

**Summary of Public Meeting
of the
State of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission**

Location: Bullhead City, Arizona

Date: June 12, 2001

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Daniel R. Elder, Commissioner

Commission Attorneys: Lisa T. Hauser

Others: Marguerite Mary Leoni, Attorney for NDC

Nine members of the community actively participated in discussion.

The overwhelming sentiment expressed was the importance of keeping intact each city's boundaries and not splitting them between or among different legislative districts. There was consensus, except for a single dissenter, that splitting Bullhead City was an overall "detriment" to the city: it led to confusion at election time, it provided weaker representation. The dissenter expressed a contrary opinion: he had been involved with the 1990 redistricting and liked having "double representation."

Secondly, there was strong sentiment to keep the counties as units. The cities of Kingman, Havasu and Bullhead already have to deal with each other in the county. Thus, the county is a good basis for representation.

Most speakers expressed that river cities and communities have common interests, like sewerage and protecting the environment of the Colorado River. These are different from the interests of the inland or alpine regions of Arizona. These speakers felt that river cities should be combined: Bullhead City and Lake Havasu and maybe even all the way down to La Paz and Yuma. These cities have different topography and climate and their needs are very different from Flagstaff and Prescott. Also, newspapers are centered around three cities: Kingman, Bullhead and Lake Havasu.

It was also felt that rural areas, or at least less urbanized areas, have more in common with each other than joining with Phoenix and urbanized Maricopa County.

Most speakers felt that their community was ill matched with Prescott and Flagstaff, as well as with Maricopa. If it is necessary to exclude one of the river cities, Colorado City should be the one.

Several members commented favorably about the Commission's proposed boundaries along the river and not across the top of the state.

AURs: River Communities
 City boundaries
 County boundaries

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.