Casa Grande, Arizona
June 13, 2001
7:00 p.m.
THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 13, 2001, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Casa Grande City Council Chambers, 510 East Florence Boulevard, Casa Grande, Arizona, in the presence of:

APPEARANCES:

VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF
COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK
LISA HAUSER, Commission Counsel
FLORENCE ADAMS, NDC Consultant
RALPH ROSSUM, NDC Consultant
AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff
MYRA PARKER, Outreach Staff
ALICIA NIETO JACOBS, Spanish Interpreter
LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter
PRESENTATION BY VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF

SPEAKERS FROM CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Bob Mitchell
Bob Lynch
Kent Taylor
Frank Davidson
Roger Hooper
Brett Benedict
Dorothy Powell
Dora Vasquez
Dan Froetscher
David Snider
John Klein
Paul Prechel
Ben Cruz
Ron Kingsbury
Jim Hartdegen
Jimmie Kerr
Kim Benedict
Eric Somerville
Phoenix, Arizona
June 13, 2001
7:00 o'clock p.m.

PROCEDINGS

(The following is an excerpted transcript from the public hearing containing only the public comment portion of the evening.)

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: While the equipment is being disassembled here, let me say one more word about the grid, then hopefully we can leave that subject.

Our consultants advised us or suggested to us early on we might consider putting off publishing this grid until after we had a chance to hold these hearings and receive further input regarding communities of interest and other factors. And some of the members of the Commission thought that was a good idea. However, we were advised by our legal counsel that was not consistent with Proposition 106 which clearly states we start by creating the grid and then take these other factors into consideration. So that is exactly what we did.

In fact, the process was we created the
rules for creating the grid, then delegated it to our
consultants to actually translate it into a grid
pattern. And they presented it to us at a meeting. We
saw it at the same time as the public. It was generated
pursuant to rules. We had no real idea what it was
going to do when it was superimposed on the geography of
the State of Arizona other than it would comply with our
rules and comply with the technical requirements of
Proposition 106.

If you are aware of the grid and if
dissatisfied with it, you are, of course, free to
complain about it. I don't mean to discourage you from
doing it. But the input we really need to move forward
from this point is for you to tell us what you do want,
not what is wrong with the grid. So with that last word
on that subject, I think we're done talking and the next
phase of this meeting, in fact the balance of the
meeting, I hope, will be devoted to you giving an
opportunity to give us input.

The first speaker, presentation, on this
list, is Bob Mitchell

Bob, maybe you could introduce the
following people as you go through the presentation.

Oh, yes. When each of you speak, would
you please state your name and spell it for our court
reporter.

MR. MITCHELL: Bob Mitchell, B O B, like the ballpark, M I T C H E L L.

The gentleman to follow me is Bob Lynch. Bob will do more of the technical part of the thing. I hope to present a couple things.

One I'd like to present to you, hope to present to you, is what we feel our community, community of interest is, as well as what we'd like to see with regard to boundaries.

Bob will present more of the technical presentation as far as boundaries.

First, we welcome you to Casa Grande and thank all the people this evening participating.

Ten years ago we thought we'd get involved in the process, created a map, presented it to the Legislature. Not only did the Legislature not consider it, we became the poster child for gerrymandering in the State of Arizona.

If you look at the city, you'd agree with us.

This is what our message is tonight:

As districts are being formed, we'd first like to request the City of Casa Grande remain whole. I think, again, as mentioned, this was not done previously
and created a great deal of ill feelings and feelings we have not been adequately represented.

Our second wish is we keep Western Pinal County whole. In the best of all worlds we'd have the entire county kept whole.

At the Arizona League of Cities Executive Meeting last Friday Mr. Lynn presented to us much of what we saw this evening and asked us to do what you asked us to do, that is describe our communities. I think probably more than most counties in Arizona, Pinal County is a county of a community. Each speaker will come up and tell you an element of our community.

We've established great working relationships throughout our county, community. We'd like to share with you the broad scope of some of those. Each of the individuals that follows me, they'll be more in-depth.

Just to give you an example of Pinal County and the relationship that Casa Grande has, we're a city, as you know, of about 26,000 people. We have a shopping base of somewhere between 85,000 and 90,000 people. To illustrate that, we are a regional shopping area. There are not too many cities the size of Casa Grande that have a Home Depot. That's sharp ranking in Casa Grande. That tells you it's a regional
hub.

The Chamber will talk more about regionalism, chamber goals, and representation.

Several years ago the governments in Pinal County formed the Pinal County Regional Alliance. It's made up of six cities and the community college. The alliance was formed to act as a community for issues that affect Pinal County. I don't know too many counties that have ever got together and formed an alliance such as this. We've done it, did it, primarily for water. Again, as on redistricting, there are a lot of areas of concern to us.

