

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Bullhead City City Council Chambers, Bullhead City, AZ: September 15, 2001**

1. Bruce Hinman: "When I total the number of members of the major two parties of the state for the whole state, I come up with something like a five percent variance between the totals of both parties. When I study the congressional and legislative districts as proposed, I see a significant preference in the total for perhaps one party over another. For example, in the congressional districts, if I understand correctly, the Republicans would have the majority in five districts, where Democrats would have only three; and in the legislative districts, Republicans would have a population or majority of 19 districts, where Democrats would have only 11."

2. Roberta Ecklund: "We asked to be in with the river communities, which is something we have in common, and instead, in the congressional district, my Lord, we're half of Arizona. I mean, how could anybody in that congressional district get proper representation in that size of a district? The legislative district comes a little closer."

3. Mayor Lester Byram: "I strongly urge you to go back and re-evaluate this district that you are proposing for Kingman and Colorado City to be included in. We're talking about a district from the Nevada line 350 miles across this state to the New Mexico line; and for the congressional district, another 150 miles down or so. It would stagger the imagination to think any representative would cover an area like that. For your information, Colorado City has been in a similar district for the last ten years. During that entire ten years, they have never seen a representative. I think that's a tragedy for the American way of life and representation. The same thing will happen to us if we are kept in this district, because we would be talking about 45,000 people, Kingman, Colorado City and Page with 120,000 Native Americans on the east side of the state where we have no commonality of interest. We don't consider ourselves a rural area. You're talking about Havasu, Kingman and Bullhead City, who are the fastest growing cities in Arizona; and Mohave County, the fastest growing county in Arizona. We have great differences in our business interest than the eastern side of the state. The eastern side of the state is primarily ranching, tourism, and government checks; whereas we have virtually no ranching and farming anywhere. We have tourism, we have great manufacturing and distribution centers, and those type of things are growing, and growing rapidly."

4. Mayor Lester Byram: "The representative in Kingman, including everyone, the Democratic and Republican representative from both parties, expressed that they would much prefer to have Mohave County and the western side of Maricopa County as one district rather than the extremely large district that you have put us in where we feel that it would be impossible for, no matter how good the intentions were of a representative, to cover that area. Think of the expense any representative would have to undertake and the time just to visit once a year."

5. Patricia Coburn: "It's -- it seems to be the prime responsibility and interest of our river communities to deal with the river, and here in Bullhead City, we have had -- we are

under a mandate for the sewers, to sewer this area. This has taken, I would say, 90 percent of the time of our local government. The other community south of us will have similar problems. They are facing them now. We needed to be able to -- to combine our interests and to work together on this, and if you split that area up along the river, you split our effectiveness."

6. Tom Sockwell, County Supervisor: "We have a gigantic problem along the river, and that is ground water contamination. We have several entities that are working such as the Colorado River Coalition that's working. We're trying to get government funding to help sewer these communities along the river, keep our ground water clean, and I think it's very, very important, because we have nothing in common with the people across the state, and let's keep us all tied together as much as possible here on the river."

7. Damian Hulther: "I would like to ask you on the congressional district map, what Bullhead City has in common with Swift Trail Junction all the way on the other side of the state? Or in the legislative, what it has with Chino Valley? What Bullhead City has in common is with the other river cities. All the way down to the Mexican border, we all have the same interest; that is, the water and waste water issues.... The commonality of interest in regards to the river communities is more important than even the county line, if you have to break the east boundary. We are presently all joined together on both sides of the river in what is called the Colorado River Regional Sewer Coalition, because we are attempting to be recognized by the US Congress in an attempt to get funding of \$1 Billion was the last estimate. The Colorado River from Davis Dam down, excluding Mexico, is the sole source of drinking water for 20 million people. That's the commonality of interest."

8. Jacquie Jessie, City Councilperson: "If you can't get La Paz County to agree to join up with Mohave County and keep all of this area, all of us that have so much in common together, my suggestion would be to take as little of Maricopa County as possible. We really don't want to be part of Maricopa County. We have had enough of that. We want to stand on our own along the river."

9. Sam Medrano: "I know Mohave County has 155,000 and with La Paz, that will put us quite a bit over the limit. Maybe if you could come up with two legislative districts between Mohave, La Paz and Yuma, like you said, you're 10 to 12,000 short. If La Paz get put in with Yuma County, then I would suggest that you take over and look at other parts of northern Coconino County. These are communities being lumped together with the Navajo Nation for nothing more than makeup population for a Navajo or Indian Reservation district. I strongly believe that the Navajo Nation should be put with the rest of Apache and Navajo Counties, for the reason I just stated; they are in Navajo and Apache counties. They already have something in common with those counties."

10. Sam Medrano: "Another thing is you have Mohave County, the District B, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City and Prescott, these are the three fastest growing cities in Arizona. In five years, the district is going to be quite a bit more populated around the state. That means our representatives, we're not getting as much representation as other people

across the state of Arizona. That's not fair. So, I would recommend that we look strongly at taking part of LaPaz County. If La Paz County cannot be put with Mohave County, then northern Coconino County and other areas up there in Page and Fredonia, we do have things in common there. Mohave County College has a satellite center in Fredonia, for instance. We have some commonality with Page because we are along the Colorado River, just a different part. So I think that's important. Again, I can't help but look at this map as well and feel that the Navajo Nation should be looked at a district going along with the eastern border, going north-south rather than east-west."

11. Bill Ford: "One way to pick up part of La Paz is perhaps leave Parker itself in a legislative district with Yuma. When representatives ran for election on the last election, they were both supportive of a river community legislative district this time around."

12. Eva Scott: "I was at the first meeting in Lake Havasu City as well, and I did hear them (La Paz County) say that they did want to be with Yuma. However, they also said that we always got along with Lake Havasu City. They always got along with river communities, my memory is good on this, and they even said if it can't be, it can't be. They just said they would prefer to be with them. So, I think in making these judgments, we may have to put La Paz with us, but since we always got along, I don't really see the problem. In addition, La Paz is part of the river communities."

**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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