

1 ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2
3 Saturday, July 23, 2011

4 1:06 p.m.

5
6 Location7 Arizona Western College
8 Schoening Conference Center
9 2020 South Avenue 8E
10 Yuma, Arizona 85365
11 (Main Location)12 Arizona Western College
13 San Luis Learning Center
14 1340 North 8th Avenue
15 San Luis, Arizona 85349
16 (Remote Location)17 Arizona Western College
18 Parker Learning Center
19 1109 Geronimo Avenue
20 Parker, Arizona 85344
21 (Remote Location)22 Attending23 Colleen C. Mathis, Chair (Remote-San Luis)
24 Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
25 Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Richard P. Stertz, CommissionerRaymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
26 Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director (Remote-San Luis)
27 Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
28 Willie Desmond - Strategic Telemetry
29 Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel30 Reported by:
31 Michele E. Balmer, RPR
32 Certified Reporter No. 50489
33 www.courtreportersaz.com

Yuma, Arizona
July 23, 2011
1:06 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good afternoon. Let's go
7 ahead and get started.

8 Now, before we begin, we want to make sure that
9 everybody that wants to speak is able to speak, and they
10 would need to fill out this form. So if you don't have a
11 form, make sure that you pick one up at the entrance and
12 fill it out and you will get a chance to speak.

13 Okay. Thank you all for being here, and thank
14 you, AWC, for letting us use this venue. My name is Jose
15 Herrera. I'm the co-vice chair along with Scott Freeman,
16 who is not able to be here but who is watching the
17 streaming, so say hi to Scott.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Hi, Scott.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. What we'll do is
20 we'll start off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What I would like to do is
23 have my fellow Commissioners introduce themselves and say a
24 few words, starting with Commissioner Stertz.

25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good morning, everyone. My

1 name is Rick Stertz. I'm from Tucson, Arizona. I am one of
2 the two Republicans that are on the commission, and I'm very
3 honored to be here.

4 Thank you all for coming out. It's a blustery and
5 hot Saturday, and I really appreciate it. Our goal today is
6 to capture as much information from you as possible. If you
7 don't fill out -- as Vice Chair Herrera said, if you're not
8 going to be speaking today and you haven't filled out one of
9 the yellow forms to speak, there are blue forms that are
10 back in the back of the room as well. I encourage every one
11 of you that wants to voice an opinion on this process to
12 make sure and fill out that blue form. That information is
13 going to be made part of the overall record. And what we're
14 doing right now is that we are capturing information from
15 cities across the state so that we can be building the
16 record.

17 So I'm honored to be here. I'm honored to be down
18 here in your city and to listen to all of the things that
19 you have to say. Thank you very much.

20 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Good morning. My name is
21 Linda McNulty. I'm also from Tucson. I was appointed to
22 the commission by Senate Minority Leader David Schapira.
23 I'm excited to hear -- see everyone here today and to be in
24 Yuma.

25 I would like to introduce our legal counsel to my

1 left, Joe Kanefield; and our Executive Director, who is
2 walking that way, Ray Bladine. And to encourage you as the
3 process goes on, if you have questions or additional
4 comments after today, that we've got a good staff and a good
5 team put together. Please feel free to contact our staff's
6 office in Phoenix that you'll see more about on the
7 presentation. Thanks.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 We also have Willie Desmond from Strategic
10 Telemetry present. He'll be doing a presentation. We also
11 have Kristina Gomez, the Deputy Director of the AIRC. I
12 think she is at San Luis at the remote location along with
13 our Chair, Colleen Mathis.

14 And before we get started, what I would like to
15 do, I think I have all of the speaker forms. We will be
16 giving each individual four minutes to speak. We will have
17 someone timing. I think Buck Forst, our chief technology
18 officer back there, will be timing. So you have four
19 minutes, and please honor those four minutes. We want to
20 make sure that everybody has a chance to speak and don't --
21 try not to go over those four minutes.

22 We will be visiting many different parts of the
23 state. We're at Parker today and also at San Luis and, of
24 course, here in Yuma. And we, as Commissioners, will try to
25 make as many of the meetings as possible, but since there's

1 so many visits to different parts of the state, we won't be
2 at all of them. That's why we only have three here today.
3 And we'll have -- the next one will be at -- in Mesa at the
4 Mesa Community Center on Monday. So for those of you that
5 want to travel to Mesa, do some shopping, you're welcome to
6 come to Mesa as well.

7 The point of these hearings is to hear the public
8 speak. The Commissioners aren't allowed to respond to
9 questions or to any type of input from the public. All
10 we're doing is listening. So please, if you have any
11 questions, address it to the staff. They would be happy to
12 help you guys out.

13 So what we'll do, before we start with Willie
14 Desmond, I want to just let you guys know that I am from
15 Yuma. I was born and raised in San Luis. I'm a native. I
16 love this town. And so I want you guys to feel that you are
17 represented. I may no longer live here. I still have
18 family here. I come here all of the time. So this is my
19 hometown as well. I went to Kofa. Any Kofa Kings out
20 there? Go Kofa.

21 So I'm pleased to be here representing Yuma,
22 representing the Commission, representing the state. So I
23 love this town, and I know that we'll have great input from
24 the people here, input that may differ from what we're
25 doing, input that may agree with what we're doing, and

1 that's fine.

2 The only thing we ask is that we be civil, that we
3 respect each individual that is speaking, whether you agree
4 with them or not, do respect one another. I know the people
5 from Yuma are good people and I don't -- I anticipate that
6 the meeting will go as smoothly as possible like it did at
7 South Mountain Community College and the one in Nogales. We
8 had two meetings that were streamed, so you guys can watch
9 them even if you don't travel to those areas.

10 I would also like to introduce two additional
11 people. We have Luz Hoyes, who, if you don't mind, Luz,
12 introducing yourself and what you're doing.

13 MS. HOYOS: Yes. My name is Luz Hoyos, and I will
14 be the interpreter for anybody who needs that service today.

15 (Spanish translation.)

16 MS. HOYOS: Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 We also have Michele Balmer who is the court
19 reporter. So what we ask, when you are speaking for those
20 four minutes, you speak clearly. Please spell your first
21 and last name and just make her life a little easier. She's
22 got a tough job, so let's help her out.

23 And what I'll do is hand it over to Willie Desmond
24 with Strategic Telemetry who will give us a great
25 presentation on what is redistricting.

1 (PowerPoint presentation by Strategic Telemetry
2 from 1:13 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.)

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Willie.

4 And as you can see, we have our website up there,
5 and I would encourage you to visit our website, if you
6 haven't already, to not only view videos of the previous
7 meetings but also to download any forms, any explaining what
8 the commission is, not only Willie's presentation, but also
9 Joe Kanefield, our attorney, and Mary O'Grady's
10 presentation. It has a great presentation on just the
11 overall view on the AIRC. So I would encourage you to visit
12 our website.

