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STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION EXCERPTED

Casa Grande, Arizona
June 13, 2001
7:00 p.m.

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION

LISA A. NANCE, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50349

1 THE STATE OF ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING
2 COMMISSION convened in Public Session on June 13, 2001,
3 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Casa Grande City Council
4 Chambers, 510 East Florence Boulevard, Casa Grande,
5 Arizona, in the presence of:

6

7 APPEARANCES:

- 8 VICE CHAIRMAN ANDI MINKOFF
9 COMMISSIONER JAMES R. HUNTWORK
10 LISA HAUSER, Commission Counsel
11 FLORENCE ADAMS, NDC Consultant
12 RALPH ROSSUM, NDC Consultant
13 AUGUSTA KNIGHT, Outreach Staff
14 MYRA PARKER, Outreach Staff
15 ALICIA NIETO JACOBS, Spanish Interpreter
16 LISA A. NANCE, RPR, CCR, Court Reporter

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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

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Phoenix, Arizona
June 13, 2001
7:00 o'clock p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(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

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

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

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

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

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

1 reporter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 This is what our message is tonight:

23 As districts are being formed, we'd first
24 like to request the City of Casa Grande remain whole. I
25 think, again, as mentioned, this was not done previously

1 and created a great deal of ill feelings and feelings we
2 have not been adequately represented.

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

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

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

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

1 hub.

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

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

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

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

22 Economic development efforts have been
23 done primarily for a regional effort. We feel there's a
24 lot of merit for it to be done on a regional basis,
25 doing it way before it's fashionable on a national

1 basis.

2 Water is another issue that really binds
3 us together. We have, Pinal County is a county that has
4 its own active water management area. And all the
5 cities and entities in Pinal County have to share 60,000
6 feet of recharged water in this area this year. Water
7 becomes a very critical issue to us.

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

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

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

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

22 More importantly, I thank you for giving
23 us the opportunity this evening for giving you input.
24 This is truly, I think, a step in the right
25 direction.

1 And with that, I'll let Bob talk to you
2 about the kind of districts we'd like to have.

3 Bob.

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

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

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

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

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

24 The proposal we're suggesting to the
25 Commission tonight is outlined in blue. And it is

1 essentially the entire county except for the portion of
2 it that is in the San Carlos Indian Reservation, the
3 portion in the northeast, the portion in the Southwest
4 that is a portion of the Tohono O'odham Indian
5 Reservation, and a portion in the upper northeast which
6 is now currently, let's say, District Four.

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

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

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

24 The population of Pinal County is just
25 slightly under 180,000. The proposal before you is

1 172,551, slightly over your target of 171,000 but within
2 one percent of your target. As you can see, it is
3 visually compact and contiguous, and as you will hear
4 and already heard from Mr. Mitchell and will hear from
5 others, areas with it, virtually all communities of
6 interest are represented in District Seven. Geographic
7 features, communities of interest are represented and
8 included, and no Census tract is divided by this
9 proposal.

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

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

1 Maricopa County withdrawing from the far eastern part of
2 Maricopa County.

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

14 That's the end of my presentation.

15 And I believe Ken Taylor is scheduled up
16 next.

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

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

23 As you know, Casa Grande was adversely
24 affected in the last redistricting. Casa Grande was a
25 prime example of redistricting gone bad in our view.

1 The map we've shown tonight we believe is an accurate
2 description of a true description of what could be. We
3 identified following the proposed redistricting map.

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

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

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

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

23 Taylor, T A Y L O R.

24 MR. DAVIDSON: Frank Davidson,

25 D A V I D S O N.

1 I'm superintendent of the Casa Grande
2 Elementary District here in Casa Grande. We have 10
3 schools, approximately 5,010 students, for nine square
4 miles.

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

12 Congratulations, Andi. You are doing a
13 great job.

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

23 I can assure you, throughout Pinal County,
24 school districts see themselves as a community of
25 interest. We work together trying to overcome

1 challenges and share a number of interests. We work
2 together to coordinate training for teachers across the
3 districts. We work together to collaborate on grants.
4 We pursue a number of interests together. And we
5 develop a common legislative agenda with all school
6 districts across the county.

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

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

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

23 Thank you.

24 (A brief recess recess was held for
25 technical adjustments.)

1 district in the state simply from the fact we still
2 carry the four Cs Arizona was founded on, cotton,
3 copper, corn and cattle.

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

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

9 Thank you very much.

10 My name is Brett Benedict, B R E T T,
11 B E N E D I C T.

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

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

23 As Roger started to point out, we in
24 agriculture are facing a transition from agricultural
25 areas to urban areas. I think especially those of us in

1 agriculture would like, I think those of us that have
2 been here would like to make that transition and the
3 decisions about that transition for ourselves rather
4 than have them imposed from others on the outside. And
5 for lots of us reasons that others will discuss, decide
6 about agriculture in Pinal County as a whole.

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

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

14 I am happy to speak for our
15 chronologically gifted people.

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

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

25 Senior adults have the record of being the

1 most active in voting. I think any election is well
2 worth recruiting senior adults, because we take our
3 responsibilities very seriously. We like to know our
4 candidates.