As you know, Pinal County is the third largest community, or county, in Arizona and is sandwiched between the Tucson and Phoenix Metro areas which have been growing by leaps and bounds and spilled over to Pinal County.

There are a lot of things, a lot of cities, transition cities, transitioning to a metropolitan area still that should not be part of Phoenix or Tucson.

Economic development efforts have been done primarily for a regional effort. We feel there's a lot of merit for it to be done on a regional basis, doing it way before it's fashionable on a national
Water is another issue that really binds us together. We have, Pinal County is a county that has its own active water management area. And all the cities and entities in Pinal County have to share 60,000 feet of recharged water in this area this year. Water becomes a very critical issue to us.

All the cities and counties in Pinal county have like issues.

Again, because there are two major growth areas, we're starting to see an awful lot of impact on water. More will be said on water as we go through the evening.

The issues I've just mentioned are just as broad. Again, I don't want to say a lot because the more in-depth will come.

Again, I want to thank you on behalf of the City for taking the time and willingness to serve Arizona. It's not an easy task, as I listen to the things you are doing and the time you are putting into this.

More importantly, I thank you for giving us the opportunity this evening for giving you input. This is truly, I think, a step in the right direction.
And with that, I'll let Bob talk to you about the kind of districts we'd like to have.

Bob.

MR. LYNCH: Good evening. As Bob said, my name is Bob Lynch, B O B, Lynch, as in hang by the neck.

I'm an attorney in Phoenix, here on behalf of the City of Casa Grande. Essentially I'm a technical witness to try to explain to you the map I just distributed.

After the presentation, I'll leave the remaining copies I have for those that might wish them this evening.

Behind us is a drawing done by my daughter and three other summer legal interns in my office which more or less represents our proposal to you. And we did it in this larger form, I think, primarily so the audience would be able to follow along. I'm sorry it's a little tilted, but we're amateurs at this.

In any event, the map depicts Pinal county. It depicts the Indian communities partially or wholly within Pinal County. Pinal County is outlined in green. Indian communities are outlined in orange.

The proposal we're suggesting to the Commission tonight is outlined in blue. And it is
essentially the entire county except for the portion of
it that is in the San Carlos Indian Reservation, the
portion in the northeast, the portion in the Southwest
that is a portion of the Tohono O'odham Indian
Reservation, and a portion in the upper northeast which
is now currently, let's say, District Four.

Let me reference the map that I presented
to the Commission.

This map, in addition, indicates the
Census tracts. And you will see they are numbered, as
we have numbered them. And the population figures from
the 2000 Census are indicated on the right. The ones in
italics indicate the populations of the excluded areas.
And you'll see we've included two Census tracts in
Maricopa County, those being two Census tracts that are
portions of the Gila River Indian Community.

We started from the premise that the
Indian communities were communities of interest
themselves and would be kept whole in any design that
you would come up with under prevailing law. And we
attempted to fit this proposal to the Voting Rights Act,
as we understand it, and the concept of communities of
interest.

The population of Pinal County is just
slightly under 180,000. The proposal before you is
172,551, slightly over your target of 171,000 but within one percent of your target. As you can see, it is visually compact and contiguous, and as you will hear and already heard from Mr. Mitchell and will hear from others, areas with it, virtually all communities of interest are represented in District Seven. Geographic features, communities of interest are represented and included, and no Census tract is divided by this proposal.

We have not taken into account party registration and have not taken into account incumbent residence. We have not taken into account party registration that might impact into a grid.

Pinal County would be divided into five Legislative Districts. A portion of the current District Four is lessened. It stabs into heart of the City of Casa Grande, as you know, and it essentially retreats into the area of Northeast Pinal it currently represents. District 11 is in Pinal County, the Tohono O'odham Reservation, which it represents. We kept that area for the obvious purpose it is part of the reservation. District 12 in south central is absorbed. District 11 is absorbed by this district again with the idea of making Pinal as whole as possible. District Seven is expanded in Pinal County and lessened in
Maricopa County withdrawing from the far eastern part of Maricopa County.

According to the 2000 Census, the current District Seven has 50.3 percent minority population. This proposal has 41 percent. As Ms. Minkoff mentioned, there is the dilution factor the Department of Justice takes into consideration. We believe that's satisfied by the overall factor when you take into account the large growth in Southern Maricopa County and Southern Maricopa County's compatible classification as a minority classification district and that the overall pattern will be the antidilution factor the Justice Department applies.

That's the end of my presentation.

And I believe Ken Taylor is scheduled up next.

