must respect communities of interest; they must use visible geographic features such as city, towns, county boundaries and undivided census tracts where available. And you must favor competitive districts where there is no significant detriment to the other goals.

Just to expand a little bit on the Voting Rights Act.

Arizona’s congressional and legislative districts must receive preclearance or approval from
the Department of Justice or a federal court under
Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can
take effect.

To get preclearance, Arizona must
demonstrate that the new districts do not
discriminate against minority voters in purpose or
effect, which means there can be no intentional or
accidental discrimination.

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting
plans cannot be retrogressive. Plans cannot weaken
or reduce minority voters' rights.

And the way you can tell if a plan is
retrogressive is determined by analyzing population
and election results.

I want to take a brief pause to show you
a video by Bruce Adelson, an attorney with Federal
Compliance Consulting. He's advising the Commission
on the Voting Rights Act and the preclearance
process.

Just one second.

(Mr. Bruce Adelson's video presentation
was played.)

WILLIE DESMOND: Okay. Now I'm going to
give just a little background on the process of
redistricting.
Just wait one second for the PowerPoint to come back.

The first step in the redistricting process is the creation of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. This happened earlier this year, and the five commissioners were appointed through a thorough screening process to serve in a voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

This year and then for the rest of the decade, the five commissioners are Vice Chairman Scott Freeman; Vice Chairman Jose Herrera, who is here this evening -- or this afternoon, excuse me; Chairman Colleen Mathis, and Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz.

The second step after the establishment of the Commission is the first round of public hearings.

Before drawing a single line, the Commission held 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from the voters and members of the public about issues they think are relevant to the process.

After that begins the mapping process. According to Proposition 106, we start with a clean slate.
They started with a clean slate. The state is then divided into equal population districts in a grid-like pattern forming a grid map. We'll talk a little bit more about this later, but the grid map only meets two of the six constitutional criteria. So there's equal population and there's compact and contiguous districts.

That needs to be adjusted to adopt -- to meet all of other criteria laid out in the state Constitution.

The grid maps were approved on August 18th. And then following that, the Commission met several more times, 25 times actually, to consider adjustments to those grid maps to accommodate all of the rest of the criteria.

During this time they also received a lot more public input and public comments and citizen and groups submitted draft maps and plans.

Following that, the draft maps were created. They were approved on October 3rd. The Commission approved the congressional draft map. On October 10th, the Commission approved the legislative draft map.

The next step is what's happening right
now, the second round of public hearings.

So there's the 30-day comment period where we go around the state and we like to hear what people say.

We're currently -- it says visiting 25 towns and cities. It's actually 26 now, I believe -- to share the draft map and receive additional input during October and the beginning part of November.

Following that, the final maps will be voted on.

And after they have been adopted, they will be sent to the Department of Justice for preclearance.

And again, because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used for Arizona elections.

So now just to give you a little bit of progression of how we came to these draft maps.

This is the old map. This was the map last used in 2010. It was retired after those elections. What we're working on right now -- what we're discussing today is the maps to replace this
So per Proposition 106, we wiped the slate clean and started with a totally blank canvas. Didn't look at the old districts. We didn't look at where incumbents live. All of that is disregarded and they start with what is the grid map.

As you can see here, the grid map only takes into account two criteria, that is compact and contiguous districts and equal size population.

The Commission asked that two grid maps be prepared for both legislative and congressional and that they just pick one of the two.

They settled on option 2 for both the legislative and congressional. And again, they were adopted on August 18th.

All right. Now after more than 25 meetings to discuss changes to the grid map, the Commission voted to approve this draft map that you see here.

In addition to taking into consideration the six constitutional criteria, the Commission also received a lot of public comment from the public meetings, from round one of the public hearings, from comments mailed, e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned in. In total, over 5,000
public comments helped form this map.

As you see, some of the highlights of the map are that there are two predominantly rural districts, there are three border districts, there are three districts in the Greater Tucson region, five districts that are entirely within Maricopa County. The plan avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations and there are two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

Going onto the legislative district, this is the old map that was last used in 2010.

Again, per Proposition 106, we started with a blank slate and then we came up with a grid map. Again, option 2 was selected.

So here is the legislative draft map that we are presenting today. It was voted on on October 9th (sic), I believe, and some of the points about it is the old map, because of population growth and shrinkage in other areas, had districts that had as few as 155,000 people in them and as many as 378. So some of the districts were more than twice as large as others.

This current draft has a deviation of about 207,000 to 215,000.
Also to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the plan includes ten districts in which minority voters should have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Also the draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional Southern Arizona districts, has seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County and nine primarily rural districts.

Okay. As I mentioned, the Commission really wants to hear what you have to say about these draft maps.

There are a lot of ways to have your voice heard. You can fill out a request to speak form at one of the public meetings, like you're at today.

Examples of criteria for what you can talk about are constitutional criteria, the draft map congressional and legislative maps, or anything else that you want to talk about.

You can -- aside from speaking at one of the hearings, you can fill out one of the blue forms and turn it in today. That will also go on the record.

You can also fill out a form on our website and submit it or you can call us at
602-542-5221 or toll free at 855-733-7478 and give us your comments.

We do want you to stay connected throughout the process. Right here is a screenshot from our website. I just want to highlight a few things.

If you click on the meetings tab, you can go and find out information about future meetings, locations, and times. You can watch live streams of the meetings as they are happening if you're not able to attend in person and you can go back and rewatch all of the videos of all of the meetings that have happened in the past.

So if you're interested in how these maps came to be, you can go back and watch as the Commission developed them in public meetings.

Probably most importantly and what most people care about is looking at the maps.

So you can click on the maps tab either on the top or the bottom, and if you do, it will take you to a page that looks very much so like this. There's been a few small changes.

The maps are available in lots of different formats. There are PDFs or JPEG.

One thing, though, I do want to highlight
is the maps are available as Google map files. So if you click on the Google map button that's circled in red here, what it will do is it will take you to a page that looks like this.

What these allow you to do is zoom in and zoom out to as small a level of geography as you wanted possible. If you wanted to just go all the way down to see just your house, you could do that. You can follow the borders. You can see what really comprises these districts.

By clicking on some of the buttons on the left, you're able to turn the shading on and off, remove the county lines, whatever makes it easiest for you to do.

So just as an example of how you can zoom in, this is a zoom in I think in Maricopa County, but you can drill down a lot farther than this even.

Just in conclusion, to wrap this up, I would just like to, again, highlight the Commission's website, www.azredistricting.org.

On the website, besides just looking at the maps that we have put up, there are tools for you to draw your own maps and submit them to the Commission.

You can watch the current meetings or the
past meetings. You can get updates on future meetings.

If you do want to stay connected, you can follow us on twister at #AIRC or friend us on Facebook.

So I want to thank you again for taking the time to be here and be part of this process.

I want to extend an invitation to come speak with me afterwards or any other member of the staff if you have any questions. We'll make sure to answer anything we need to know.

So thank you very much for having us today and we very much so look forward to hearing your comments.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Desmond.

Now, again, if you wish to speak, make sure you fill out one of these yellow forms.

And just to remind you, there will be a three-minute talking period and then within I think 30 seconds before the three minutes is up, you'll have a light and then your mic will be completely shut off.

What we want to do is maximize as many of the public comments, so we want to limit it to three
minutes. I think that's a good amount.

And let's see. You know, I would encourage -- you have all taken time out of your schedules to be here instead of being with your families; you chose to be here. So thank you very much.

So when people speak, whether you agree with them or not, clap for their public comments.

Again, we are here in Yuma. I know you guys are all very hospitable, good people, and you will be very polite and gracious of every speaker that comes before us.

Let's start with our first speaker, Al Krieger.

What I'll do is, Mayor Al Krieger, I will not time you but I will advise you to be as short as possible. If not I'll have to --

AL KRIEGER: Well, that's an interesting proposition.

Thank you very much for bringing the Commission here to our community.

I guess I would like to say just a few words to everyone that came here today, that there has been much speculation and comment up to this point relative to the Commission's activities, but I
want to remind everyone today that this is a community in Arizona, maybe like others, but somewhat unlike many others in Arizona.