13 What I would like to do now is have the
14 interpreter in San Luis introduce him or herself.

15 MS. GALLARDO: My name is Maria Gallardo. I live
16 at 366 San Pueblo in San Luis, Arizona.

17 (Spanish translation.)

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 Now can the interpreter in Parker introduce him or
20 herself.

21 MS. LEWIS: My name is Jo Lewis, and I'm an
22 interpreter in California. And, unfortunately, there's no
23 one I need to interpret for today.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you for being
25 there. Somebody might show up. You never know.

1 So what we'll do is we will go ahead and get
2 started with the comments and we'll -- I think there's
3 people in San Luis; is that correct?

4 MS. GOMEZ: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: How many?

6 MS. GOMEZ: We have three people here.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That would like to speak?

8 MS. GOMEZ: They're not sure yet if they would
9 like to comment or not yet so --

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, that's fine. Any time
11 you -- what I'll do is I will try to get as many done here
12 in Yuma, and then I will come back to you.

13 MS. GOMEZ: Okay. Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That is Kristina Gomez, our
15 Deputy Executive Director, speaking.

16 We'll first start out with the Mayor of Yuma, Alan
17 Krieger. Mr. Krieger, if you could come up to the podium
18 and speak. Thank you.

19 MAYOR KRIEGER: Thank you very much. I didn't
20 realize I would get point of privilege.

21 Anyway, thank you for having your commission here
22 in Yuma, Arizona. We appreciate the venue and the facility
23 that you have chose to have this at.

24 One of the things that is very evident about Yuma,
25 Arizona, is the fact that we are the third largest

1 metropolitan area in the state. But for too many years we
2 have been ignored, and to the degree that, you know, even on
3 the Phoenix stations we don't even get the weather report.
4 But for too long we have been just ignored, and it's time
5 for Yuma, Arizona, to be at the table at every opportunity
6 and have the representation that we deserve being the third
7 largest metropolitan area in the state. The industry that
8 Yuma, Arizona, contributes to the state and to the nation is
9 also ignored for the most part.

10 The busiest Marine Corps Air Station in the
11 nation, the most strategic and valuable Army testing site in
12 the nation, and those two elements are absolutely critical
13 to the warfront and the defense of this nation.

14 The third -- or the second most valuable thing,
15 maybe it is the most valuable thing, is our agricultural
16 base. Billions of dollars of activity happens in Yuma,
17 Arizona, because of our 24-hour yearly activity in
18 agriculture.

19 And the third is our tourism. People come from
20 all parts of the United States and the world to spend their
21 winters in Yuma, Arizona.

22 We are soon to be, if not already, the solar
23 capital of the world. The Guinness Book of World Records
24 has determined that we are the sunniest city on the face of
25 the earth.

1 And we deserve representation in Congress that's
2 going to represent the interests of this community. Now,
3 when I say Yuma, Arizona, I'm speaking regionally, because
4 what happens in Yuma, Arizona, affects every other community
5 in Yuma County up the river and down the river. And we tend
6 to take the heat for a lot of issues, but we also tend to
7 lead. And the fact is that currently our representative in
8 Congress has not really been favorable to Yuma.

9 (Applause.)

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before you continue, if you
11 could just do me a favor and keep the clapping at the end so
12 we can clap for everyone. How is that? Because it will go
13 smoothly if we --

14 (Audience reaction.)

15 MALE VOICE: No. Specific points.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you please -- if you want
17 to speak, please. I would appreciate that.

18 MAYOR KRIEGER: That's the situation we're facing.

19 So I want to make sure that Yuma, Arizona, has the
20 representation that it deserves so that we can move forward
21 and move our industries forward, do the things that we need
22 to have done for us so we have the ability to create jobs,
23 so that we can contribute to the state in a way that
24 represents the values and interests of Yuma County.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What I want to do is move
4 this meeting along as quickly as possible. So that's why I
5 appreciate the clapping, but if you guys can do it at the
6 end, that would be great. Because this is going to be --
7 there's a lot of speakers and clapping does take time.

8 So Bill Mendoza with the San -- you know what?
9 I'll have Bill say where he's from. And if you don't mind
10 spelling your first and last name. Well, definitely your
11 last name, Bill.

12 Can you take the podium, please?

13 And then after that we'll have Patricia Ware, so
14 if Patricia Ware can get ready, and Marvin Marlatt. So
15 those two will follow Bill. Thank you.

16 MR. MENDOZA: I'm Bill Mendoza.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you speak into the mic?

18 MR. MENDOZA: I'm Bill Mendoza, native of Yuma. I
19 just want to put my two cents in. I agree with Mayor Al
20 Krieger that we deserve --

21 (Inaudible.)

22 COURT REPORTER: I can't hear him.

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, could you do me a favor
24 and the court reporter, can you do us a favor and start from
25 the beginning and speak loudly into the mic.

1 MR. MENDOZA: What's that?

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you do us a favor and
3 speak loudly into the mic and start from the beginning.

4 MR. MENDOZA: I thought I was speaking way loud.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And spell your name, please.

6 MR. MENDOZA: All right. Well, I think that our
7 district is more -- have more in common with all along our
8 river here. And we are from the north of Arizona, not from
9 the south or the east. And really, I just want to say that
10 I believe that we deserve, like our Mayor Al Krieger, your
11 Honor, that we deserve our recognition here. And that's all
12 I have to say.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you spell your last
14 name for the record? Could you spell your last name for the
15 record?

16 MR. MENDOZA: M-e-n-d-o-z-a.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Go ahead, ma'am.

20 MS. WARE: My name is Patricia Ware.

21 P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a, W-a-r-e.

22 I'm from Yuma, a native. My family has been here
23 for many generations. I'm a director of the Wellton-Mohawk
24 Irrigation District. It's a 65,000-acre water district and
25 irrigation power district that's east of Yuma from 52E

1 to 95.

2 Recently, there's been a lot of discussion about
3 this in our board meetings and stuff. There's work being
4 done. I'm understanding that there's a map that's being
5 prepared, or different proposals, and one will be presented
6 to the board within the next week. We've reviewed this.
7 This particular one, it seems to be trending in the
8 direction that would be very helpful to our community. It
9 would help bring the agriculture, keep it together, bring it
10 into our own entity. We have not a lot in common with
11 Tucson in the ag part. Nice place, my mother is from there,
12 but it is a different cultural system there.

13 I would like to encourage you to look at these
14 proposals that are going to be brought forward in the very
15 near future. And one of the primary things that I think is
16 paramount to our survival in the agricultural industry here,
17 of which we farm about 1,000 of those acres, some of these
18 proposals don't split -- this particular one does not split
19 our district or any other thing, and it utilizes some
20 natural boundaries like Barry Goldwater Range and the river.

21 Again, I thank you for coming. I appreciate it,
22 and thank you for the time.

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

24 (Applause.)

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Marvin we'll have

1 Edward Foster, the Mayor of Quartzsite, and Dr. Constance
2 Uribe. She's a doctor at, I think, Yuma County Medical --
3 well, she's representing Yuma County Medical Society. So if
4 you could get ready to speak after Marvin.