MR. TAYLOR: Hello. I'm Ken Taylor from the Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce. And from Proposition 106, we were supporters of this and it's goals.

Thank you for taking your time to stop here and hear our views.

As you know, Casa Grande was adversely affected in the last redistricting. Casa Grande was a prime example of redistricting gone bad in our view.
The map we've shown tonight we believe is an accurate description of a true description of what could be. We identified following the proposed redistricting map.

Economic trading areas lie within the district and have been maintained within the proposal. Tourism has been highlighted in areas within the district.

As existing, with the small districts, tourism currently suffers in the area. It has a current impact on businesses that we all be playing by the same rules. There are important business issues, such as growth, water, government regulation, quality of life, employment, all are similar throughout Casa Grande and Pinal County.

In conclusion, the larger question remains: Should communities such as Casa Grande be split into pieces to make a Legislative or Congressional District? Obviously the answer is no.

What we're proposing and you're seeing this evening keeps Casa Grande whole and most of Pinal County. That is our goal in developing this proposal and should be yours when the final maps are drawn.

Taylor, T A Y L O R.

MR. DAVIDSON: Frank Davidson,
I'm superintendent of the Casa Grande Elementary District here in Casa Grande. We have 10 schools, approximately 5,010 students, for nine square miles.

I have been following the redistricting process very closely. I was one of the 311 individuals that applied for the Commission and one of the individuals selected to be a finalist for one of the Commission posts. I had the good fortune to interview and greater fortune to be excluded from further consideration.

Congratulations, Andi. You are doing a great job.

My role here this evening is to speak to you in support of the proposal shared with you to keep Casa Grande, Western Pinal County, and Eastern Pinal County whole. As one of my roles as superintendent, I'm involved in the Pinal County Association, and superintendent throughout Pinal County, we meet regularly each month and identify issues, challenges we all face, develop common solutions that we implement together.

I can assure you, throughout Pinal County, school districts see themselves as a community of interest. We work together trying to overcome
challenges and share a number of interests. We work
together to coordinate training for teachers across the
districts. We work together to collaborate on grants.
We pursue a number of interests together. And we
develop a common legislative agenda with all school
districts across the county.

We work extensively, school districts, on
all school projects. It's evident throughout the work
throughout years that the challenges, social problems
schools face throughout the county and efforts
undertaken to address problems are very much in common
with one another.

I first came to Pinal County in 1982. I
came to Casa Grande 10 later. What happened in Pinal
County, or Casa Grande 10 years ago, I certainly hope
not is repeated in the new redistricting. I hope the
Commission will find it possible to support a plan
similar to that proposed and be able to keep Pinal
County whole.

Thank you very much for all the time,
effort, enormous effort before you. And I wish you the
best of luck.

Thank you.

(A brief recess recess was held for
technical adjustments.)
MR. HOOPER: I'm Roger Hooper, R O G E R, H O O P E R, a third generation farmer in Pinal County.

Thank you very much for coming tonight to hear Pinal County's concerns and Casa Grande concerns.

I'm President of the Arizona Cotton Growers Cooperation and would like talk to you about agriculture and its very -- its uniqueness in Pinal County and the fact we believe agriculture and the communities of Casa Grande, Coolidge, the surrounding communities will remain agricultural for many years even though transitioning to urban agriculture, livestock.

And we think compactness of districts is very important to continue the concise development of agriculture in Pinal County and Casa Grande. And the fact we right now are the largest employer for the county -- for Pinal County, we believe Pinal County should continue to stay compact.

I think the grid lines you've shown on your maps on the website work very well, demonstrate Pinal County. And maps we've shown you tonight fall into that county.

Pinal should be whole, not split into five legislative districts like it has in the past and three congressional districts like it has been in the past.

We think Pinal County should be a unique
district in the state simply from the fact we still carry the four Cs Arizona was founded on, cotton, copper, corn and cattle.

We'd like to see Pinal County kept in one district.

We'd like to see someone else from the Cattle and Feeders Association that would like to speak to you.

Thank you very much.

My name is Brett Benedict, B R E T T, BENEDICT.

My family has had a feed lot in this county since 1954. We have farmed all throughout the county, Coolidge, Gila Independent Reservation, and the Maricopa and Stanfield areas.

All of us in agriculture think of Pinal as a community. A big piece of evidence is some of the associations we formed, for instance the Casa Grande Cotton Wives, they come from all over the county. Another example, just outside of that, the Casa Grande Historical Society, we try to include the whole county as a community.

As Roger started to point out, we in agriculture are facing a transition from agricultural areas to urban areas. I think especially those of us in
agriculture would like, I think those of us that have
been here would like to make that transition and the
decisions about that transition for ourselves rather
than have them imposed from others on the outside. And
for lots of us reasons that others will discuss, decide
about agriculture in Pinal County as a whole.