We are in somewhat of an isolated corner of the state; however, the city of Yuma is the 11th largest city in the state and we are continually gaining notoriety for being a growing, vibrant community and a region of importance.

The maps that we have, the Commission-approved congressional map and the Commission-approved legislative map appear to divide our community, which I think is a serious error in judgment.

If anything today -- if we need anything today in this community, in this state and in this nation, we need to understand that there is a system that however flawed it may be, is the system that we must use to move forward for the next ten years.

And I am just going to politely ask everyone to take just a minute to consider some civility. We hear a lot about diversity and minority votes.

You know what, it's about time we came together as Americans, as citizens of Arizona, and people of a community who can be neighbors, who can
work together, who can communicate and understand
that what we are trying to do for the future is much
larger than what maybe one individual is trying to
do to protect a certain political party or a certain
voting bloc.

And if there ever was a community in
Arizona that is about as color-blind as you can get
relative to minorities -- in fact, in Yuma, I'm the
minority, if there was one. 52 percent of our
county is Hispanic or other races.

So the Voting Rights Act coming down from
Washington is somewhat -- cannot apply it
accurately.

There's been so many maps put together.
The ones that we have here and the ones that I have
here divide our county, they divide our communities,
and I am very, very fearful that it's going to set
up an extremely divisive fight for the next ten
years that is simply unnecessary.

I will just finish up with one comment
that the Voting Rights Act, relative to the
congressional districts, may apply; however, the
federal government simply does not have jurisdiction
over the state of Arizona to mandate any program,
funded or otherwise, unfunded, and direct us to do
something simply because they are the federal government.

Arizona gets to decide what Arizona is and does.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Now we will begin timing. Again, it's three minutes. You'll see a red light when you're close to 30 seconds are almost up, the last 30 seconds.

So we'll start with Russ Jones. And again, would you please introduce yourself, state your name, your spelling of your name, and who you are representing.

Mr. Jones.

RUSS JONES: My name is Russ Jones, R-u-s-s, J-o-n-e-s. State Representative District 24, representing myself and my constituents.

I appreciate you coming back to Yuma. I know that you -- I'm sure there's demands from all over the state and requests from all over the state for you to have hearings in the various communities.

I didn't speak at the first hearing because I felt -- and I was there to listen more than anything, but I heard a very common theme over and over again, and that was to keep this community
whole and so I didn't feel it was necessary to speak.

I even in watching the maps as they rolled out, when I saw grid map 2 that you selected prior to this most recent one, I was somewhat relieved. Wow, they actually heard us. They listened to us. They are keeping our community relatively whole.

And then the final map came out and I saw where we were, once again, divided, and divided in many ways.

It's been written, "A house divided cannot long stand." A lot of people attribute that to Lincoln. I believe it came out in the Bible.

But there is so much truth to that statement that transcends time that it's important to consider in this set of circumstances with our community.

Yuma -- and my proposal is pretty simple. Along with grid map 2, you keep Yuma and La Paz counties together.

Yuma and La Paz counties -- you may or may not know, we used to be just one county. And we found -- I mean, and this is my personal opinion -- in dividing -- many people have had second thoughts
about that over the ensuing years. But in spite of that, we find that we continue to be a community together.

We share a community college district, which is a taxing district, and we have been sharing state legislators. And I spend time up in La Paz County. We do a lot work together.

You can talk to Lynne Pancrazi, Don Shooter, myself about the time we spend in La Paz County. And when they have issues, the state legislature -- they bring them -- generally they bring them to us because we are part of them, even though we are divided.

So I think it's time to put us back together again in this -- in a legislative district that actually makes some sense.

I want to talk about -- isolation breeds, in my cooperation, and we have such a history in this area of regionalism not only with La Paz, in our legislature, in our higher education, but simply also here in Yuma County.

As an example in education, we share the Arizona Western College district, we share a common high school district, we're in the process of forming a JTED, we have a consortium between our
elementary school districts that would be divided by
the map that's proposed. We have an economy and
workforce --

Whoops. Three minutes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you wrap it up
in 30 seconds?

RUSS JONES: Pardon?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Could you wrap it up
in 30 seconds?

RUSS JONES: Yes, I can.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Give him 30 seconds.

RUSS JONES: I appreciate it.

In our economy we share a chamber of
commerce, Yuma Vegetable Shippers Association,
visitors bureau, YBGMZS, San Luis port of entry,
GYDC, GYPA, and the list goes on and on and on of
how we've worked well together, and I would just ask
you in closing to please keep us whole.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

That was -- State Representative Jones,
thank you so much for our first test run with our
timer.

I think the 30 seconds is blinking on the
rim of the microphone, so be aware of that.
Again, three minutes and then we'll have Martin Porchas from the mayor city of Sonora.

MARTIN PORCHAS: Good afternoon, vice chair.

My name is Martin M-a-r-t-i-n, Porchas P-o-r-c-h-a-s. I'm the mayor for the city of Somerton.

You know, in hearing some talking about division, dividing, we just went through our redistricting county -- the redistricting.

Guess what happened to us? We were divided. And since the very beginning I was attending all of the meetings and the Commission never happened to even consider what were our comments.

But I would also like to thank you, thank the Commission for listening to the people of South Yuma County.

We -- the residents responded with almost a thousand letters to you asking to honor the Voting Rights Act. I support the current congressional maps, San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and parts of Yuma have more in common with Tucson and Nogales than with Parker and Bullhead City.

I thank the Commission for -- I thank the
Commission for recognizing this and making the right call with the congressional map.

Once again, I thank the Commission for your hard work and dedication, and I ask -- don't be intimidated by the political bullies who only want to dominate the state.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, if you guys don't mind -- I mean, I don't mind you clapping, but the booing, that will not -- I'm not going to put up with that.

Let's respect each other and people. And if you disagree with them, that's fine. If you want to clap for what they say, I love that, but booing, if you want to be escorted out of the, keep booing and you will be escorted out of the room.

So we have Don Shooter, State Senator Don Shooter.

Again, three minutes, sir.

DON SHOOTER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

Since it's readily apparent to me that you really don't care what we have to say about redistricting, I thought I would use this time to tell you and tell the people why hopefully you will be removed next week.
You respect -- you repeatedly violated open meeting laws that got Strategic Telemetry selected.

You violated state procurement laws to select the Democratic firm that you preferred.

You bid-rigged during that process when confronted with it.

You stonewalled and shredded evidence.

When asked to testify to the bid-rigging inclusion, you stonewalled investigators and proceeded to hire six or eight attorneys at $400 an hour, which we, the taxpayers of Arizona, are paying to defend your shenanigans. This after already paying your in-house lawyer over a quarter of a million dollars.

I'm sure that there are other malfeasance and crimes yet to be discovered, but these alone are more than enough to justify removal.

You have betrayed the trust of the people of Arizona. You have colluded in the very kind of corruption that this law was intended to prevent, and you have betrayed the sacred trust of the people of Arizona when they entrusted this with you.

Therefore, it is my great hope that next week our great Governor Jan Brewer will remove any
and all of you on the Commission.

And as a line from one of our sister-cities movies named Tombstone says, Jan is coming and hell is coming with her.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

The next speaker is State Senator -- State Representative Lynne Pancrazi.

LYNNE PANCRAZI: Good afternoon.

You're the only commissioner I haven't met. Nice to meet you.

First, let me thank the Commission for the hard work and service for our great state.

Having attended four other IRC meetings, I have come to know you as thoughtful and concerned about meeting the needs of the people and communities and at the same time meeting the federal and state mandates.

Yuma County has a reputation of sending outstanding legislators to the state capital. People like Jones Osborn and Bob McLendon, Pat Conner, Jim Carothers and my mentor and first female and Hispanic from the area, Amanda Aguirre.

This draft map -- this is a draft map, and let me emphasize, a draft map. It is subject to changes, and that is why the Commission is going
around the state to get input from the people in the communities from around the state.

I have some concerns about these maps. First, rural Arizona does not have the same needs and concerns as Metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson.

Rural Arizona does not want to be attached to Metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson. Please keep us separate so that the rural voice can be heard.