5 MR. MARLATT: Yes, thank you. I am Marvin
6 Marlatt. I am a farmer in the Wellton area, and I serve as
7 vice president of the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage
8 District. I address you today on behalf of that district.

9 The lifestyles and livelihoods of the residents of
10 the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and the
11 other irrigation districts and communities along the western
12 border of Arizona all depend on the proper use and
13 management of the Colorado River.

14 In light of this, it would best serve these areas
15 to be part of a congressional district stretching from Yuma
16 County, up the river to the Utah border, and reaching east,
17 as needed, to include some of the population of the west
18 side of the Phoenix metro area.

19 This would enhance the likelihood of us having a
20 representative who would develop an intimate understanding
21 of the issues and concerns of those of us who live near and
22 depend upon the river and who could effectively represent
23 our concerns in Congress.

24 I realize, however, that you on the commission may
25 decide it is necessary to place some of the communities in

1 the southwest corner of Yuma County into a congressional
2 district which may include portions of Pima County.

3 If you must, therefore, divide Yuma County between
4 two districts, I ask that you avoid choosing a district
5 boundary such as Interstate 8, which would needlessly slice
6 through the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District,
7 as well as through the communities of the Yuma Foothills,
8 Wellton, Tacna, and Dateland. A much better choice would be
9 to place the district boundary along the northern edge of
10 the Barry Goldwater Range and County 14th Street, with area
11 north of that line placed in a district that also includes
12 La Paz and Mohave County.

13 I learned yesterday that the Pinal County
14 Governmental Alliance has developed a congressional map
15 proposal that they intend to present to you soon, perhaps
16 this coming Wednesday. I have no opinion regarding the
17 desirability of their proposal in other areas of the state,
18 but I will say that the boundary line they propose through
19 eastern and central Yuma County will serve us well.

20 Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Marlatt, can you spell
22 your last name for the record?

23 MR. MARLATT: It's M-a-r-l-a-t-t.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

25 MR. MARLATT: And if you would like, I can leave a

1 written draft of my comments.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Please. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: So Edward Foster, are you
5 here? If you could --

6 MAYOR FOSTER: Yes, I am.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: If you could please approach
8 the podium. Thank you.

9 MAYOR FOSTER: I'm Ed Foster, Mayor of Quartzsite,
10 Arizona.

11 (Applause.)

12 MAYOR FOSTER: We don't have quite the criteria or
13 credentials of Yuma. At least in January/February, we do
14 become a very large city in Arizona and a very big tourist
15 attraction.

16 But more so, the communities of the river valley
17 or the river zone of Arizona, Western Arizona, need a
18 consolidated voice in the Congress. We are ignored in
19 Arizona by our state government and by the federal
20 government by virtue of where we're districted right now.

21 I mean, this is not a political issue. This is a
22 socioeconomic issue. And we need someone who represents the
23 western Arizona communities to listen to our concerns, to
24 act on our behalf, and not in the big cities of Arizona.
25 That's what I'm mostly here about. Okay. Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Dr. Constance, if you could
4 please start approaching the podium. And after that will be
5 Jim Lang, the president of the People For Ethical
6 Redistricting. And after that will be Richard Linge,
7 Professor, representing himself.

8 DR. URIBE: Good morning. Thank you for your time
9 coming here. I'm Dr. Constance Uribe. C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e,
10 Uribe, U as in undertaker, R as in rigor mortis, I as in
11 intercourse, B as in batman, E as in easy.

12 (Applause.)

13 DR. URIBE: I'm a surgeon representing Yuma County
14 Medical Society. My father's people came from Mexico at the
15 turn of the last century and I was raised here in Yuma.

16 I came back here to set up my practice. I've been
17 here for 31 years in private practice, and it wasn't because
18 I couldn't get a job anywhere else. I chose to come to Yuma
19 like many of my colleagues did.

20 We know the boundaries of Yuma County and it's
21 rich in cultural diversity. We have the gaming tribes from
22 the tribal Indians. We know about our popular Silver Spur
23 Rodeo, and we have the famous tamale festival down in the
24 southern part of our county.

25 The residents in south county come to Yuma to

1 shop, and they send many of their children to our private
2 schools here in the city of Yuma. I, for one, take my
3 Golden Retrievers to Somerton for boarding. Right now, as
4 we speak, I have a brand new Golden Retriever puppy boarded
5 for one month down in Somerton for obedience training. And
6 I know Russ Clark will tell you that I probably should go
7 there myself.

8 Yuma physicians work in clinics in the south
9 county area, and I personally see their referrals. Yuma
10 Regional Medical Center has a close working relationship
11 with WAHEC, and the hospital recently received -- accepted
12 an \$840,000 donation for its new residency program from the
13 Regional Center For Border Health located in south county.

14 It wasn't along ago when La Paz was actually part
15 of us. And to the north is Mohave, another county enjoying
16 the same pleasures the peace and quiet the rural community
17 world affords. Beside having our citizens with various
18 Latino backgrounds like my family, Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma
19 Counties have members of the Havasupai, Quechan, Mohave,
20 Cocopah and other Indian nations in their boundaries.

21 What else Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave have in common
22 is a lifeline. It's called the Colorado River. This
23 creates a natural boundary separating us, for the most part,
24 from California, but it unites the three counties with
25 similar interests. We're still rural not because we have to

1 be, but because we want to be. Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 Jim Lang, please approach the podium.

6 MR. LANG: Hi. Jim Lang, L-a-n-g.

7 In Part 9 of your charge, it says that you must
8 respect communities of interest, and all of the river
9 communities have agricultural bases.

10 Thank you, sir. Thank you.

11 And, whereas, we are much more conservative than
12 Tucson, and if we have representation from Tucson, we're not
13 being represented.

14 It seems to me that I agree that the Colorado
15 River should certainly be the western boundary used, and
16 possibly as high as Lake Havasu, and then east as far as we
17 need to go to encompass the Indian tribes and get the
18 population goal of, I think, 703,000.

19 I think that in Number 8 of your charges it says
20 there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.
21 And I was wondering, I know you can't answer questions, but
22 I was wondering if by discrimination -- by no discrimination
23 you mean that you cannot -- not take into effect the needs
24 of, I guess, the fourth generation Americans or Caucasians,
25 or whatever it is, you know, whoever is supposed to be the

1 dominant cultural group.

2 And it seems to me also that there's being -- an
3 erroneous assumption is being made between the link between
4 ethnicity and political will, because I think there's more
5 of a connection between people living in the rural areas and
6 the urban areas. And people living in the urban areas have
7 a -- the Phoenix area and Tucson area will be a lot more
8 liberal than the rural areas of the river communities.

