

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing in
Yuma, AZ: June 11, 2001**

“My concern is that Yuma County now is at 50.5 percent Hispanic votes in population. So that I would like to see the entire county intact. And since our concerns are predominantly with the border communities, I would like to see that the grid that you propose consider other border communities rather than to take in Mojave County because I think it’s important that we continue our relationship with our International Border.” – Ermilia Jolley, Pg 21 Ln 9-17

“So those of us that exist here in the county, all 140,000 or 150,000 of us, have a lot of close economic and social ties. We are a community that’s changing and in some ways we have a lot of immigrants, new citizens that we are very proud of.” – William Michael Smith, Pg 26 Ln 10-14

“But I would ask you at least to seriously consider keeping Yuma County intact.” – Smith, Pg 27 Ln 17-18

“I’m just getting to learn my district, but I think there is a natural – for legislative districts – a natural community of interest between Yuma and La Paz County.”-Robert Cannell, Pg 28 Ln 12-15

“I will summarize two short thoughts. One is : Please do not split Yuma County.” – Lucy Shipp, Pg 29 Ln 24-25

“As far as community of interest is concerned, you have already heard – and I am happy to repeat – our interests lie along the border.” –Jones Osborn, Pg 31 Ln 4-6

“Yuma County has always been kind of a stepchild of every district that we have ever been in and we would like to have a little larger voice than what we have had in the past.” – Phil Townsend, pg 33 Ln 15-19

“Water is our most critical issue in Yuma and to keep as a voice that understands the Colorado River issues would be very important to us.” – Townsend, pg 34 Ln 3-5

“Since 1912 in Yuma County the Hispanic population has never been represented. It is only in recent history that we have begun to feel our muscle, our voting muscle being exercised. And to split the county would certainly push us back to 1912 and I don’t think there is an Hispanic in this community that would want to be back there in 1912.” – Enrique Castillo, Pg 34 Ln 18-24

“This community is coming together. This community has made great strides. If you split us again, it’s going to do untold damage to the psyche of a lot of people and especially to the emerging Hispanic population.” – Monsignor O’Keefe, Pg 36 Ln 2-6

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

These materials are placed here for citizen review and with the hope that they will encourage comments. Comments can be made on the form provided.