Second, La Paz County has been represented by Yuma legislators since before they became a county and wish to stay with Yuma County.

I know the Arizona strip wants to be part of District 5 and Mohave County. Please consider swapping these two and bring La Paz County down with Yuma.

And third, I would like Yuma County to stay together, but if because of federal and state mandates that's not possible, please consider taking out all of Maricopa County except for Buckeye and Gila Bend, putting these two in District 13 along with La Paz County, then remove -- from District 4, remove Glendale and Avondale, add the Santa Cruz area and put it with District 4. At least then we
would have rural legislators representing rural Arizona.

Thank you again for your time, your efforts, and your hard work and the hard work you have committed to Arizona.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Ms. Pancrazi, do you mind stepping forward and just spelling your name real quickly?

LYNNE PANCRAZI: I always forget to do that.

Lynne Pancrazi, L-y-n-n-e, Pancrazi is spelled like pancrazy, P-a-n-c-r-a-z-i, instead of Y.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And next we have Greg Ferguson, Yuma County Board of Supervisors.

GREG FERGUSON: Good afternoon.

It's Greg, G-r-e-g, Ferguson, F-e-r-g-u-s-o-n.

I am on the Yuma County Board of Supervisors but today I guess I'm here representing myself and my biggest constituent, my wife.

I'm very concerned about the splitting of Yuma County.
As you may know, Yuma and La Paz counties have been represented in one district since anyone can remember. In fact, as Representative Pancrazi said, probably before they were even two counties.

I thought the state goals of redistricting was to keep minority-majority districts, establish as many competitive districts as possible, and districts that keep communities of interest.

That is exactly what we have in Yuma/La Paz counties. That's exactly what we've always enjoyed.

We have a huge farming industry, if not the largest in the state of Arizona, and the associated irrigation districts, we have two military bases, and we are a minority-majority county by population.

The proposed maps split all of this, put the two military bases in a district separate from the city of Yuma, split the ag community and the irrigation districts and divides our population.

We have always been one of the most competitive legislative districts in Arizona.

Let me remind you that we have had Democrat senator representatives, we've had
Republican representatives and senators, we've had women, we've had Hispanics, we've had any combination you can think of. We're one of the few districts that's able to do that.

Currently we have even have a tea party member representing us.

Our delegation at the legislature has always been a combination.

Again, I would like to remind you that we are home to Representative Bob McLendon who served us for 18 years, was the minority leader, and currently on the Board of regents.

We were represented by Senator Herb Guenther from Wellton, and in these new maps, I don't think you'll ever see another -- anybody get elected from as small an area as Wellton. And he went to be the director of ADWR.

And as previously mentioned, we've had Senator Pat Conner, Senator Amanda Aguirre, Senator Bob Cannell and we can go on and on and on.

Our delegation has not only represented us well, but Southern Arizona in its entirety.

And let me -- really I think one of the major differences here is party really doesn't mean that much. As I've said, we've had Democrats,
Republicans, it doesn't matter. In rural Arizona, we still vote the people.

And what bothers me, in your presentation you said there was nine rural districts. That's about baloney. Go out there and look at the map in the hall. I would say there's three districts that even have the possibility of electing rural representatives. And that's going to be nine out of 90.

I think -- currently I think we are a minority-majority district. I think we have excellent ability for anybody to be elected. And to put us in with metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson is just crazy because nobody -- I don't think anybody will ever be elected from here again.

So I ask that you keep us together with La Paz County.

Vice Chair Herrera: Our next three speakers -- what I'll do is -- so I can line them up, is Paul Johnson, city council member; then we have Theresa Ulmer, former state representative; followed by Edward Foster, former mayor of Quartzsite.

Paul Johnson: My name is Paul Johnson. That's spelled P-a-u-l, J-o-h-n-s-o-n.
I'm a member of the Yuma City Council. I'm also chairman of the Rural Transportation Advocate Council.

And I would like to speak to you today about why you have ignored and deliberately contradicted all of the constitutional requirements that was set forth in your charge to redistrict.

What does Yuma have in common with Litchfield Park and Surprise?

What do we have in common -- what does the southern part of our county have in common with Three Points and the people that live at the intersection of Valencia Road and Mission Road over in Tucson?

I'll tell you what the answer to that is, nothing. There's no commonality of interest and there is surely no compactness of it.

Additionally, the suburbs of Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Goodyear, Surprise, those are all bedroom communities for the great sovereign state of Maricopa County.

We're not part of the great sovereign state of Maricopa County. We live in rural Arizona and the circumstances out here are entirely different.
40 percent of this community's economic activity is based directly upon agriculture that's -- the water is provided by the Colorado River, 25 percent is from the military, 25 percent of it is from tourism.

We have a lot more in common with La Paz County and Mohave County where they use the same kind of irrigated Colorado River water irrigated agriculture.

If our agriculture goes away, our community goes away.

If the military goes away, we go away.

When I look at this map, this map you've got here is a real nice map for the city of Yuma. It shows the city of Yuma split in half, it shows the school district split in half, it shows the community college district split in half, it shows the irrigation district split in half, it shows the high school district split in half.

But this isn't the bad part. The bad part is when you get into the details and you take a look at how you gerrymandered us into a Maricopa County district.

And it seems to me, and after carefully looking at the way you've drawn these maps, it is a
deliberate attempt to disenfranchise the rural voters of the state of Arizona and concentrate control in Maricopa County.

I deal with this on a weekly and monthly basis on a transportation basis. 71 percent of the state highway system of lane miles is in rural areas. We only get 50 percent of the money.

You're taking away our representation from us so that we'll never be represented in a state legislature.

Put us back together.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

I just want to remind you there's three minutes. When that light goes off, it will be -- the microphone will be cut off. So I just want to remind you.

THERESA ULMER: Thank you.

My name is Theresa, T-h-e-r-e-s-a. Last name is U-l-m-e-r, and I would like to thank you for coming to Yuma again and hearing our concerns.

I do want to start off and just commend you for surviving what was a very extensive selection process.

The voters, when they approved Prop 106, they put in place a system to make sure that there
were appointed people by various governors of the past and current to actually scrutinize who was selected.

That process took place and you're here, and we appreciate your volunteer work that you are doing. And you are absolutely fulfilling what the voters requested and we appreciate that.

I just want to say that there are some of us who don't buy into the conspiracy theory of all of the ill things that you have done. And I find it a bit irresponsible of our elected officials to feed that theory that you've done so many wrong things.

You have a tough job. You're doing what you should be doing. And if both sides are upset, you're doing the right thing.

So thank you.

I just want to comment on and provide you with a report that was done by National Demographics Corporation for our county redistricting process, and it is basically the polarized voting analysis.

What this report does is basically confirm the work that you are doing, and that is to meet the criteria of the Voting Rights Act, which has to be met. And as much as -- you know, you're hearing applause from different sides of the room,
as much as everybody says we're not a divided community, we're one big happy family, I'm going to call the elephant out of the room.

We're not. We have different interests. We have minorities that need to be protected, and that's the number one criteria that has to be met, like it or not.

Splitting our community is difficult and none of us like that, but we are growing. Things change. It evolves.

I don't love the maps, but they are a draft. I know that. You have a lot work to do. And I know you will continue to do that.

Take into account the different opinions you are hearing, the requests.

I think that we do have a history of representing people that truly care about our community. And we could potentially have two representatives which -- or two, you know, scenarios where we have more representation, and I think that's actually a good scenario.

So again, I thank you for your work, and I will provide this to Mr. Kanefield for you.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Foster.
The next three speakers will be S. Scott Magana, Irma Meyers, Frank Bernal.

ED FOSTER: Ed Foster, former mayor of the town of Quartzsite.

I am here -- I'm sort of confused. I mean, we had this meeting earlier in the summer here. We all got up here and we asked certain things of this Commission.

We asked to be a community of western Arizona. We asked not to be included in the major metropolitan areas of the state.

And I'm not as generous as the previous speaker. I cannot find a congressional district that doesn't infringe somewhere in one of the two major metropolitan areas.

In particular now, the congressional district that I'm in goes clear around Phoenix to come into the east side of Phoenix.