And I get the honor to call up Dorothy
Powell to talk next.

MS. POWELL: That's greetings to you
members of the Independent Redistricting Commission, and
congratulations on being two out of over 300 applicants.
I think those are very good numbers. And we also
appreciate your coming to talk to us tonight.

I am happy to speak for our
chronologically gifted people.

I wanted to say that I am on the Board for
the Area Agency on Aging. I have been off and on for
some 30 years on the Board for Desert Valley Care
Center, Hospice, the Central Arizona College Foundation,
and an active participant in our Senior Adult Center
here. Our rallying call is on this button I'm wearing:
"Aging, if it isn't your issue, it will be."

So I represent all of us here tonight,
because we are all choosing to be aging.

Senior adults have the record of being the
most active in voting. I think any election is well
to recruiting senior adults, because we take our
responsibilities very seriously. We like to know our
candidates.

It's very difficult and has been
frustrating this last 10 years not to know our
candidates and to have them not understand a lot of our
local needs here.

As a member of our Governor's Advisory
Council on Aging, we have a Legislative Coordinating
Committee. And we are advised, "Meet your legislators.
Take them out for a cup of coffee. Invite them to your
center." When we have one who is living -- three who
are living several hundred miles away, this is a little
difficult to get the personal touches we need.

We have health care, prescription drug
coverage, transportation, housing are some of our
concerns. And there are from one-fourth to one-fifth of
the people in Pinal County who are 60 years of age and
older. So we have common concerns.

We -- I was a member 10 years ago of the
local committee that went in to protest before the
Legislature the division, how we were divided up. It
was a frustrating experience and we have suffered for 10
years.
We think it is time to turn things around. We are delighted that this is your charge right now. We wanted to invite you to visit us right now. This is more than some of our legislators can do. We would be happy to help you in any way. And again, we will say: Aging, if it's not your issue now, it will be. So we represent a lot of good people who will be glad to visit with you about further concerns. Thank you. And it's Powell, P O W E L L, Dorothy Powell.

MS. VASQUEZ: Good evening. My name is Dora Vasquez, V A S Q U E Z. I am a former resident of Casa Grande. I recently moved to Peoria. I was on the Board in Casa Grande for the NAACP for Pinal County. I'm Chair of the Arizona Civil Rights Advisory Board. I want to commend the Board, the members, for holding several meetings and appreciating the needs and concerns for all the people's needs. I believe these public meetings are premature and should have occurred, have public meetings, be looking at grids, when there's been more
opportunity for study.

Currently there is extreme minority retrogression. We currently have seven majority-minority districts. With the grid as it stands, it appears we're down to five. It does not make sense as the Hispanic community has grown, per the Census data, appears to have gone up to eight or ten. We have concerns in that area. I'm speaking statewide here.

It appears, there's an indication, it appears there's minority dilution in a couple districts, 22, 23, in the initial grid proposed, which is a violation of the act of 1992 in Arizona. Indian reservations, Indian communities must be intact as one. You addressed that.

It appears that there -- I don't know how to say this. In the congressional map, it appears one line accommodates a Congressional Congressman where one Congressional District barely misses a Congressman in another Congressional District. If that's coincidence, it's very surprising and coincidental.

These are based on total population Census counts, not voting population. If they are districts as the way proposed, they further dilute, because the voting population is not considered in the grids.
As for Pinal County, I'm happy to see it in one district.

I believe District Eight, according to the numbers, legislative districting numbers I received from your office, that is good for minorities here in Pinal County. It gives a stronger voice to work together. I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

MR. FROETSCHER: My name is Daniel Froetscher, F R O E T S C H E R, Greater Casa Grande Economic Organization.

If I could, I'd beg the Commission's permission, we had a disjointed package of presenters. Dora was not one of our presenters. Councilman Mitchell was with the City; Bob Lynch was for the Chamber, Bob Lynch; Kent Taylor; Frank Davidson; Roger Hooper; Brett Benedict; and our Senior Stateswoman, Dorothy Powell, are part of the consortium of groups and organizations. We want to make sure you understand our united front involving our request Casa Grande, the Greater Casa Grande proposal, is also part of that group.

I also, on behalf of our organization, thank you for coming down to share our thoughts with us this evening. The Greater Casa Grande Economic Organization is a Regional Organization comprised of members, manufacturers, businesses, and three
communities, Coolidge, Eloy, Casa Grande. Pinal County itself is a member.