9 And I think the most important thing is to make
10 the district resemble the voters, the change in the voters,
11 and not thwart the political desires of the voters, which
12 just enhances the feeling of voter disenfranchisement. So
13 what we need to do is not mangle the map to try to
14 gerrymander a result. Whereas, if we just use the
15 guidelines here of compactness and contiguousness, you'll
16 have one unit that votes not uniformly but in a majority.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before we go to Richard, what
21 I want to do is check in with our friends in San Luis and
22 also in Parker.

23 Is there anybody who would like to speak in San
24 Luis or Parker?

25 MS. GOMEZ: Not at the moment.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. I'll check in again in
2 a couple of minutes.

3 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And then after Richard we'll
5 have Cecil Boelts, Bob Lovelace, and Don Shooter.

6 MR. LINGE: My name is a Richard Linge, L-i-n-g-e,
7 and I am a professor emeritus at AWC and currently adjunct.

8 My area of interest here is the community college
9 district. It was established in, oh, somewhere around 1960,
10 and they were offering classes from 1963, I believe, in an
11 area that included all of Yuma County.

12 Since that time, La Paz County split off, I think
13 1983 or something like that, and now AWC has the uniqueness
14 of offering classes to two counties, an area that comprises,
15 I'm told, about 10,000 square miles.

16 I did a little research and found that a portion
17 of that, the class offerings from the main campus here and
18 its satellite campuses, include San Luis and Somerton. I
19 also understand that one of the proposals for redistricting
20 includes one, as mentioned earlier, that splits the county
21 somewhere south of Yuma. I don't know where.

22 From what I found, about 18 percent of the student
23 population for AWC attend classes in San Luis or Somerton.
24 That's from the website of the college, and those statistics
25 are from this past semester, Spring 2011.

1 I have no idea, nor probably does the college --
2 well, maybe they do -- how many students actually commute
3 from the south county area to the main campus to attend
4 classes. I know some do, because I see them in my classes.

5 So that's kind of my area of interest, and what I
6 would like to not have happen would be to have the community
7 college district be split so that there are two different
8 congressional districts representing the college because of
9 probably the diverse views of those representatives having
10 an impact on the running of the college.

11 And I thank you for listening.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

14 Before we have Cecil Boelts speak, we have -- I
15 forgot to refer to Mr. Shooter as State Senator Shooter, so
16 I apologize for that. We also have State Representative
17 Russ Jones, and also Senator Frank Antenori. So I would
18 like to -- okay, sir.

19 I apologize. Senator Frank Antenori is not here.
20 I think a look-alike is here.

21 MR. BOELTS: My name is Cecil Boelts. C-e-c-i-l,
22 B-o-e-l-t-s.

23 I would like to request that we have a district
24 made up of communities of interest. We -- several of us
25 went to the meeting 10 years ago and requested that, and we

1 didn't quite get that. We were given a district that
2 elected a representative who boycotted his own district. We
3 don't need that again.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOELTS: We need a representative who will pay
6 attention to the needs of the agriculture, the military, and
7 the tourism industry in our district. Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Bob Lovelace, can you please
11 step up.

12 MR. LOVELACE: My name is Bob -- you can write
13 that backwards, if you would like -- Lovelace,
14 L-o-v-e-l-a-c-e. It's pronounced "Loveless," actually, but
15 I made it easy on you.

16 I would like to implore you to, as this committee
17 and our lawmakers in our state and our lawyers that might
18 get involved in this, to make this truly an independent
19 commission like it's supposed to be and administer a fair
20 and balanced redistricting.

21 Take us out of Tucson. You have heard it already.
22 We have nothing in common with Tucson. And the only reason
23 that I and many more here can think of for wanting to split
24 off Somerton and Gadsden and San Luis is this is all about
25 Grijalva and what he likes to have, and we're getting tired

1 of that down here.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. LOVELACE: I think that anybody -- I think
4 that even Strategic Telemetry, sir, can understand where we
5 shop. We shop in Yuma, Arizona, we shop in San Luis, and we
6 shop in Somerton. And not all of San Luis shops at the
7 Walmart in San Luis.

8 Anybody can understand where we recreate. We
9 recreate from San Luis all the way -- it's already been
10 said -- up to Lake Havasu and in between, all along the
11 Colorado River. I like to go and fish over in the Indian
12 reservations.

13 And if you want to identify a cluster, gentlemen,
14 committee, there's your cluster right there. There's a
15 broad cluster and there's your artery, and that's been
16 described here several times by citizens here. There's your
17 artery and there's your cluster.

18 And we're talking about it being rural. Just look
19 at our counties and go straight up. For crying out loud,
20 you start with Yuma and just go straight up along the
21 Colorado River. Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, straight up. And
22 what have you got? Just like it's been said, you've got
23 rural, you've got agriculture. We depend upon the Colorado
24 River and we need, like it's been said, a river district.
25 We don't need --

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. LOVELACE: I lost my sign-maker. He's here
3 but he didn't get his sign.

4 We don't need the main drain out of west Tucson.
5 We've got a river.

6 Another thing, this should not be about packing
7 minorities into safe districts. That should not even enter
8 into this.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. LOVELACE: And I want you to make a special
11 note of that.

12 And I want to say something about the poor
13 representation that we have gotten, just like it's been said
14 here. What, is Grijalva --

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, just for the record,
16 your four minutes are up. So just to honor everyone, I
17 would appreciate you wrap up within ten seconds. Is that
18 okay?

19 MR. LOVELACE: I'll wrap it up in ten seconds.

20 Did Grijalva have a premonition? He closed down
21 his Yuma office, moved it down to Somerton, and then he
22 announced to our state that those seeking his assistance
23 should go down to the Somerton office or to the Tucson
24 office to get it. Is he psychic?

25 (Applause.)

1 SENATOR SHOOTER: My name is Don Shooter, just
2 like it sounds.

3 (Applause.)

4 SENATOR SHOOTER: I just want to bring this to
5 your attention. And I know you can't respond, so I
6 apologize for that, because I would love to hear the
7 response. But this is the Arizona Capitol Times. It is not
8 known to be a conservative newspaper.

9 It says, "What we are not IRC-ing: Map drawing
10 panel spends half its time meeting behind closed doors."

11 And during those meetings you selected Strategic
12 Telemetry, a firm that worked on the national scene for the
13 Obama campaign, worked -- is well-known, is well-known to
14 have a certain bent. So we don't appreciate that. We don't
15 think that's the way you do business. If you're supposed to
16 be an independent commission, you better start being
17 independent, and I'll tell you why.

18 You've got -- I'm just going to tell you. You've
19 got two-thirds, and the Democratic party, which is heavily,
20 heavily influencing this procedure; the biggest party in the
21 state of Arizona is the Republican party. The second
22 biggest are the independents. So -- and the third and least
23 party in all of this is the Democratic party.

24 So you've got two-thirds of your population that
25 you're leaving out in the cold, and people in here in Yuma

1 aren't going to put up with it. I'm just going to tell you,
2 we're going to do whatever it takes to get this straightened
3 out and done right. So --

4 (Applause.)