I mean, what in the world do we have in common with the east side of Phoenix out here in the desert?

They don't -- we'll get a congressman from the east side of Phoenix who will never come out here. We'll never see a congressman out here.

That was the most stupid redistribution
of power that I have ever seen.

We asked at that first meeting for a congressional district that represented the agriculture and the tourism interests of Western Arizona. We got nothing but divided.

I thank you, sir.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: S. Scott Magana.

SCOTT MAGANA: Vice Chairman, welcome to Yuma. You may not like it later, but my whole thing is as X -- anyways -- S-c-o-t-t, M-a-g-a-n-a.

Third-generation family from Yuma -- or from Somerton, and I agree with most of the people here that we are -- have nothing to do -- or in common with Tucson or the Phoenix area.

About three months ago the Commission was here and I thought that this area was quite clear that we don't want to be split.

This has happened. Apparently you don't care about us. As far as I see it I'm upset about it. I look at it as we're over here in the corner and you basically tell us go back in the corner, sit down and shut up.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, I'm going to name the people that will be next, if you guys can get ready.
Irma Meyers, followed by Frank Bernal, and then I'll name George Reiners, and then Javier Perez.

And again, three minutes. Please do spell your name.

IRMA MYERS: Irma Meyers, I-r-m-a, M-y-e-r-s.

Thank you very much for coming to Yuma and listening to our concerns. I support the kind of work that you guys are doing.

It is great to be listened to and I'm here to represent more than a thousand people that have spoke up by letters of writing to you guys in South Yuma County.

Our main interest is that as a minority population we have similar needs on the border. We have more in common with Nogales, Naco and all of those areas and Tucson than we have with Bullhead City and other areas in Mohave County.

On behalf of this group, we thank you for considering our input in this process.

Thank you very much.

FRANK BERNAL: Good afternoon, Commissioner.

Frank Bernal. F-r-a-n-k, Bernal,
B-e-r-n-a-l.

I'm a resident of Yuma, and I'm here to thank you for a wonderful job you're doing. It's a tough job.

It's sad that representatives are not using the correct words if they are unhappy with your job. I just think they should use other words. For me, it gives me great honor to see the process moving along. I'm proud to be living in Arizona.

I'm supporting the two districts. I think we do have a lot in common with Tucson and Nogales, and I just want to once again thank the Commission for the great work you are doing.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

After Mr. Reiners, Javier Perez will be Jack Kretzer and John Colvin.

Mr. George Reiners.

GEORGE REINERS: Good afternoon Commissioner Herrera.

My name is George Reiners, G-e-o-r-g-e,
R-e-i-n-e-r-s.

I've provided you with folders of two legislative and one congressional map and a draft of my comments. My comments may change.
When you were here in July, nearly every speaker endorsed a river district, including the mayor of San Luis.

At that meeting I provided you with a description of a congressional map that could have formed the basis for the required river district, a requested river district.

You appeared to listen but obviously you did not hear. The maps you are presenting today are a clear indication of that.

After I saw the maps you approved, I went to work and created my own alternative maps, and I used your map program. I created one congressional and two legislative maps that would achieve to the greatest extent possible what we here in Yuma requested.

I used the required criteria of population, Voting Rights Act, compactness, contiguity, communities of interest, and competitiveness. I paid particular attention to the Voting Rights Act.

Let me first describe the legislative maps for the audience.

The first legislative map would keep all of Yuma County and most of La Paz County together.
This map includes the northeast and some
of northwest portions of La Paz County and the town
of Wenden. It was developed with a population
standard in mind. It exceeds the populations
standard by one person.

This map would have a Hispanic 18-plus
population of 49.7 percent, minority population will
be 54.5 percent, registered Democrats would be
35 percent, registered Republicans would be
30.8 percent, registered other would be
34.2 percent.

Second legislative map would keep all of
La Paz and Yuma counties whole.

It would not encroach into any other
county. It would exceed the population standard by
only 3172 or .15 percent.

I think that's what was in your
limitations.

This map would have Hispanic population
of 49.1 percent, total minority population at
53.9 percent.

Registered Democrats would be
34.8 percent, registered Republicans 31.2,
registered other 34.1.

Both of these maps favor Democrats and
they pick up 15.5 percent of others in any election that they would be able to win.

I would like to conclude by asking the audience for a show of hands --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir.

GEORGE REINERS: Would those of you who would like to see Yuma County whole, please raise your hands?

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Javier Perez.

JAVIER PEREZ: My name is Javier Perez. I would like to thank you for giving Yuma two voices in congress. Not only do we get more but these maps make it possible for the Commission to create legal maps in accordance to the Voting Rights Act and maintain minority voting rights for residents of South San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and Yuma.

San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and parts of Yuma have more in common with Tucson, Nogales, Parker -- than with Bullhead City.

I thank you, the Commission, for recognizing this and making the right -- the right call with the congressional maps.

Thank you so much for your service.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

The next people are Jack Kretzer, I hope I'm pronouncing it correctly, John Colvin, followed by Don -- or Dan Dawson and Lucy Shipp. If you guys don't mind starting to get to the front so we can get everybody speaking as quickly as possible.

JACK KRETZER: May I use the overhead projector.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I guess you can. Are we prepared?

JACK KRETZER: That's it.

Good afternoon. My name is Jack, J-a-c-k, Kretzer, K-r-e-t-z-e-r.

You have a thankless job, sir. I hope you have Band-Aids.

I want to direct your attention to the overhead. The two parts of it, the two end columns where it talks about Republicans, Democrats, and other, that's where you should have started. That's where you should have started.

The "other" is -- has the same rights as Democrats and Republicans, but you're a Democrat; they are Republican, and all your concern is having a Democrat district or a Republican district, whether it's a state legislature or the
congressional districts, and that's wrong.

    You started at the wrong place and you ended up with the comments that you have today because all you're interested in is being Democrat or a Republican.

    And let me point out to you that every problem of our country, of our state, of our city, and our county were created and sustained by Democrats and Republicans. No one else has any ability to do the bad things that have happened.

    The simple solution to Don Shooter is for the state Constitution to be changed to have equal representation of counties, and that's simple, if you reduce the senate from 30 to 15.

    La Paz County, you would have a senator. Yuma County would have a senator. They would be equal to Maricopa County.

    All the comments you have heard today are from people who are either a Democrat or a Republican.

    In Yuma County -- in the city of Yuma, the majority of people here have Hispanic surnames. If the Hispanic people actually voted, there wouldn't be Mr. Krieger here to talk, Mr. Johnson here to talk, Mr. Shooter here to talk
if they have a Hispanic surname, would they?

I object, sir, to your setting three minutes for people to speak when you gave the mayor four minutes and 50 seconds.

Everyone should have the equal right to speak and present their ideas, whether you're an elected official or just a common citizen.

I appreciate your being here, but go back to the drawing boards. Sweep the maps clean and start over. Use three parts Democrat, Republican, and other. Other should be equal in every case.

Gotcha. I got a second light.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: John Colvin.

And Dan Dawson next, Lucy Shipp, followed by Gail Beeler, if you would like to get ready to speak after them.

JOHN COLDIN: Good afternoon. Glad to be here.

One ain't happy, ain't nobody happy.

I'm John Colvin, J-o-h-n, C-o-l-v-i-n, and I found out a long time ago in the country, it's the United States of America. United is the key word. Your individual freedoms are guaranteed by the conservation -- the Constitution, thus we have one man, one vote presently.
There is to be no discrimination. There is to be no preferential treatment.

Your proper redistricting includes equal populations using and established administrative boundaries like the counties and consideration for geographic and geological features like the rivers, the mountains, and so forth establishing a community of interest where appropriate. Mining and -- as opposed to farming are not conflicting and it permits competitor districts when doing what would not significantly undermine the other goals.

The other goals are the ones that are the basis for why we are here, not the discrimination goal.

One man, one vote, no discrimination. No preferential treatment will avoid competitive districts and exacerbate dividing our population.

Facilitate the meeting requirements of the Voting Act as listed above several times today and it will assure progress for a united Arizona.