Our mission is to help enhance the economic vitality and retention of existing businesses. You in the presentation asked not rather what we don't want to see but what we do want. I think we proposed the district boundary map you see before you this evening. You see it's fairly geographically compact, contiguous, one of the goals of your Commission; it follows geographic features; meets the litmus test; the population at this point you defined; and probably most importantly, respects communities of interest.

Councilman Mitchell in his comments used the term transition communities in describing the Western Pinal community. We heard from a variety of the community business sections, the Chamber, the agricultural community, you're hearing now from the manufacturing community, retail is here. There are community representatives from Eloy, representatives from Coolidge, representatives from Casa Grande, representatives from the Maricopa Stanfield area. We'd ask you to meet your mission fairly and honestly in representing all parts of the state. Give the map behind me fair consideration, or one approximately close to it. We in the community share common goals, share
common concerns. We propose this so we can acquire a fair opportunity and the representation we desire.

Thank you for your time.

Good evening.

MR. SNIDER: My name is David Snider, S N I D E R.

I am currently the Chair of the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority, the Vice Chair of the Pinal Active Management Water User Advisory Council, and happen to be a Member of the Pinal Water Augmentation Governor's Management Commission.

I do want to thank you for your time and energies this evening. One of my other incarnations is I sit on the school board and have redistricted a number of times. And it's not an easy task. And yours is not one I envy at all. You have a momentous task in front of you. And thank you for making us a part of this historic endeavor.

Water is clearly a community of interest. The Pinal Augmentation Management area encompasses much of Western Pinal County. In fact, if you look at the map we are submitting, it is over two-thirds of that particular map.

Water is an economic development driver.

It is -- it is a public resource which is closely
managed. And it is something which underlies most of
Pinal County and is part of that. What affects one
affects us all. So it is something that we have come
together to monitor and to act upon and, in fact, the
Pinal County Governmental Alliance Mr. Mitchell referred
to in his remarks is very active on not only a state
level but federal level in terms of trying to affect
legislation dealing with water resources, the water
resource particular to the Pinal community.

It is also, as has been said, a management
tool and part of our future. Our future economic, in
our economic future, there will never be more irrigated
agriculture than there is at present. Our job is to
move from agriculture to residential and commercial. As
urbanization takes skill, it takes representation, both
at the state, federal level, and it needs to understand
the pressures and needs of that. For that reason, we
support a district that not only keeps Casa Grande
whole, keeps Pinal County as much as possible whole as
well. And that speaks to both federal and state levels.

We have been well-served by a number of
representatives and senators during the past 10 years
with the district setups that we have. However, we
think that we would like to have a district that will
strengthen the ability of those senators and those
representatives at a state and federal level to sharpen
their focus and give them the ability to be more
effective, certainly, on our behalf and as well as when
they craft public policy for the state and country.

Having said all of that, we thank you for
your coming. We hope we have presented you with a
solution rather than a complaint. We hope that we have
been able to provide you with a clear sense of a Pinal
community that is only going to get bigger and more
sophisticated as we move into the 21st century.

Thank you very much for your time.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you. That
is the end of the group presentation.

We have quite a number of additional
speaker requests here we'll select in random order and
give everyone an opportunity to be heard.

John Klein.

MR. KLEIN: Good evening. My name is John
Klein, K L E I N.

I'm here tonight just to share a few
thoughts with you. My present position, I'm president
of the Central Arizona College. Our district is
coterminous with the Pinal County lines.

Some of the things you already heard
tonight certainly strike home. I want to speak to
something Dorothy Powell had mentioned, and that is perhaps maybe a lack of representation. My role for the past 14 years, I've worked with the legislators, and particularly after the 1990 change, which probably reminds me of an old-timer saying, "Don't let the foxes guard the chicken house." We have 18 representatives in Pinal County. 12 do a good job. The rest I'm not sure about. For the western part of the county, three legislators live in Sun City. Only one has been in this county, to my knowledge, twice. Others, when I've met with them in their office, indicate "That's nice; those folks don't elect me in Pinal County." So they've not made a presence here.

It's true, District 21 represents the northern corner of Apache Junction. Those folks represent the East Valley area. If we are on different sides, we do not come out winning. Those things are not a community of interest as you have heard from other people testify.

You've got very good people from District Four, but they live in Show Low, Snowflake. That's their home. That's their community of interest. Yet when I trace the line down the river bank down through Coolidge, it wraps in not all Casa Grande but bifurcates Casa Grande. You don't have to be a rocket scientist.
It can be done probably with intent and be accomplished with an objective. Pinal County does not have any champions to represent it.

Many times on issues we wind up bouncing off not only those, bouncing off people where their home is but certainly Tucson is.

What do we want? Water. Another issue, transportation. Certainly education, and other kinds of services.