5 SENATOR SHOOTER: So I just want you to know that
6 we're watching like a hawk. And you may have gotten away
7 with some things, but there better not be any gerrymandering
8 districts to take people out. This is a national effort
9 done by the Democratic party to influence what -- because
10 they know that most legislatures in the United States are
11 controlled by the Republican party, so they have
12 concentrated their efforts and their resources on
13 commissions like this that they can influence.

14 And all I'm telling you is it says "independent"
15 up there. You better be independent and you better give us
16 a river district. That's all I've got to say.

17 (Applause.)

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 I would like to see if Yuma -- excuse me -- Parker
20 or San Luis have anybody that would like to speak.

21 MS. GOMEZ: No, sir.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

23 The next three speakers will be -- I think it's
24 Lorna Brooks representing herself; Sandra Brown representing
25 herself; George Reiners representing himself; Brenda E.

1 Wilson representing herself. So the next four.

2 So Lorna Brooks.

3 MS. BROOKS: Hello, welcome to Yuma. I'm a Yuma
4 native, born and raised here. Lorna, L-o-r-n-a, Brooks is
5 B-r-o-o-k-s.

6 All the towns of Yuma County, as well I'm going to
7 include Gila Bend and Ajo in this, we are all closely
8 interlinked, as well as with La Paz and Mohave Counties.
9 And as the sheriff of the Yuma Crossing Corral of Westerners
10 and a long-time volunteer at the Arizona Historical Society,
11 I know these are facts. These ties, these links go back 150
12 years.

13 There were many, many years where we could not get
14 to Phoenix or Tucson with any ease. You had the Apache
15 attacks and all of that. So commerce was fairly limited to
16 the river, and the steamboats were going up sometimes as far
17 as Mohave County, if I've got that one right.

18 So the Colorado River has always been the
19 lifeblood of these communities. Merchants have had stores,
20 you know, even 120 years ago, they would have a store in
21 Yuma, they would have one up near Bullhead City and in the
22 Parker area and over in Gila Bend. The stagecoach stations
23 were the same. So even to this day, farmers and merchantmen
24 are all interlinked. They still have stores even over in
25 El Centro, but we can't talk about that now.

1 But there are all of these links and ties. It
2 also includes families. As the good doctor was saying
3 earlier, you have family over in San Luis, Somerton, Yuma,
4 up in Agua Caliente, Wellton. We're all interlinked.

5 The farmers, people have spoken to that. The
6 farmers all up and down the river and over as far as Gila
7 Bend are all linked, too, through the natural resource
8 conservation districts, the irrigation districts. They all
9 work together. They all know each other.

10 And today, there is a tremendous amount of
11 visitation between all of these communities. In our
12 Westerners group, we have people coming in from Agua
13 Caliente to attend our meetings. We have people coming from
14 San Luis, Somerton, and sometimes from Quartzsite to attend
15 these meetings. The Arizona Historical Society offers tours
16 all over the place.

17 I want to add in here that the Barry Goldwater
18 bombing range is an integral part of Yuma County, as well as
19 Yuma Proving Ground.

20 My proposal is to run our district up as far as
21 Gila Bend and Ajo, to include them, and to keep the
22 Goldwater in our district and to run our district all the
23 way up as far as Utah, if necessary.

24 Like a lot of people have been saying, the
25 Colorado River is the lifeblood of this entire region. We

1 are rural. We are agricultural. We have these familial
2 ties. And our history goes back even farther than
3 Phoenix's.

4 So for all of those reasons that I listed, I think
5 we need to have our own district. You can call it the river
6 district, whatever, but we do need our own representation
7 here. And we don't have anything in common -- I went to
8 school in Tucson. There's nothing in common between Yuma
9 and Tucson, or really even Phoenix. So we need our own
10 representative.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. BROOKS: I want to add that the Arizona
13 Historical Society recognizes that fact on their map. If
14 you go online, it's just a little tiny map, but this entire
15 river region they call the Western Region. And all of the
16 museums, all the way up as far as Bouse and Chloride and
17 Bullhead City are part of that Western Region. Thank you
18 very much.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sandra Brown.

22 MS. BROWN: Thank you for coming to Yuma today and
23 providing us the opportunity to make our comments.

24 My name is Sandra Brown, S-a-n-d-r-a, B-r-o-w-n.
25 I have lived in Yuma County for the past 37 years. My

1 husband and I moved here in 1974 to begin work at Yuma
2 Proving Ground and have since made Yuma our home.

3 I'm here today to request that all of Yuma County
4 be kept together and then be combined with like communities
5 in the western part of the state along the Colorado River.
6 I would like to see Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, and perhaps the
7 most western parts of Maricopa and Yavapai counties combined
8 into one congressional district.

9 These communities are all primarily rural and
10 mostly agricultural communities, with the exception of the
11 two large military installations in Yuma County. We have
12 much greater commonality with the aforementioned counties
13 than we do with parts of Tucson and southwest Phoenix
14 suburbs of Avondale, Sun Lakes, and others.

15 Additionally, this part of the state encompasses
16 many of the Colorado River Indian tribes, many of whom are
17 interrelated. And I believe these should remain together
18 and be combined into one district.

19 I've also heard rumors that one proposal splits
20 Yuma County with everything east of the Gila Mountains
21 separated from the rest of Yuma County. This makes no
22 sense. The communities of Wellton, Dateland, Martinez Lake,
23 and other small communities are an important part of Yuma
24 County and should remain a part of our state, legislative
25 and congressional districts. By no means should any part of

1 Yuma Proving Ground or the Marine Corps Air Station be split
2 into separate districts.

3 I urge you to give serious consideration to my
4 input of creating of a Colorado River district. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA:

7 MR. REINERS: Good afternoon. My name is George
8 Reiners, G-e-o-r-g-e, R-e-i-n-e-r-s.

9 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.
10 Actually, it's going to be more read than speak, because I'm
11 not quite as gifted as some of the people that have gone
12 ahead of me, but we share very similar thoughts.

13 Representative Grijalva has indicated that he no
14 longer wants to represent Yuma. He considers us to be
15 racist because we voted for his opponent during the last
16 election. There have been reports that there's a movement
17 afoot to grant his wish by moving the city of Yuma out of
18 his district. I believe that I have a way to fulfill his
19 dreams while keeping Yuma County intact. My suggestions are
20 provided for your consideration.

21 According to the 2010 census, Arizona now has a
22 population of over 6 million. Now we'll have nine
23 districts. Based on that, each of the districts would need
24 to be about 710,000 people. And if we have just a Colorado
25 River district, it's going to be tough to do, because

1 Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma counties only account for 416,000
2 people. So we are going to have to go a little bit further
3 east.