A map to accomplish this simply requires congressional and legislative districts based on populations. Exclude individual's political, ethnic, economic, religion, gender, or whatever national origin you can take and citizenship should
be required for all voters.

    Jack Kretzer put some figures up there.

There's only two numbers you really need to use.
The population 3.2 million and the number of
precincts, 2240, block off the state, square them
up, and I'm sure your fifth and less desirable
requirement there on your competitive thing will be
met.

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Dan Dawson.

No Dan Dawson.

Lucy Shipp followed by Gail Beeler,
followed by Terry E. Lambert.

    LUCY SHIPP: Thank you.


    And I would like to thank the Commission
for doing thankless work. I was on the Yuma County
Board of Supervisors when we formed our own
independent commission, and I know how hard it is to
get the numbers to match. It takes a lot of
tweaking.

    I am appalled that the governor and the
Attorney General are making this political.

    The whole purpose -- the whole purpose of
voters passing Prop 106 was to take it out of the political arena; however, let's be realistic. This is the most political thing we do, period.

With that in mind, I would like to first talk about the legislative map.

I know it can tweaked. I know it's difficult to tweak, but that's what this gentleman does professionally, and he can tweak it.

I would like you to consider Representative Pancrazi's proposal to tweak District 13 to put La Paz County back in with Yuma County, and as the numbers require, go on over to Gila Bend and Buckeye -- that makes a community of interest for us as a rural district.

Then I think you will find the numbers will make Surprise, Glendale, Avondale, and Litchfield Park into a separate district and they would have a community of interest.

We really belong with La Paz County and they with us. Historically they were part of Yuma County, as has been mentioned. They are part of our districts, our college districts, our school districts. They belong with us.

I think it can be tweaked and that would work.
On the congressional end, I think it's very interesting -- again, I would like to see Yuma County not split. Splitting us simply is not recognizing a community of interest.

If it has to be split -- again, I think it can tweaked so that we are not split. If it has to be split, I think it's interesting that those who want a river district basically get one and those that want a border district basically get one and we get twice the representation.

Now, it's a weird map. It does not recognize community of interest for any of us.

Yuma County's communities of interest, even though we're agriculture, is really border on the congressional level.

When we go back to D.C., we talk about border issues, we talk with the port of entries, we talk about immigration, we talk about border trade, we talk about securing the border. We need border representation, and that is our community of interest on the congressional level.

Again, I would rather see you tweak it to make all of Yuma County in one district, but I think we need to go across the border.

And again, I thank you for your time and
your effort and your thick skin.

Good luck.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

So again, after Gail will be Terry Lambert, Richard Nix followed by Betsy Gottsponer.

GAIL BEELER: Good afternoon Vice Chair Herrera.

I'm Gail Beeler and I voted in the 2000 election for a change in Arizona Constitution to give back to the citizens of Arizona the redistricting of our political districts.

I saw the past political influence that preceded this new process. I was in hopes that the Independent Commission, county and state, would improve greatly on the fairness of redistricting, which is required every ten years.

Just this month the Yuma County supervisors voted a new district for Yuma County, and I followed the process looking for independent decisions following the Voting Rights Act.

I was disappointed in the process as the county commissioners was not -- the county commission was not balanced.

There was a majority of one party over another. They went through a process allowing the
public to speak but they did not feel -- I did not feel that they listened. I'm sorry. I did not feel that they listened, as shown by their decisions.

Maps were indeed presented and were voted down with little study in facts and figures. I was indeed concerned that this would happen.

It went to the county supervisors and they forwarded that -- on their decision last -- this last month that it would go to the Department of Justice.

And I think that we are going to find that the Department of Justice is going to be the final decision for Yuma County instead of locally here.

Saying that, I am here today to commend you as an independent and well-balanced Commission. Thank you for not allowing the influence of state and federal politics and politicians to interfere and influence your decisions. I hope that this continues on to the final decision.

None of us like change, but when Arizona is growing at as fast a pace as it is, we need to identify the communities of interest and competitiveness so that the Voter Rights Act is supported and all voters are protected.
Thank you for serving. Thank you for your fairness, and thank you for your independence.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

TERRY LAMBERT: Hello. My name is Terry Lambert, T-e-r-r-y, Lambert, L-a-m-b-e-r-t.

I'm here -- I'm going to try to talk a little bit about our agricultural economy, the military economy, and the snowbirds.

Part of the military and the snowbirds, large part of those have their residency somewhere else and they don't vote here, but they are an integral part of this Yuma area. And because of that, they are part of the respectful communities of interest that shouldn't be split in half either.

I think these cash cows deserve to be considered in with us as a community because they are an integral part of this community, even though it may be six months.

The employment right here is extremely high. Ask them if they are waiting for them to show up.

So they should be considered in this area because they come to this area. They have -- some of them go to Yuma or go to Tucson or Phoenix or other parts, but the ones that come here are part of
this community and should be considered and therefore also not split the county up and make the confusion even worse for the people who pay the bills, these cash cows.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

RICHARD NIX: My name is Richard Nix, N-i-x.

We assumed integrity in the IRC but what you are offering is gerrymandering raised to a science.

The map you proposed bisects Yuma County in violation of the requirements of compact and contiguous, districts of communities of interest, of town and county boundaries, and of competitive districts.

It solidifies Grijalva's seat in congress by removing Republican North Yuma from the South, but you don't realize that the Hispanics in south county are waking up to the fact that Grijalva does not really represent their values.

Even left-leaning media, such as the Arizona Republican, Washington Post, the Daily Coast brag that the map, and I quote, screws Republicans.

Do they have the same writers?
While District 4 violates starting with the grid as the district surrounds -- District 4 surrounds Phoenix on three sides. That's hard to do with grids. It even includes Fountain Hills, hardly a community of interest with Yuma and La Paz counties.

Do you have a reason for that?

Arizona Republican Congressman Schweikert will lose his seat.

How many Arizona Democratic congressmen will lose their seats? None.

Two Republicans total will lose their seats if this map is adopted. Coincidence? Hardly.

This proposed map is a travesty of law and justice and must not be allowed.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We have Betty Gottsponer, Valerie Cook followed by Alex Bejarano, and John, I think it's Boelts.

BETSY GOTTSPONER: My name is Betsy Gottsponer, B-e-t-s-y, G-o-t-t-s-p, as in Paul, o-n-e-r.

I am a third-generation born in Yuma. My great-grandfather was a territorial sheriff here. I
have a stake in this area and a history that goes way back.

My first of the questions, in looking at the timeline, it says that two of you on the board are from Maricopa County and three of you on the border are from Pima County.

What happened to the rest of the state that we've only got Tucson and Phoenix in this?

And then in looking at the congressional map, every single one of these areas is either going to have Phoenix or Tucson in it.

When are we going to get our own people elected when we've Tucson and Phoenix people running against us?

We won't get anybody from any other part of state of Arizona. We don't have a monopoly in Phoenix and Tucson of the smart people. We've got them all through this state, and yet they are the ones that are going to win because every one of them can come from Phoenix or Tucson.

I'm greatly concerned about dividing Yuma County. I'm greatly concerned that you've stuck us with Pima and Maricopa County. And also what happened to our original thought that La Paz and us could go together because we have common interests?
And we do have people smart enough to be in congress.

The same is true with the state. You give us two possibilities for state representation except you also lumped us in with, again, areas in Phoenix. So even state legislators won't be coming out of Yuma any longer.

I think the map has got to be redrawn and it's got to be reconsidered. That there's more to this state than Phoenix and Tucson. Yuma is the third largest population in the state of Arizona and we need to have our own people representing us there.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

VALERIE COOK: Good afternoon. My name is Valerie Cook, V-a-l-e-r-i-e, Cook, C-o-o-k, and I don't like the maps.

I see our city and our county being divided, and I don't feel that it calls for any common ground for anybody the way the map is drawn now and I would beg you to reconsider and redo the maps.

Thank you.

ALEX BEJARANO: Good afternoon
commissioners. My name is Alex Bejarano, A-l-e-x,
B-e-j-a-r-a-n-o, and I am a member of the Wellton
Town Council.