This is a growing community. There are three main campuses, three more educational campuses in three processes we're looking at planning for 2010, 2020. We're going to grow. We have to have Legislative support to help the process grow. We can't fragment it. That's what we have, a fragmented county, not what we want.

It's probably an impossible process before you to make us a hundred percent whole. If we can come close to that, it's certainly a step in the right direction for this county to play a more effective role in the State of Arizona.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Paul Prechel.

MR. PRECHEL: Good evening. My name is
Paul P R E C H E L. I'm Vice Mayor, City of Coolidge.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission. And I would like to echo the comments of the previous speakers, previously ex-Mayor and now Councilman Mitchell and Roger Hooper covered pretty well the points that I would like to bring up tonight.

Without being too redundant, I would like to mention a couple items. The Pinal County Alliance and the Pinal County Augmentation Authority bring together representatives of the various communities within the community and work together for the common good of the county and community. Basically I'd like to see the county kept whole as much as possible, particularly a community like Coolidge, keep it as one unit rather than divide it within districts, and that kind of thing. Basically that's what I would like to cover. And I envy you and your problems in trying to do all of this and whatever.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Ben Cruz.

MAYOR CRUZ: Ben Cruz, representing the City of Eloy.

First of all, we all know the City of Eloy, a very great percentage of the City is Hispanic.
Obviously I do have concern with having a voice for those Hispanic folks for having proper representation for Hispanic representation. More importantly, I'm highly concerned with having the entire Pinal County as one unit. We've seen what some redistricting has done. We certainly have. I share the view of Mr. Mitchell and all the folks before me. That's not the way we want to have Pinal County represented.

We in Pinal County have basically the same concerns, same issues. I don't believe that we're properly represented when we have representatives that are in districts far away or in areas far away from the City of Eloy, far away from the City of Casa Grande.

This is the first time I have seen this particular map. I'm mostly in support of it. I'll have to talk to Mr. Buchanan, or Bob and Bob -- have to talk about this area, why we're leaving it out.

If at all possible, my choice is to leave the entire Pinal County as one unit.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Ron Kingsbury.

MR. KINGSBURY: Thank you. My name is Ron Kingsbury. I'm a Pinal County Democrat German.

I believe we're going in the right
direction with what we're doing on the redistricting. I
have some varied concerns on some redistricting that has
been proposed tonight. One of the concerns we have, I
wish we had gotten the literature earlier on asking
questions instead of being handed this opportunity at
the door for this Commission. You're trying to go too
fast, not giving us really a chance to absorb what you
are talking about. But it's a hard job you have and I
agree with it.

I agree with a lot of the speakers that
have spoken tonight. Pinal County is a real strange
county the way it's been split apart. I think it should
be one county. There are 179,000 residents in Pinal
County. It's the third biggest county in the state.
They're still splitting us apart. I heard a
presentation tonight about Casa Grande. What scares me
is they are playing the game again. My area, I live in
Queen Valley. I'm not in the redistricting. I'm still
with Snowflake and up in that area. I am part of Pinal
County. Where I live, I have to pay Maricopa
Metropolitan fees, but I'm not part of Metropolitan
Phoenix East. Apache Junction was handed down by the
state to have to have emission fees, but they've still
not put a station there. Where is the representation?

Here we're talking about West Pinal
County, the Casa Grande area. Look at the map we have here. It's a very good map. The only thing is to me, it's gerrymandered a little bit where they leave our part out. Made sure they got 31,000 people in Apache Junction, forgot Mountain Brook, Gold Canyon, Supreme Valley, Gold Canyon. They're splitting our canyon again. It helps you with your group here. How about us?

Have District Four again, goes from Snowflake to the border. I know it won't go into Maricopa County.

This is what we have to be worried about, representation for our Congressman. Look at the area it would have to cover.

We have enough population to have a district of our own. It seems Maricopa County could be split different ways to make sure different things were done.

Look at the map the young lady had, funny boundaries, up, down, curve, just a little scary. That to me is someone playing games.

I think for the population and for Pinal County, I see, which is my -- I moved here 16 years ago. I'm very proud of Pinal County. And I'm an older gentleman. But I got involved. I think Pinal County
can grow. The only way we can grow is if we have
representation in the state and in federal government.
We have to work together to have a control with our
population, 179,000. And they are still trying to play
us and split us. I think it's wrong and hope you can
help us.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Jim Hartdegen.

MR. HARTDEGEN: Jim Hartdegen,

H A R T D E D E N.

My comments will be very short, mostly
redundant.

You guys have seen have seen me around.

You'll see me a lot more before the exercise is over.