4 My recommendation would be to go along
5 Interstate 10 to approximately South 91st Avenue in Phoenix,
6 south of the Gila River Indian reservation, follow the
7 eastern boundary of that, encompass the entire Gila River
8 Indian community, south on Interstate 10 to Interstate 8,
9 west on Interstate 8 to Highway 42, south on Highway 42 to
10 the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation, and then follow the
11 Tohono O'odham boundary east and south to our southern
12 border and back to Yuma. That may get you close to the
13 numbers that are needed, but you may need to do a little bit
14 of adjustment.

15 Those are all communities of interest. Three
16 counties on the Colorado River share the same goals, same
17 thoughts, the same lifestyles. And we have -- the rest of
18 the district would have multiple Indian communities as well
19 as a large Hispanic population. And they're all communities
20 of interest, but they're all combined in one area in one
21 district that's going to think alike.

22 I came to Yuma in the early '70s on deployment. I
23 fell in love with the place. I wasn't able to get back here
24 until '97. I was able to retire here and I absolutely love
25 it, and I don't want to see it being destroyed by a

1 representative who does not care about this community.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Brenda E. Wilson, we
5 will have Theresa Ulmer speak; Sharon White representing
6 herself; and Steven -- it starts with an M. I'm not able to
7 understand his last name. So he will speak --

8 MR. MILLER: Steve Miller.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Steve Miller. Thank you.

10 MS. WILSON: My name is Brenda Wilson.

11 B-r-e-n-d-a, W-i-l-s-o-n.

12 And I am from here, Yuma, but I represent minority
13 women from Quartzsite who are fair -- who are afraid they
14 will not be fairly represented in the Colorado River
15 district if it is split in half. Please keep the Colorado
16 River district intact. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 MS. ULMER: Theresa Ulmer, T-h-e-r-e-s-a. Last
20 name is U-l-m-e-r.

21 And on a personal note, I just want to thank the
22 Commissioners for their work and for fulfilling the voters'
23 wishes, which is to keep this nonpolitical. So thank you
24 for your work.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. ULMER: On behalf of the board of Planned
2 Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, we would like to offer the
3 following comments regarding the redistricting process.

4 Let me begin by telling you who we are. We are
5 Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, which is a
6 political committee that supports activities of Planned
7 Parenthood Arizona. Just like this commission, our board is
8 made up of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, both
9 from Tucson and Phoenix.

10 As for Planned Parenthood Arizona itself,
11 presumably you're all aware that Planned Parenthood Arizona
12 has been providing medical services and counseling to women
13 across Arizona for over 75 years. Today, Planned Parenthood
14 provides these services through 14 health centers in
15 11 cities across our state, including here in Yuma.

16 Here in Arizona, over 80 percent of more than the
17 50,000 patients we serve annually receive preventative
18 healthcare, including lifesaving cancer screening, STD
19 testing and treatment and birth control. As a provider of
20 charitable care, we are often the only health provider
21 available for many of our patients.

22 We are both excited and hopeful about the
23 redistricting process. As a healthcare provider which
24 regularly participates in the legislative process, often not
25 by our choice, we have witnessed firsthand the deterioration

1 of civic dialogue in our state's legislative process. There
2 is almost no bipartisanship at all, to speak of, on either
3 side of the aisle. Legislation is heard in stacked
4 committee hearings with a near complete disregard for both
5 the facts and the rights of the interested parties and
6 citizens that are being heard. Results are valued without
7 regard for due process, and typically those results seem
8 predetermined.

9 To us, at least part of the problem stems from the
10 lack of competitive legislative districts, once again on
11 both sides of the aisle. As a result of this lack of
12 competitive -- of this lack of competition, legislative
13 races are too often decided in primaries. We know that
14 primaries are dominated by the voters within the given
15 political parties, and we firmly believe that primaries are
16 disproportionately dominated by the extreme elements of each
17 of the two major parties.

18 Finally, and most importantly, when legislative
19 races are decided in primaries, it obviously eliminates the
20 effectiveness and purpose of general elections. The key
21 result is lower voter turnout. And to us, low voter turnout
22 is undemocratic, and that's with a small D.

23 We know that this is not one of the express
24 criteria set forth for this commission, but to us it would
25 seem to be a fundamental goal for the commission to make

1 sure that the maximum number of voters are motivated to
2 participate in Arizona's electoral process.

3 We know that as a result of Arizona's past record
4 of discrimination, our state's redistricting process is
5 subject to oversight by the United States Department of
6 Justice. We know that part of the voting rights analysis is
7 the maintenance of minority/majority districts. We
8 recognize that this commission must respect this legal
9 obligation and historical misdeeds that underlie it.

10 However, this legal obligation should not be the
11 sole controlling factor in this commission's work. In our
12 view, this legal obligation has served as an excessive
13 justification for districts that are too heavily leaning
14 Democratic -- and that's with a big D -- which in turn
15 results in the creation of other districts that lean too
16 heavily Republican. This may well be the interest of the
17 two parties to secure safe seats, but it's not the interest
18 of Arizona. Arizona needs safer seats and more competitive
19 districts.

20 Finally, we recognize that there's no single
21 panacea for what we perceive to be the degraded state of
22 Arizona's legislative process. More competitive districts
23 alone and seats will not produce --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

25 MS. ULMER: -- a more dignified legislative

1 process. And thank you for your time.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have Sharon White, if
5 Sharon White can come up and speak, please.

6 Please be aware we do have a timekeeper. He's
7 letting me know when the time is up, so I'm well aware.

8 MS. WHITE: I'm Sharon White. It's S-h-a-r-o-n,
9 W-h-i-t-e.

10 I'm representing myself, but I plea for you to
11 keep Yuma County intact, not dividing the county into ethnic
12 groups. That would be totally unAmerican.

13 Yuma County is a diverse group of people of all
14 walks of life and ethnic background. History tells us that
15 American is the great melting pot of all people and has not,
16 does not, and will not in the future divide its people and
17 discriminate against any groups.

18 Our strive is to ensure that all groups are
19 represented equally, giving everybody a chance to have their
20 voice heard. I'm asking you to design our district into a
21 river district up and down the Colorado, which is the
22 lifeline for our existence. We all have one common
23 interest, and we're all small, agricultural communities with
24 a strong military and Native American presence. We have
25 nothing in common with Tucson or Phoenix.

1 I'm fairly -- thank you for your time considering
2 all of the suggestions in our district for the best of all
3 of our citizens. And I want to say, too, how dare anybody
4 to deliberately gerrymander our voters. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Steven Miller. You don't
7 want to speak?

8 MR. MILLER: No.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Russ Clark, and then Paul D.
10 Jackson, and then William R. Lotto or Ladda, I think.

11 MR. CLARK: Four minutes. Russ Clark, R-u-s-s,
12 C-l-a-r-k.

13 Proposition 106 was passed by the voters of this
14 great state because they were looking for something. They
15 were looking for fairness and equality, and they were
16 looking for a system that didn't include a favorite to one
17 party or another.