First of all I would like to commend you
for the work that you have done for our state and
for the people that live in Yuma County.

I do support the districts as they are
currently drafted. I do, however, have some
concerns that Wellton will not get the
representation that we deserve.

I know that our population is small, but
I do believe that we need to be in districts that
are -- in a district that's similar to us, and that
would put us in with Southern Yuma County.

Wellton is heavily -- Wellton and East
Yuma County is heavily agriculture and that's one of
our main industries. That's where most of our
residents are employed.

And I would just ask that you consider
putting us -- you know, redrawing the line and
putting us in Southern Yuma County.

We have nothing in common with Bullhead
City or with Lake Havasu or with Fountain Hills. We
wouldn't be able to compete in that district. Any
federal help that would come would go to the places
where there is the majority population.

So again, I do thank you for the current map as drafted, but I would ask you to, as I think Lucy Shipp said, to tweak it a little and put us down with a district where we might get represented.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have John Boelts, William Ladd, followed by Maria, I think it's Retez, and them Emma Torres.

JOHN BOELTS: Good afternoon,

Mr. Commissioner, Vice Chairman.

My name John Boelts, J-o-h-n, Boelts is B-o-e-l-t-s.

I come here today representing Yuma County Farm Bureau and the many members of that organization and the nearly $4 billion industry that we comprise here in Yuma County.

And I wanted to add about 20 minutes to my speech here by saying I want to parrot what Ms. Pancrazi, Mr. Jones, Supervisor Ferguson, Mayor Krieger, and Councilman Johnson said. I think they were right on the mark.

Specifically to talk about ag, I would like to say that our county farm bureau goes and lobbies, and I don't care what party affiliation
they are, when we go to the state house and we go to congress and we talk what our industry needs, that's people from all stripes, all walks, all nationalities.

And when we go there to speak about what our industry needs, that's really where the rubber meets the road because oftentimes our legislative bodies, whether they are federal or state, are regulating our industries, affecting our jobs.

And ag being one of the largest, if not the largest employer in this county, I would like to say that it's a lot easier when at least I know I have two or three folks there in congress or at the state house that I don't have to preface with, yes, this is the map of Arizona and Yuma is down here in the corner and that's where I come from.

And it's really nice when we have folks up there that already know where Yuma is, already have a pretty good idea what I'm there to talk to them about. And that way I can spend my time on the rest of the folks that have no idea what our industry needs or doesn't need and what their regulations, what their ideas for regulatory practices may bring to our industry.

The ag industry here in Yuma produces a
lot of crops, but specifically vegetables. It reaches most of Canada and North American. Over 70 percent of the populations of both Canada and the United States are eating produce that comes right out of here.

So when we go to congress, we speak for that industry. When we go to the state house, we speak for that industry.

And it really would be beneficial if you guys would go back, get rid of this draft that you are working on right now and go back to a previous map and draw lines a little bit straighter. It would really benefit all of us.

Thank you.

WILLIAM LADD: My name is William Ladd, W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Ladd, L-a-d-d.

I would like to say I'm really sorry that the state of Arizona citizens were duped ten years ago or so when they passed Proposition 106. This was a well-meaning socialist idea that just doesn't work.

What we have now is five people on a Commission, supposedly two Republicans, two Democrats, and one, quote, Independent, although I understand the Independent is married to a
high-ranking official in one of the parties, the Democrat party.

But, be that as it may, what it means is that instead of having the legislature do their job, people that we have elected, people that are responsible to us, we have five unelected people, only one of which has to be influenced to change the entire districting and the legislation for the entire next ten years. It's wrong.

We started out with a presentation with -- a lecture from a Mr. Adelson, a federal compliance consultant in Washington, D.C., threatening us and telling us we had to use the federal government. We had to bow down and ask their permission to get approval.

Somebody needs to tell them that the government works for us; we don't work for the government.

And I'll ask the gentleman over here that's drawn the maps. Where is your headquarters? Washington D.C.?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, this is about you and --

WILLIAM LADD: I know what it's about.

It's about the whole legislative thing here.
So I have a real problem with all of that.

Now, I've only lived here for ten years, and I thought it was really interesting when I came here because here is Yuma out in the middle of nowhere. I mean, to go to a big city, it's a couple of hundred miles no matter what direction you head.

And we obviously have something here in the water because the leg- -- this committee thinks we are so powerful that we have to be split in half so we don't have any representation and power in electing representatives.

That's ridiculous. We need to redo it.

Thank you.

MARIA RETEZ: Good afternoon.

My name is Maria Retez, M-a-r-i-a, R-e-t-e-z. I live in Somerton, in the south community.

I would like to say thank you for coming and listen to us, and I think you have good things and the map is a little bit (inaudible) but that's -- the community and that rural community does have more in common in Nogales and Tucson, but in Gadsden and Somerton, we would like to stick together because it's rural place and -- but you be
considering all of that community because you need
to care the community, the young people and all of
the community in the state.

   Thank you for coming and listening to us.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We have Emma Torres, I think it's Steve
Miller, followed by Russ Jones, which I think he
already spoke. Shelly Baker would be next.

EMMA TORRES: Good afternoon, Vice Chair
Jose Herrera. Thank you for being here.

   My name is Emma Torres, E-m-m-a,
T-o-r-r-e-s, and what I want to say here is that I'm
a borderlander. I'm proud for this. I have grown
in this community, and I can tell you that if you
are not from the community or from the border, you
don't understand the border.

   So people are talking here about
common -- people of interest, they don't even
understand. They have never been to South County
and San Luis. They have no clue even about our
needs.

   They are talking about nondevisiveness.
Well, two weeks ago we pleaded not to be divided in
our community and they cared less. They divided our
community, our county, in a ridiculous way that I
hope that something is being done about that.

But in reference to supporting the map, a border map, I totally support that because we do have -- those of us from the border understand each other and we do have commonalities with Nogales and part of Tucson and some of those areas.

I do not agree as most the people here in reference to being together with Maricopa state like they said, because it's true, we are not -- we would not have a lot of representation with that, but I definitely support the border map.

We do not have enough -- the border doesn't have any commonalities with Mohave and Bullhead City. I've been there, too. I work in all that area and we have nothing to do with them, but Parker, definitely, we work together. We are a common community.

And again, as Representative Pancrazi mentioned earlier, a little tweaking on the maps will probably help.

So thank you so much.

STEVE MILLER: My name is Steve Miller, S-t-e-v-e, M-i-l-l-e-r.

I came to the Commission's first meeting out at AWC. We had nothing. Unfortunately, I still
believe we have nothing. You are taking Yuma's representation away from us.

I'm a Democrat, and I don't believe I'm going to get a Democratic representative from Yuma elected because you put us in Tucson and Phoenix. So all of our representation has been negated by your map.

We have more in common, and like a lot of these people are saying, when Yuma County was with La Paz, than we do with being part of Tucson or part of Phoenix.

So you put the population to negate all our Yuma representation in our two districts. I am sorry, I don't believe you guys fairly or realistically understand the importance of Yuma County. You negated our representation by what you did on this committee.

I don't agree with all of the stuff that was said here, but how can we have somebody elected to voice our concerns when you put them in part of the state of Maricopa or the state of --

We don't get any representation. All we do is lose our funds to them.

So at this point in time, I would request that you redraw the map and remove us from Tucson
and from Phoenix.

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

After Shelly Baker we have Dr. Constance Uribe followed by Stephen Replogle -- Replogle, thank you, and then Charles Roecker.

SHELLY BAKER: Good afternoon.

Shelly Baker, S-h-e-l-l-y, B-a-k-e-r, La Paz County recorder.

I've heard a great deal today about the Voter Rights Act being used to trump all other criteria. And I would just like to say that among life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a voter's right to a private vote is supreme. And the Voters Rights Act says in bullet point 3: The presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

I can tell you as an election officer, that the only thing election results can tell you is who won the election. I cannot tell you -- it cannot tell you how any one individual voted and whether or not they were discriminating when they voted, as that vote is private and it should remain so. And their reasons for voting also should remain private.
The 2008 presidential election should have proven that United States citizens don't vote based on race but rather we vote based on whose idea resonates with the majority, and that is as it should be.