I support the map and the position of
Greater Pinal County, I suppose. I've had the
misfortune, so don't throw too many darts, of taking
part in old system at least twice, the way
reapportionment was done in the past. It was a very
aggravating way of doing things. 10 years ago, 11 years
ago, Greater Casa Grande presented a map to the
Legislature. They spent a lot of time on the map, tried
to follow as close as possible the guidelines, federal
government mandates of what they were supposed to do.

After they had spent hours working on the map. They
went to the Legislature, presented it to the
Legislature. It was not taken seriously at all and it was very, very disappointing.

District Four, again, I think the greater Casa Grande area could be used as a poster boy for what could go wrong. District Four swept down the western county, it was completely political, had nothing to do with racial representation or anything else. All of a sudden central Casa Grande was put into a district that went from Pinal Avenue to the New Mexico line. And it went from this road right out here as a boundary to Winslow. So it's very hard for the local people.

I'm a political animal. I can work through that. Local people, to try to find out who legislators are and seek help, sometimes it's very, very hard to do in that kind of situation.

I do appreciate your time and effort. I know it's a rough job.

Instead of 90 legislators trying to figure out where they live, you have to listen to over five million people and try to come up with some kind of program that will work for the next 10 years.

I appreciate the efforts here. We look forward to your return in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you.
COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

Jimmie Kerr.

MR. KERR: Good evening. Jimmie, with I E, and K E R R.

I'm Chairman of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, and I'm here to thank you for having one of your hearings in Pinal County. And I know we'll have an additional one-week opportunity in Apache Junction.

I don't want to cover all the bases that were pretty well-covered. I think one of the things I'd like to really emphasize is in the past 10 years this county has really been discriminated basically against by having six congressional -- excuse me, Legislative Districts and three Congressional Districts covering our people. And I know I was part of a delegation that went and spoke 10 years ago. As Jim Hartdegen mentioned, it basically fell on deaf ears.

We feel there's an opportunity with these maps you were presented with this evening which are much fairer with Pinal County at the state level almost meeting with the demographics just below 180,000. You are talking roughly 160,000 to 170,000. We fall within those demographics. We feel we'd like to see the county whole.

At the congressional level, we'd like to
have, be tied to somebody that has some common
interests. I notice you did tie in Yuma, which has an
agricultural base as Pinal does as well. It ties in
downtown Tucson, which I'm not sure has the same
political interests.

If you can, leave Pinal County whole.
Thank you for your time and the
consideration of the people here tonight.
Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.
Thank you.

This is the last slip that I have. If
there is anyone else that has not spoken and wants to,
please get your slip in at this time.

I'll call on the last speaker, Kim
Benedict.

MRS. BENEDICT: Good evening.
My name is Kim Weatherly Benedict,
Weatherly Benedict.

I moved here with my family in grade
school. My dad was active as a businessman, civic
leader, and two-term county supervisor. I grew up in
and have lived in a large family business, the ag
business. My husband spoke earlier. We've lived in
times of good representation and little representation.
I'm a child development and family specialist and certified teacher. Currently my responsibility is home educating our two daughters. In addition, our oldest daughter was born with a developmental disability. This led me to being appointed to the Governor's Inter-Agency Council for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs, a Statewide board for special needs parents, so parents have a statewide network. Currently an Arizona Department of Education level-three advocate represents families of special needs children by having them become involved with the Board. Advocating for my daughter, Bethany, and other children, results in adequate representation resulting in adequate services for our rural area and other areas throughout the state.

What brave people you are. I think if I had your charge, on some mornings I'd want to roll over and go back to bed. However, other mornings I'd hit the floor running. It's quite an adventure ahead of you.

When I thought about whether or not our family would attend this meeting or a prior commitment, I thought of the many reasons to be here, the many reasons we should be here. One of the obvious reasons is to express concern is our area is being drawn and quartered leaving little if any representation. The
second may not be so obvious.

I recognize what is taking place here with this process is the core of our Republic. Because we have -- because we home educate two teen-age daughters, I want them to experience this living classroom. My only regret is everyone holding strong views in this process is not able to be here.

I did a little experiment this morning. I wrote the following short note, and each person I crossed this afternoon I wanted to sign it, I asked to sign it.

"Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Arizona Redistricting Commission;

"Welcome to our wonderful community. We want to thank you for holding a public community hearing here in Casa Grande.

"We believe you are charged with the responsibility, as you know, of redrawing the legislative and congressional districts. Based on the 1990 Census, we have been a community divided not by choice but by representation or lack thereof. We're most hopeful this process will result in all of Pinal County being placed into a state legislative district; however, at the very minimum we implore you to insure that Greater Casa Grande receive greater representation."
"By one of the children, our current slogan is 'I love Casa Grande.' We hope we when this is finally completed it will still be 'I love Casa Grande,' not merely 'I love my part of Casa Grande.'