18 I fear what they've got they would be disappointed
19 with. I think what we've got, instead of a lack of
20 partisism, having the legislature do it, which is obviously
21 partisan, we've got hyperpartisism. We get to select five
22 people all of a sudden, two that are partisan Republican,
23 two that are partisan Democrat, one that potentially is
24 partisan; we don't know. Unfortunately, what we end up with
25 is three heavily partisan Democrats, two partisan

1 Republicans.

2 But I think given the system -- it is our system.
3 It's what we've got to work with. Given the system, what
4 we've got to work with is to make these voters that voted
5 for Proposition 106, at least give them something back that
6 we're doing our best to make it fair, doing our best to make
7 it look right. And, unfortunately, we haven't done that
8 either.

9 We have reports of closed-door meetings, reports
10 of shredded documents, a hiring of a company named Strategic
11 Telemetry, which has connections to the Democratic party.
12 That's going to make us nervous.

13 Now, I understand that gerrymandering is a
14 time-honored tradition right here in America. It started in
15 the 1800s. And I think that's something that the voters
16 don't want anymore. I think the voters would not like
17 gerrymandering. Unfortunately, there's been an
18 indication --

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CLARK: -- that gerrymandering is what we're
21 going to get. We're going to get some gerrymandering, we're
22 going to get some partisanship, and we're going to get that
23 and we're afraid of it. We've got a real obligation -- this
24 panel has an obligation to prove to the voters that they did
25 the right thing to get some independence here.

1 And, unfortunately, what has gone on so far, and
2 we're early into it, is that we have an Attorney General
3 that has said, I've had enough. I'm throwing up the red
4 flag. We're going to do some investigations. Too many
5 closed doors, too many shredded documents. What are we
6 hiding?

7 My feeling is that if we have nothing to hide,
8 we're transparent. And my feeling is if we have nothing to
9 hide, we have open-door meetings. We've had the opposite of
10 that. We've had hyperpartisism.

11 As far as our community goes, our community
12 includes south county and north county. And I know that it
13 is your obligation, you have to chop it up because you can
14 only put 700,000 in there. You can go ten blocks in Phoenix
15 and meet a stranger. Ten miles in this county, we call them
16 neighbors. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. JACKSON: I'm Paul Jackson. It's P-a-u-l,
19 J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

20 And my question is to the committee today, is
21 where is the map? There's supposed to be maps written right
22 now for the first round of meetings. There's supposed to
23 be -- here, I'll read what it says: The commission is
24 supposed to provide -- oh, sorry.

25 "The redistricting commission shall first draw

1 district maps that are equal in population in gridlike
2 patterns across the state."

3 These are supposed to be proposed maps that they
4 propose of population demographics and all that kind of
5 stuff. They're supposed to be presented here so we can see
6 them so we can critique them. And my question to you is, is
7 where is those maps?

8 I find it real strange that our Congressman
9 Grijalva, around the time this commission was started, moved
10 to Somerton.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. LADD: My name is William Ladd.
14 W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Ladd, L-a-d-d. And I will apologize because
15 I don't have a teleprompter. It's in the shop. I haven't
16 focus-grouped my stuff, so I just -- I'm winging it.

17 The United States is a great experiment. Prior
18 to our Constitution, and even now in most parts of the
19 world, all of the people are ruled by rulers, despots,
20 kings, and other kind of unsavory folks.

21 We did it differently. When our Constitution came
22 about, it starts out, if you look at it, "We the People,"
23 and it's in letters about five times as big as everything
24 else because that's important. "We the People," give our
25 power to the government, not the other way around. The

1 government doesn't tell us. We tell them.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. LADD: In our system the rights come from
4 natural rights from God, from the deity, whatever you want
5 to describe it as, not from the government. Therefore, the
6 government cannot take them away.

7 We are a Republic. What does that mean? It means
8 that we vote for people to represent us. That is why this
9 is so important today. How do we select the
10 representatives? It's important that we get this right.

11 Right now, we have a commission. We don't have
12 the legislature, people who we voted for, people that are
13 responsible to us. We have a commission that's not
14 responsible to anybody. It's supposed to be two Democrats,
15 two Republicans, and one independent. From what I
16 understand, the independent isn't very independent.

17 So I am very, very cautious. I'm very disturbed
18 that the results of this will not be what the people want.
19 We need representation, we need accountability, and we need
20 it now. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Betsy
23 Gottsponer.

24 MS. GOTTSPONER: Betsy, B-E-T-S-Y, Gottsponer,
25 G-o-t, as in Tom, T as in Tom, S as in Sam, P as in Paul,

1 -o-n-e-r. And I really wish my mother was up here instead
2 of me.

3 I'm concerned and I've been listening to all of
4 this. I'm hearing the same type of concerns. We're rural.
5 We may be the third largest population area in this state,
6 even if Flagstaff doesn't believe it, but we do not operate
7 the same way as Phoenix, Tucson or, actually, even
8 Flagstaff. We're our own area.

9 Now, my people have been here for quite a while.
10 In 1890, my great grandfather was a territorial sheriff.
11 When the territory was set up, there were four counties
12 created, and Yuma was one of them and Mohave was one of
13 them. And we would like to be together again, along with La
14 Paz caught in the middle.

15 I think we need to go with this Colorado River
16 district, because all of us have the same types of
17 lifestyles. We have nothing in common with Phoenix or
18 Tucson. Their style is completely different. I'm glad we
19 don't have their traffic. I'm glad we don't have all of
20 their freeways. I think I like it better out here. That's
21 why I live here.

22 We need to have our own representation, though,
23 representing the three things that we've been mentioning all
24 along. The economy of this area is based on the military.
25 Don't split off Goldwater. That's part of our military. We

1 need the agriculture. This is our farming. We need the
2 river, all along the river. Take it all the way up to Utah.
3 Pick up Gila Bend and Ajo simply because they've always been
4 part of Yuma County before the splits off, and their
5 lifestyle is very much like ours.

6 And let's not forget the tourists. All of this
7 area survives by tourists, what we call our wonderful winter
8 visitors or winter residents. We need them and they need
9 us. They come here because they like our lifestyles.

10 This is an area that needs its own representation.
11 We need to have somebody from our lifestyles representing us
12 in Congress, not somebody from a big city who long ago
13 forgot what a river was all about. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think those are all of the
16 speaking forms we have, unless somebody would still like to
17 speak and fill out a form. We can still do that.

18 But if not, what we'll do is we will have a couple
19 of closing remarks from our Commissioners, and I'll start
20 with Commissioner Stertz.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

22 Big crowd. Thank you all very much for coming out
23 today. What I do know is that I'm -- it's been a real honor
24 for me. When I was appointed by Senate President Russell
25 Pearce to be on this commission, we knew that it was going

1 to be lot of hard work.

2 And I spent a lot of time looking back, and the
3 very first public hearing that took place was here in Yuma
4 10 years ago. And the very same -- a lot of the same things
5 that were voiced 10 years ago are being voiced again tonight
6 or today. And I want to recognize that, from my seat, I am
7 hearing that.

