

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in Nogales, AZ: August 28, 2001

1. Marco A. Lopez, Jr. Mayor of Nogales: "I rise before you today because I'm concerned regarding the proposed legislative districts Y, W, and DD from the latest proposed draft map that we received.... I firmly oppose the Commission's position to break border communities into areas that do not and for that matter will not understand the diverse issues that border communities face.... If the Commission would amend its draft map to include what the map ("Scenario 5") on the left, on the far left is calling G, placing Cochise County along with most of Santa Cruz County, thereby joining the cities of Nogales, Sierra Vista, Bisbee, Douglas, and also the reservations of the Tohono O'ham and the Pasqua Yaqui, a more productive relationship could be developed in finalizing the redistricting process. Additionally, I feel that the remaining portions of Santa Cruz County could easily be included with the portion of Pima County, and that, therefore, would develop district K as is symbolized in the far left map over there ("Scenario 5")."

2. Marco A. Lopez, Jr. Mayor of Nogales: "The reason I select map ("Scenario") five versus ("Scenario") four is... would be that when we had early meetings with residents of the City of Nogales and residents of the county and city hall, it was brought to our attention that residents of the northern part of the county wanted to be represented or wanted to be in a district that also incorporated Pima County."

3. Supervisor John Maynard: "In our case, I think it's been clear from the very beginning that half of our county would like to be associated with Pima County and the other half of our county would like to be associated with Cochise County."

4. Supervisor John Maynard: "I feel that if the communities of Rio Rico, Tubac, and Sonoita were associated with Pima County district; and the communities of Nogales, and I believe you've drawn a portion of Patagonia included with the Cochise County district, that that would serve us very well."

5. Mayor Lopez: "And this is the line dividing Santa Cruz County. Beginning at the western border, a line east of I-19, then following the northern border of the town of Rio Rico eastward. That then follows the Solero Ranch Road southeast and other roads including the San Pedro Valley Road, a straight line on the far east to Cochise County, which follows the census block all the way out, and that would be the green area on the map number five, for the record. And then communities of Tumacacori, Tubac, and Amado along I-19 to the north to the towns of Sonoita and Elgin is the northeast corner of the county, and Patagonia and the north central part of the county are included in the legislative district that is north to Green Valley and east to Tucson."

6. Gus Arzberger: "I would like to see Cochise County combined into one district. On map ("Scenario") number five up here, the only thing that needs to be done there is to put Fort Huachuca and the little portion down in Cochise County that's taken out and that

would combine and make Cochise whole, all in one legislative district. But I would like also to see Cochise County combined and stay, or at least the southern half of it with Santa Cruz County. The reason so is it's a border community. We work well with Santa Cruz County, Cochise County, work well on all the border issues. We have a common interest."

7. Gary Brasher: "I'm President of the Santa Cruz Valley Citizens and a resident of the Tubac area. The Citizens Council is made up of a group of members including land owners, business owners, and others that just wish membership in the communities of basically Tumacacori, Carmen, Tubac, and Amado. So much of what we would call the northern corridor.... Two districts being proposed that would include Santa Cruz County. It would include parts of Santa Cruz County, which Cochise County in district G, and also put in that district as well, and then other portions of Santa Cruz County in District K, what was being referred to as district K on this exhibit. And speaking on behalf of the Citizens Council, we would support wholeheartedly that proposal of that draft map, if you will. I think it has already been articulated by others more clearly probably than myself that there are certain common interests with all of Santa Cruz County, but I think also there are some very distinct interests with the border communities of Bisbee, Douglas, Nogales, etcetera, versus the northern portion of Santa Cruz County, which might be more closely aligned with a rural ranching interest, things of that nature."

"When you look at some of the areas of the northern corridor, I think you see more rural in nature, more residential perhaps in nature. When you look at Nogales, you see a tremendous certainly of very good development taking place, but a lot of it is more I think intensive and commercial retail areas and perhaps industrial areas, whereas you get further north, including areas of Sonoita, again, you will see more permits, if you will, you know, cut in residential areas. A little bit of commercial retail certainly to support the residential growth that's occurring but I think it's maybe much different than a lot of the produce generated and industrial generated and the more intensive commercial and retail leases around the border areas, not to mention just the existence of the border itself."

8. Supervisor Paul Newman: "The traditional lines that Cochise County has always had with Graham and Greenlee County. It was changed in the 1993 lines when they were redrawn and Nogales was included with Cochise County. It developed a lot of relationships and we have a lot of common border issues. But I will list them. Border infrastructure, border immigration, education, the same sorts of population, water, port of entry issues with Bisbee, Naco, Douglas, and Nogales, and the O'odham, along with development issues, bilingual issues with the O'odham and the Hispanic border towns in southern Arizona, commerce and transportation. I mean, those are just some of them."

9. Gary Brasher: "Northern Santa Cruz County relates more to Pima County with some other interests. They go there to shop. They buy insurance. They do things in that part of Arizona, and southern Santa Cruz County is more focused and centered around Nogales. It's very true that you've got the common border issues that link us to Cochise

County and what's going on in Douglas and what's going on in Naco. And the other thing...is the SEGO concept. We meet once a month with all the other elected representatives and/or managers, city managers and discuss common issues. We deal with ADOT funding, we deal with welfare issues, we deal with a number of issues. And it's often done in Cochise County because it's somewhat of a center for the region."

10. Supervisor Ruiz: "I believe that if map ("Scenario") five would be the scenario, I think that we could have that competitiveness. I don't think that the Commissioners would find that there would be too much problem with the way it stands. So certainly, you know, when the candidates go out there, they need to make sure that they do their homework. They need to make sure that they pound the pavement, and they need to make sure that they get the message out. That what makes a competitive election."

11. Mayor Lopez: "The competitiveness issue in Santa Cruz County certainly does exist. I believe that this is one of the unique areas that the people vote for a person as an individual versus a party, and I think that that needs to be taken into consideration. It should weigh a lot because that demonstrates a greater competitiveness than the numbers might or might not show."

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.

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