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

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

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

21 We -- I was a member 10 years ago of the
22 local committee that went in to protest before the
23 Legislature the division, how we were divided up. It
24 was a frustrating experience and we have suffered for 10
25 years.

1 We think it is time to turn things around.

2 We are delighted that this is your charge
3 right now. We wanted to invite you to visit us right
4 now. This is more than some of our legislators can do.

5 We would be happy to help you in any way.

6 And again, we will say: Aging, if it's
7 not your issue now, it will be.

8 So we represent a lot of good people who
9 will be glad to visit with you about further concerns.
10 Thank you.

11 And it's Powell, P O W E L L, Dorothy
12 Powell.

13 MS. VASQUEZ: Good evening. My name is
14 Dora Vasquez, V A S Q U E Z.

15 I am a former resident of Casa Grande. I
16 recently moved to Peoria.

17 I was on the Board in Casa Grande for the
18 NAACP for Pinal County. I'm Chair of the Arizona Civil
19 Rights Advisory Board.

20 I want to commend the Board, the members,
21 for holding several meetings and appreciating the needs
22 and concerns for all the people's needs.

23 I believe these public meetings are
24 premature and should have occurred, have public
25 meetings, be looking at grids, when there's been more

1 opportunity for study.

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

10 It appears, there's an indication, it
11 appears there's minority dilution in a couple districts,
12 22, 23, in the initial grid proposed, which is a
13 violation of the act of 1992 in Arizona. Indian
14 reservations, Indian communities must be intact as one.
15 You addressed that.

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

22 These are based on total population Census
23 counts, not voting population. If they are districts as
24 the way proposed, they further dilute, because the
25 voting population is not considered in the grids.

1 As for Pinal County, I'm happy to see it
2 in one district.

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

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

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

21 I also, on behalf of our organization,
22 thank you for coming down to share our thoughts with us
23 this evening. The Greater Casa Grande Economic
24 Organization is a Regional Organization comprised of
25 members, manufacturers, businesses, and three

1 communities, Coolidge, Eloy, Casa Grande. Pinal County
2 itself is a member.

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

13 Councilman Mitchell in his comments used
14 the term transition communities in describing the
15 Western Pinal community. We heard from a variety of the
16 community business sections, the Chamber, the
17 agricultural community, you're hearing now from the
18 manufacturing community, retail is here. There are
19 community representatives from Eloy, representatives
20 from Coolidge, representatives from Casa Grande,
21 representatives from the Maricopa Stanfield area. We'd
22 ask you to meet your mission fairly and honestly in
23 representing all parts of the state. Give the map
24 behind me fair consideration, or one approximately close
25 to it. We in the community share common goals, share

1 common concerns. We propose this so we can acquire a
2 fair opportunity and the representation we desire.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 Good evening.

5 MR. SNIDER: My name is David Snider,

6 S N I D E R.

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

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

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

24 Water is an economic development driver.
25 It is -- it is a public resource which is closely

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

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

21 We have been well-served by a number of
22 representatives and senators during the past 10 years
23 with the district setups that we have. However, we
24 think that we would like to have a district that will
25 strengthen the ability of those senators and those

1 representatives at a state and federal level to sharpen
2 their focus and give them the ability to be more
3 effective, certainly, on our behalf and as well as when
4 they craft public policy for the state and country.

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

11 Thank you very much for your time.

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

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

17 John Klein.

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

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

24 Some of the things you already heard
25 tonight certainly strike home. I want to speak to

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

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

20 You've got very good people from District
21 Four, but they live in Show Low, Snowflake. That's
22 their home. That's their community of interest. Yet
23 when I trace the line down the river bank down through
24 Coolidge, it wraps in not all Casa Grande but bifurcates
25 Casa Grande. You don't have to be a rocket scientist.

1 It can be done probably with intent and be accomplished
2 with an objective. Pinal County does not have any
3 champions to represent it.

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

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

10 This is a growing community. There are
11 three main campuses, three more educational campuses in
12 three processes we're looking at planning for 2010,
13 2020. We're going to grow. We have to have Legislative
14 support to help the process grow. We can't fragment it.
15 That's what we have, a fragmented county, not what we
16 want.

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

22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

24 Paul Prechel.

25 MR. PRECHEL: Good evening. My name is

1 Paul P R E C H E L. I'm Vice Mayor, City of Coolidge.

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

21 Ben Cruz.

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

24 First of all, we all know the City of
25 Eloy, a very great percentage of the City is Hispanic.

1 Obviously I do have concern with having a voice for
2 those Hispanic folks for having proper representation
3 for Hispanic representation. More importantly, I'm
4 highly concerned with having the entire Pinal County as
5 one unit. We've seen what some redistricting has done.
6 We certainly have. I share the view of Mr. Mitchell and
7 all the folks before me. That's not the way we want to
8 have Pinal County represented.