I'm asking you today to use caution when you interpret election results as being skewed to discriminate against one party or another or one race or another.

I also would like to ask you that you keep La Paz County with Yuma County as we are communities of interest.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CONSTANCE URIBE: My name is Constance Uribe, C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e, last name U-r-i-b-e.

It's a Hispanic name. Does that mean anything to anybody? Hispanic?

You guys seem to be focused on this Hispanic thing.

Okay, Mr. Herrera, I graduated from Kofa High before you were born. We spoke Spanish in Spanish class.

You know what, you guys had a job. You had an assignment. You were supposed to be focused
on population, you were supposed to be focused on concentration of voters, you were supposed to be focused on community of interest, you were supposed to be focused on contiguousness of areas.

And you lost it. You got sidetracked. You forgot something very important. Arizona is part of the United States of America. And we have a saying in the United States of America, "All men are created equal." Okay? It doesn't matter. It just doesn't matter.

You had it all here. Yuma is concentrated. The Yuma area is concentrated. We have it all. We have the minority-majority that you are so concerned about. We have it all. It was here for you. You had it right here. And you divided it. You divided Yuma. You divided my community. You divided my people. You even divided my family.

And as far as the dead space that you are supposed to be concerned about, you reached out towards Pima County and you brought that in.

Well, when I was studying medicine at the University of Arizona, Raul Grijalva was messing around with a bunch of people who were studying the politics of Cuba and Karl Marx.
And then when he got into office, he started writing articles for something called "The People's Weekly World," which is a communist rag, it's a communist newspaper.

And then in Chicago at this national communist convention, an Arizona member of the communist party was bragging about how they helped Raul Grijalva get elected.

This man has ties to the communist party and somebody named Susan Thorpe wrote articles in this communist rag, this "People's Weekly World" about how they helped Raul Grijalva get elected.

You know what, I will not -- I will not tolerate -- I will not tolerate having a communist take over Yuma County. I simply won't allow this.

You know, all the Progressive Democrats want, all they understand is hate and vitriol.

When I came and spoke to you before over there at the college, I was nice. Well, I'm not going to be nice anymore. You don't understand.

Let me explain something to you. Before you were born, there was Democrat -- I campaigned for his -- okay.

STEPHEN REPLOGLE: Stephen, S-t-e-p-h-e-n, Replogle, R-e-p-l-o-g-le.
I would like to challenge the name of the Independent Redistricting Commission. I do not see any independence in it whatever.

I see actually a person who was supposed to be as independent as the chairperson who basically is an undercover Democrat who basically went against the open meetings rule, who basically solicited votes outside of that format to try and line up Strategic Telemetry, which is basically a Democratic, you know, group to draw these districting maps.

I see a lot of corruption going on, and I see a lot of politicking going on. I do not see any Independent Redistricting Commission in evidence whatsoever.

You've got a group that has basically swayed this to try and guarantee altered elections, to guarantee an outcome.

This is not the purpose of elections. Elections are to be representing the people of an area, and Yuma has not been represented for an awful long time. And it's the type of thing you look at your maps -- you're splitting a city right in half, you're dividing the community.

This should be along the Colorado River.
Our communal interests are along the agricultural basin and along the Colorado River and along the irrigation districts in this area, and I do not see any interests whatsoever being done by this Commission in regards to those interests of the community. All I see is an attempt to sway elections and guarantee outcomes.

I think that the Independent Redistricting Commission needs to be independent and the current one needs to be replaced.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHARLES ROECKER: Can I use this thing?

All right. Great. I'll put it up when I'm ready.

All right. Thank you.

My name Charles Roecker, R-o-e-c-k-e-r, and Charles is Charles.

I want to actually come before you representing the Democratic point of view. I am very appreciative of the Commission's effort to break up the Arizona Republican power block in Arizona. You have done a wonderful job and I hope you get away with it.

Thank you, commissioners, also for promoting a more Democratic ideology.
The adopted map is a great start; however, I would like to see a more Progressive one that symbolizes the IRC's and today's Democratic party's ultimate agenda.

First, I have a map here -- there we go.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take it off, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I object.

CHARLES ROECKER: This is a map of Arizona and the letters are districts, our new districts we can use.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you remove that, please?

CHARLES ROECKER: Why?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Some people in the audience are offended by it. I need to respect everyone.

CHARLES ROECKER: Sir, your party represents that. I'm just doing what your party represents.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you get to your presentation without the --

CHARLES ROECKER: Okay. Well, in any case, the -- our Democratic party -- come on, we all know who we are, we're socialists. Okay? Let's
just be proud of that. All right?

And so what we can do is let's make Arizona truly red. All right? Not just a red state like it used to be, but a real red state. I mean mal and Marx and Obama. Okay?

So we have these words. We can use those as independent districts and then the hammer and sickle, that can be the very Progressive hammer in the sickle. That can be one district in the middle of Phoenix.

And so we do that, and then I have another one, too. I'll just --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think your three minute are up.

Thank you, sir.

CHARLES ROECKER: All right.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sharon White followed by Russ Clark.

Is Sharon White not here?

Russ Clark.

RUSS CLARK: My name is Russ Clark. That's R-u-s-s, C-l-a-r-k.

I was at the first meeting at AWC, and I know the mics were working and I know you were listening. I don't think you were paying attention
or there was a plan to just ignore us because you
had a different agenda. I don't know which it was,
but I know the outcome.

The outcome is that we've got a map that
is split, and it's unacceptable to the people in
this community, people in south county, people in
north county all have expressed concerns as they did
at AWC. At AWC we had mayors from San Luis and
Somerton as well as from Yuma that expressed to you
that we are a continuous community, well-balanced,
and one that gets along and relies on each other.

You've been effective in splitting YPG,
you've been effective from our military base, the
marine base, and you've weakened us.

You've weakened us because now we have
two representatives that don't care about us. We're
going to have two, because we're going to be small
sections of those two.

As Don Shooter says, we're two small
tails now instead of one large tail. You've made us
less effective. We're not going to get the
representation as it sets now.

You've ignored the fact that you were
supposed to keep these things compact. You've
ignored it. You've ignored communities of interest.
You've ignored community -- or county barriers.
You've ignored all of that for some other agenda, which I can only guess is to make things competitive by unseating our current representatives or making it difficult for our current representatives to get elected. We find that unacceptable.

I do applaud our governor, though. Our governor has had the courage to see something that's swimming and call it a duck.

She has asked you to come forward and talk about shredded documents, to talk about meetings in secret, violations of public meeting laws. She's asked you why you haven't come forward to testify when the legislature has asked you to.

The community, this entire state, made a mistake back in 2000. In 2000 they voted to take out of the hands of the legislature something that they were supposed to do, something that they had an obligation to do -- redraw these boundaries.

Somehow they thought it would be better to put it into five hyper-partisan hands with no one to answer to versus doing it in the legislature that we voted for and they have strict guidelines of conduct.

You obviously don't have the conduct that
the legislature has and no one can hold your feet to
the fire. And it's unfortunate.

My hope is that after the governor gets
done with her duck comments, that we are going to go
right back to the voters and we're going to ask to
undo this and go back to the voters and put it back
in the hands of the legislature where it belongs.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next three
speakers are Luis Heredia, Lorna Brooks, followed
by Sandy Pierce.

LUIS HEREDIA: Luis Heredia, L-u-i-s,
H-e-r-e-d-i-a.

I want to say that there is a lot of work
that is placed in trying to get public comment here,
a lot of work to try to present the information that
this state really deserves.

In casting the light in what Yuma County
is -- I represent -- I work for a federal office
here in Yuma County and the issues that we dealt
with were primarily border, primarily the funding
for public education, the funding for the sunset
community, health clinic.

There were several points of round tables
that we used to hold to try to get this community
work that was necessary. So I believe that the maps
do present at least a scenario that understand what
this area is really about.

Now, there are differences and there are
comments and concerns. I think we should all
respect those comments and concerns.

I think when we work together to present
this information, we can come up a reasonable and
acceptable conclusion. But we all need to respect,
I think, the opinions that we have. We do need to
respect the communities that make up this great Yuma
County.

