

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

Location: Casa Grande

Date: June 13, 2001

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Andrea Minkoff
James R. Huntwork

Commission Attorneys:

Lisa T. Hauser

NDC Staff:

Florence Adams
Ralph A. Rossum

There were approximately 100 people in attendance. A total of 18 speakers addressed the Commission. Eight of the speakers were part of what one speaker called a “consortium of groups and organization,” a “united front,” supporting a map for a proposed legislative district that is essentially all of Pinal County with the exceptions of portion of the county in the northeast that is in the San Carlos Indian Reservation, the portion of the county in the southwest that is in the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation, and a portion in the upper northeast corner that is currently in District Four. Pinal County has a population of slightly less than 180,000, and the map submitted proposed a legislative district of 172,551.

These eight speakers argued that the Commission should keep Western Pinal County whole. Presently, Pinal County, the third largest county in the state, is split into six legislative districts and three congressional districts. The ten speakers made the case that the portions of the county included in their proposed map constituted a community of business, economic development and trading areas, agricultural, educational, and demographic interests that deserves effective representation in a single legislative district.

These eight speakers were joined by nine others who also argued that Pinal County should be made whole because of its community of interests. They supported the proposed map because they saw it as allowing the county to transition from an agricultural to a residential and commercial area with the transition controlled by the local residents, because it would be “good for minorities here in Pinal County,” and because it would give the residents of Pinal County better representation. The remaining speaker sounded the only voice of dissent, and it was a partial dissent. While he agreed wholeheartedly that Pinal County should be made whole, he objected to the fact that the proposed map did not include all non-Native American portions of the county. He complained that the Eastern Pinal County communities of “Mountain Brook, Gold

Canyon, [and] Supreme Valley” were excluded from the proposed legislative district. “They’re splitting our canyon again. It helps you with your group here. How about us?”

AURs: Pinal County map submitted.

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

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