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

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

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

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

22 Ron Kingsbury.

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

25 I believe we're going in the right

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

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

25 Here we're talking about West Pinal

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

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

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

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

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

22 I think for the population and for Pinal
23 County, I see, which is my -- I moved here 16 years ago.
24 I'm very proud of Pinal County. And I'm an older
25 gentleman. But I got involved. I think Pinal County

1 can grow. The only way we can grow is if we have
2 representation in the state and in federal government.
3 We have to work together to have a control with our
4 population, 179,000. And they are still trying to play
5 us and split us. I think it's wrong and hope you can
6 help us.

7 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Jim Hartdegen.

8 MR. HARTDEGEN: Jim Hartdegen,

9 H A R T D E D E N.

10 My comments will be very short, mostly
11 redundant.

12 You guys have seen have seen me around.
13 You'll see me a lot more before the exercise is over.

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

1 Legislature. It was not taken seriously at all and it
2 was very, very
3 disappointing.

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

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

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

1 have, be tied to somebody that has some common
2 interests. I notice you did tie in Yuma, which has an
3 agricultural base as Pinal does as well. It ties in
4 downtown Tucson, which I'm not sure has the same
5 political interests.

6 If you can, leave Pinal County whole.

7 Thank you for your time and the
8 consideration of the people here tonight.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

11 Thank you.

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

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

17 MRS. BENEDICT: Good evening.

18 My name is Kim Weatherly Benedict,
19 W E A T H E R L Y, B E N E D I C T.

20 I moved here with my family in grade
21 school. My dad was active as a businessman, civic
22 leader, and two-term county supervisor. I grew up in
23 and have lived in a large family business, the ag
24 business. My husband spoke earlier. We've lived in
25 times of good representation and little representation.

1 I'm a child development and family
2 specialist and certified teacher. Currently my
3 responsibility is home educating our two daughters. In
4 addition, our oldest daughter was born with a
5 developmental disability. This led me to being
6 appointed to the Governor's Inter-Agency Council for
7 Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs, a Statewide
8 board for special needs parents, so parents have a
9 statewide network. Currently an Arizona Department of
10 Education level-three advocate represents families of
11 special needs children by having them become involved
12 with the Board. Advocating for my daughter, Bethany,
13 and other children, results in adequate representation
14 resulting in adequate services for our rural area and
15 other areas throughout the state.

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

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

1 second may not be so obvious.

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

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

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

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

17 "We believe you are charged with the
18 responsibility, as you know, of redrawing the
19 legislative and congressional districts. Based on the
20 1990 Census, we have been a community divided not by
21 choice but by representation or lack thereof. We're
22 most hopeful this process will result in all of Pinal
23 County being placed into a state legislative district;
24 however, at the very minimum we implore you to insure
25 that Greater Casa Grande receive greater representation.

1 talk about community, the sense of community in this
2 area, the need to keep the business community,
3 agricultural community together, the water districting,
4 and so on.

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

10 Let me give you an individual story.
11 Mr. Klein, or Dr. Klein, pardon me, spoke about
12 representatives and a Senator from District 15. Let me
13 illuminate a little more. Six months ago we were
14 notified in the area where I live, which is, by the way,
15 Maricopa. For the benefit of the committee, that's up
16 here. There's a Jeff Foxworthy joke, but I won't get
17 into the details. Six months ago, we were notified
18 Maricopa and the adjacent Stanfield area, the telephone
19 exchanges were sold off by a certain telephone company,
20 I won't mention the third party, were no longer
21 profitable to operate the exchanges. This was done
22 without notification to the people in the community. I
23 was rather concerned knowing about the notification,
24 knowing the record of the company the exchange was sold
25 to. I contacted my Representatives and State Senator.

1 The uniform answer first was: "I'm sorry,
2 you are in Pinal County. You are not in the
3 Representative or Senator's District."

4 "I'm in District 15."

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

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

12 I can chart that up to being a callus
13 politician and dismiss it as that.

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

23 Reuniting the Pinal County, our area,
24 uniting Pinal County, you heard previous speakers better
25 than I, the best thing to do. It insures the previous

1 people, better than I could, a lot of people in isolated
2 areas will not be disenfranchised, will be represented,
3 maintained in communities that do have voting influence
4 in the State Legislature, in Congress, and in the
5 process, in the political process and bipartisan
6 politics.

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

11 Thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER HUNTWORK: Thank you.

13 On behalf of Andi and myself and the
14 entire Commission, I want to thank all of you again for
15 taking the time this evening and coming to speak to us.

16 I would like to say that I have heard a
17 clear, consistent, and very strong message coming from
18 all of the people who spoke. And I want to assure you
19 that we have heard that message and will give it full
20 consideration.

21 The timetable may be of interest to you.
22 We are going to, for the next two weeks, continue with
23 this type of hearing throughout the state. Then we and
24 our consultants will huddle for three or four weeks,
25 probably, while we attempt to take all of this

1 information and turn it into our first real map of the
2 state that includes the communities of interest that
3 we've all been speaking about this evening.

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

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

1 season.

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

6 Thank you very much.

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

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2 STATE OF ARIZONA)
3 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.

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

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

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

20

21

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

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