"Thanks for your service."

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

We have one late entry here.

I call on Eric Somerville to come forward.

MR. SOMERVILLE: Thank you, members of the Commission, staff of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. E R I C, S O M E R V I L L E.

I've deliberately chosen to be last. I've had the opportunity, I have sat back over the approximately hour and a half and listened to many groups speak about the community within the Casa Grande valley and couldn't agree with them more.

To the demographers and to the Commission, I tell you, I love the grid. The grid is a good thing.

When I've seen -- I come from Pennsylvania. I've seen power politics and machine politics played with a lot of finesse, seen gerrymandering, gerrymandering done in ways you wouldn't believe. How 1990 was done, that's piece de resistance. You can't see anything better than that.

Anyway, I've listened to a lot of groups
talk about community, the sense of community in this area, the need to keep the business community, agricultural community together, the water districting, and so on.

I'm not sure if the Commission really appreciates what we're getting down to at the basic level when talking about voting, individual disenfranchising, individuals participating in government and participating.

Let me give you an individual story.

Mr. Klein, or Dr. Klein, pardon me, spoke about representatives and a Senator from District 15. Let me illuminate a little more. Six months ago we were notified in the area where I live, which is, by the way, Maricopa. For the benefit of the committee, that's up here. There's a Jeff Foxworthy joke, but I won't get into the details. Six months ago, we were notified Maricopa and the adjacent Stanfield area, the telephone exchanges were sold off by a certain telephone company, I won't mention the third party, were no longer profitable to operate the exchanges. This was done without notification to the people in the community. I was rather concerned knowing about the notification, knowing the record of the company the exchange was sold to. I contacted my Representatives and State Senator.
The uniform answer first was: "I'm sorry, you are in Pinal County. You are not in the Representative or Senator's District."

"I'm in District 15."

"Oh, well you are, but this is not a concern of the Representative, not his prime constituency."

I finally did get a hold of one of the Representatives. I will not mention his name. He told me the matters of Maricopa and Stanfield were not his concern. I was not his electoral base.

I can chart that up to being a callous politician and dismiss it as that.

Frankly, members of the Commission, I don't like being disenfranchised for living in the wrong area. I choose to live there. It is my right as a citizen to make that choice. I don't like being told just because I chose to live in an area I don't have political representation or that elected officials -- by the way, he is in my party -- don't answer to me, don't have responsibility for me and my neighbors because I live in the wrong place.

Reuniting the Pinal County, our area, uniting Pinal County, you heard previous speakers better than I, the best thing to do. It insures the previous
people, better than I could, a lot of people in isolated areas will not be disenfranchised, will be represented, maintained in communities that do have voting influence in the State Legislature, in Congress, and in the process, in the political process and bipartisan politics.

I urge you to keep your drive as you've articulated it in Proposition 106 and your mission to consider communities of interest as your primary goal. Keep that as your primary goal.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

On behalf of Andi and myself and the entire Commission, I want to thank all of you again for taking the time this evening and coming to speak to us. I would like to say that I have heard a clear, consistent, and very strong message coming from all of the people who spoke. And I want to assure you that we have heard that message and will give it full consideration.

The timetable may be of interest to you. We are going to, for the next two weeks, continue with this type of hearing throughout the state. Then we and our consultants will huddle for three or four weeks, probably, while we attempt to take all of this
information and turn it into our first real map of the
state that includes the communities of interest that
we've all been speaking about this evening.

We are hopeful we can release that map
toward the middle or last week of July, at the latest.
We will then schedule additional public hearings,
probably during the early part of August. And you will
have another opportunity to talk to us about the map
that we have drawn that addresses the issues that you've
expressed this evening. Following that, we will
publish a final map, but we'll add -- intend to add a
little bit of an additional final public comment
period, maybe a week or 10 days, before we actually
finalize it and then submit it to the Justice Department
for approval.

This is a very aggressive timetable and
one that, had we our preference, we would just as soon
provide for more time for you to give input and us to
consider it. But with the delay that is built into the
Justice Department consideration, we have to proceed on
this basis in order to complete that process and have
the districts actually in place in time for the
candidates to know what district they are going to be
running in and to raise money for their campaigns and so
on and to meet the schedule for the 2002 electoral
season.

Again, thank you very much for your participation. We hope to see all of you again in a couple more months with something more concrete to talk about.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at approximately 9:06 p.m.)

* * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing hearing was taken before me, LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Arizona, Certificate Number 50349; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing 45 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said hearing, all done to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 16th day of June, 2001.

______________________________
LISA A. NANCE, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate Number 50349