Now, we are all trying to respond to
building political boundaries that represent the
community, that represent the ideas that our
communities, either in the city of Yuma, the city of
Somerton, and Wellton and the city of San Luis all
do to try to elect the people that best represent
them.

Now, not everyone is going to get what
ey they want but there needs to be respect. I could
say that working in the federal offices, we receive
calls or comments, voice messages that I know the
mayor mentioned about a color-blind society. It is
about being color-blind but it's also about being
accepting of difference of opinions, differences of political judgment.

And I can say that many of these voice messages and many of the comments that were received were not respectful. I mean, they were not, I think, meaning of what our former government was meant.

So this was after seven years in working in a federal office receiving voice mail after voice mail.

We are -- we can achieve a color-blind but we also have to be accepting.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Lornna Brooks.

Hi. Lornna Brooks, L-o-r-n-n-a, B-r-o-o-k-s, and I just want to support the map.

You had one on your website that was called a 3 border district. That's the closest one to logic.

Yuma County should not be cut in half nor should the town of Yuma be cut in half. And I think it makes more sense to be put with La Paz County, Mohave County, parts of Yavapai County, perhaps Quartzsite and, of course, to include the Barry
Goldwater bombing range. These areas are all rural, agricultural, and often interrelated through families, not to mention the water districts, the farming groups, the business organizations, the college districts and all of that's been outlined before.

Also our Colorado River Indian tribes are interrelated. I don't think it's right to split them in half items.

It would be nice to have our own district, a river district, and that is for the congressional plan.

As far as the legislative plan goes, La Paz and Yuma County should be kept together.

And as others have said, we have nothing in common with Phoenix or Tucson. I've lived in both cities, they are light years different from Yuma.

We have a much more relaxed way of living here and we are dependent on agriculture, which they are not and they don't understand it. They also don't understand the Colorado River and the needs of the people living along it.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
Sandy Pierce.

SANDY PIERCE: My name is Sandy Pierce, P-i-e-r-c-e.

I am District 1 supervisor for La Paz County.

I've lived in Parker over 50 years. My husband farms in the valley on the Colorado River Indian tribe. Colorado River Indian tribes is also part of my district, District 1.

Our county government has always worked with Yuma County. I mean, the representatives have absolutely and the senator, they have been so helpful to La Paz County on many issues that we have had and they have always been there and stood up for us.

We need to stay with Yuma County. We don't need to be separated. We have too many things in common besides the river, the agriculture, the tribes, the Hispanic, you know, it's just -- we're all one big community of interest.

So I am here today asking you to please keep La Paz County with Yuma and do not split Yuma into two pieces.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
William Michael Smith.

WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH: Good afternoon.

My name is William Michael Smith, S-m-i-t-h. I am the chairman of the Yuma Democratic party.

I want to thank you for having this hearing here today, and I'm a little bit encouraged about listening to all of the comments.

I know we have a lot of differences with our Republican friends, but we do have some things in common and I would like to address those.

I would like to reiterate, or at least acknowledge, supporting the comments of former chairman of the board of supervisors, Lucy Shipp and our present legislator, Ms. Pancrazi.

There are some details about the commonality of interest in Yuma and La Paz County that have been addressed in a very general fashion, but people fail to realize, I think, how important they are.

Yuma and La Paz County hold 1.2 million acre-feet of the 2.8 million acre-feet of Colorado River water rights. 45 percent of all of Arizona's share of the Colorado River rights exist in Yuma and La Paz County.

Yuma ships 70 to 80 percent of all of the
fresh produce shipped in the United States between
the months of November and March of each year.

The agricultural is really the foundation
of the southwestern part of Arizona. And it more --
than that is these two counties that have been tied
together first as one county, one of the original
four territorial counties in the state of Arizona.
I still don't remember why we separated. Everybody
has forgotten, but we never lost each other.

There is no commonality of interest north
of La Paz County with La Paz and Yuma. That I
disagree with because they don't have the
agriculture that we have and they don't have the
water rights that we have. They may have recreation
and they may have some other things but they don't
have the tie that we have.

I would hate to see us get too far
involved with Maricopa and Pima County because there
is something they don't have that we have and that
we're very protective of and that's our water
rights.

And we don't need to be getting into
situations with representatives from the
metropolitan areas who would impact or attempt to
impact or divide us.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, your three minutes are up.

WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH: In any event, I would hope that you would consider those factors as well as the border area and our locations there.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

And our last speaker is Russell McCloud, Yuma County Supervisor.

Is Russell McCloud here?

RUSSELL MCCLOUD: Good afternoon.

Russell McCloud R-u-s-s-e-l-l, M-c-C-l-o-u-d.

Thank you for coming here today to listen to the community.

I can tell you that sitting on the board of supervisors, the most important lesson I've learned is I can do hours of study and looking at what looks right on paper but then I go to the meeting and I hear it from the public. And there are oftentimes that hearing from the public sways the opinion of what you might see on paper, what looks good on paper.

The residents of Yuma County have had the opportunity to review the legislative district map that was approved by the Commission on October 10th.

I can tell you today that I have not
received one single positive comment from any Yuma County resident regarding the recommended legislative districts.

The idea that Yuma County could lose its collective voice in the state legislative process over the next ten years is not only wrong, it's absurd.

Not only does the proposed plan segregate Yuma County into two separate geographic regions, it ties both of those regions to areas that at best have remote commonalities to the issues critical to Yuma County.

We have a unified voice in Yuma County that needs to be respected and preserved, not fragmented.

Yuma County is now nearly over 200,000 residents. We have an economic base like no other in the state. Two of five major military installations are within Yuma County's boundaries, the largest agricultural industry within the state and a unique tourism industry.

Yuma County cannot expect that its interest can be understood or served at the state level by anyone other than someone that lives within this community.
As a border community with an agricultural base, Yuma County's security interest differ greatly from its neighboring border counties in the state.

The challenges that face communities in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties are vastly different from those we deal with in Yuma County.

Presuming that any representative from outside of Yuma County will understand the social economic structure that has flourished in Yuma County for decades is a series misjudgment.

Residents of Yuma County have been active participants in state politics at the highest levels for many years. Some of the best and brightest minds to participate in public service have come from within Yuma County.

We take great pride in our ability to promote local issues while respecting the greater needs of the state of Arizona.

The plan under consideration renders Yuma County virtually irrelevant for all intents and purposes for the next ten years.

This would be an injustice to a county that has contributed so much to this great state.

And I would refer comments that John
Boelts made. He did an excellent job and I would refer to that.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think we have one more speaker, that's Ralph B. Williams. Is he here?

RALPH B. WILLIAMS: Thank you for letting me talk and thank you for coming. Somebody told me this was going to be changed from 1 o'clock to 4 o'clock and changed back to 1 o'clock.

You have a very difficult task, and I appreciate that you've tried to meet the challenge and I also appreciate that no Commission, no BODY of people is ever going to draw maps that satisfy everybody.

And your first responsibility is drawing maps with equal population, and I believe from what I see that you have done that, but the next priority is adhering to already-established boundary lines. And as far as Yuma County is concerned, your Commission has totally violated its duty.

Interstate 8 is not an established borderline. To follow your mandate, you need to move all of Yuma County into one district.

There is an argument that the present maps allow Yuma County to be represented by twice as
many representatives. But from what you have just
heard, that is the height of foolishness. Being
divided would be less than half as likely to have
any local representation.

We would be in a minute minority with two
congressmen and our legislature would be more
influenced by Maricopa and Pima counties.

I repeat my solution: Follow your
mandate to follow geographical lines for both
congress and the legislature. Do not divide Yuma
County.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think that was our
last speaker. So this ended a lot earlier than I
thought it would. That's fine. You guys can go
back to your families.

Thank you, guys, so much for being here
and spending time with us and voicing your concerns.
And we'll be next -- when is our next meeting?
South Phoenix will be on Monday -- Tuesday.

So thank you, guys, for being here.
Thank you, guys, for listening, and have a good day.
Take care.

(The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 91 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 6th day of November, 2011.

_______________________________
MICHIELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637