8 Sunlight is a pretty incredible disinfectant. And
9 as we move this forward, for us to be able to be trusted,
10 sunlight is going to have to be a significant component of
11 everything that we do.

12 (Applause.)

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So it is incumbent upon
14 what -- the group that's out here tonight to tell your
15 neighbors, your friends, the other people, in some instances
16 your constituents, that it is incumbent for you to continue
17 to be a part of this process, to continue to make sure that
18 sunlight is being shone brightly on what we're doing. That
19 you coming out here today is extraordinarily important.

20 But this is not a sprint. This is a marathon.
21 And what I heard today was that Yuma County, La Paz County,
22 Mohave County, and the river districts all believe in the
23 ATM, which is agriculture, tourism and military.

24 And I want to thank you all for coming out here
25 today and giving me the privilege of being able to meet some

1 of you earlier, and looking forward to meeting some of you
2 after we're done here today. So thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: I would echo Mr. Stertz's
5 comments that I appreciate you spending a Saturday with us.
6 I may be from Tucson, but I love rural areas. I love the
7 river. I have heard what you said. I appreciate you taking
8 the time to come out and talk to us.

9 I would urge you to understand that the people on
10 this commission are good people. We're doing this because
11 we love this state. We don't just love Tucson. We don't
12 just love Phoenix. We love every single part of this state.

13 I appreciate you taking the time to tell us how
14 you feel and what you think. And I give you my pledge that
15 I'm not doing this for any purpose other than the best
16 interests of the state.

17 I welcome your comments at any time. As
18 Mr. Stertz said, this is a marathon. It's not a sprint.
19 We're going to be working on maps. The reason we're here is
20 to get your input on those maps. It doesn't make sense to
21 do it the other way around. So stay with us. If you have
22 questions as we go through the process, contact our staff,
23 give us your input through the website, send us maps.

24 And again, thanks for taking the time out on a
25 Saturday.

1 (Applause.)

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let me make sure that no one
3 from the Parker or San Luis area would like to make any
4 comments because we -- I just want to make sure before we
5 move on with the meeting.

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera, can you
7 hear me?

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes. I can hear you fine,
9 Chair Mathis.

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Yes, this is Chair
11 Mathis. We actually have a speaker here in San Luis, Sarah
12 Lydick from Yuma.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Great.

14 MS. LYDICK: Hello, I'm Sarah Lydick. S-a-r-a-h,
15 L-y-d-i-c-k.

16 And I want to say thank you for coming to our
17 area. Thank you for all of your considerations, the things
18 that you're going through. And I look forward with interest
19 to the competitiveness that you place our districts in.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. We did have
23 somebody from San Luis. Actually, we have four people from
24 San Luis back there, so they came to the meeting here.

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair?

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, ma'am.

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry. We have another
3 speaker, Joe Harper, representing self and from San Luis.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Perfect. Thank you.

5 MR. HARPER: Hi, my name is Joe Harper,
6 H-a-r-p-e-r.

7 You know, we've talked about a lot of things and
8 we've mentioned a lot of things today, and one of the things
9 that I would like to mention is the fact that we are a
10 border community and we do cross almost 36,000 people daily
11 through this border, and that sums up billions of dollars
12 yearly for our economy for Arizona.

13 We have some good ports here. We are working to
14 try to get our new port redone, and we're always competing
15 with Nogales. So I would like to get -- you know, get away
16 from Nogales and get our own representative in a community
17 that we need full attention. I think that we can be a lot
18 more productive through the state if we have a little bit
19 more help, or if our godfathers in the United States give us
20 a little bit more attention.

21 So yes, I would like to see the Colorado district.
22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let me make sure, Chair
25 Mathis, is there anyone else in San Luis that would like to

1 speak?

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes. We have the Mayor of
3 San Luis here, Juan Carlos Escamilla from the City of San
4 Luis.

5 MAYOR ESCAMILLA: Good afternoon. The last name
6 is Escamilla, E-s-c-a-m-i-l-l-a. And yes, I am the mayor
7 for the City of San Luis.

8 And one thing that I would like to add is we have
9 always had a great working relationship with our sister
10 cities, Somerton, Yuma, and Yuma County as a whole region.

11 As Joe had mentioned prior, on the border, I mean,
12 I feel that we need a district that represents the whole of
13 this region and also a region that will represent the border
14 communities.

15 As far as the mapping that's been presented to us,
16 I mean, there's still a lot of questions that we have, and
17 definitely we are going to be forwarding our inputs
18 regarding that. But I would hate to see our region being
19 separated, because we've always worked together.

20 But one thing that really disappoints me, and I
21 appreciate the comments that we've gotten from some of the
22 local speakers that have been speaking, the frustrations
23 that they have on representation. Well, I understand that,
24 and I don't expect this to be a political forum.

25 What I ask from my community is a fair

1 representation, a representation that will represent the
2 whole region. And I'm not here representing a particular
3 party. I want to -- I'm here representing my community, for
4 the best interests of my people.

5 And I appreciate the comments of the Commissioner
6 that she is out of Tucson and she loves rural areas. Well,
7 let me tell you, San Luis is a rural area. And sometimes we
8 tend to be forgotten because we're on the far end of the
9 county, and it's very important that we do have a fair
10 representation.

11 I applaud your commitment to making sure that we
12 do get a fair representation, and all I'm asking is that all
13 those facts are taken into account. That we do get an area
14 that won't affect us, because we do want somebody -- a
15 district that will represent all of us. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 Well, you know, what I want to do is thank the
19 City of Yuma for welcoming us, the commission, and for
20 allowing us to use this venue, as well as Senator Shooter
21 for being here, Russ Jones, Representative Jones, Mayor
22 Krieger, and also the Mayor from Quartzsite. Thank you all
23 for being here.

24 And my goal is to come back to Yuma. As I said, I
25 love Yuma. And although I grew up in San Luis, I went to

1 school in Yuma, and you are represented. So I want you to
2 feel that you are being represented, but what I do recommend
3 is, as both Commissioners said, submit maps. We need
4 information from all of you. Your comments are great, but
5 we also need as much information from you as well, including
6 the maps. I think maps are pretty important. Go to our
7 website and find out when our next meetings are. If you
8 have any questions, the staff, the staff is awesome. Ray
9 Bladine is back there, executive director.

10 If you need to contact us, you can contact us
11 through the staff as well. I don't think we have AIRC
12 e-mails, but I'm sure they can release the e-mails that we
13 created through Gmail or Yahoo.com, because I think I would
14 be okay with that.

15 But thank you so much for being here. Enjoy the
16 rest of your Saturday. Go eat. I know you're all hungry as
17 I am, so thank you so much.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera? Vice
19 Chair Herrera?

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can I just break in before
22 you completely close?

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Of course.

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry. I just also want to
25 extend my gratitude to all of these folks in these remote

1 locations in Parker and in San Luis, as well as all of you
2 in Yuma. This is a wonderful turnout. And it's our first
3 remote location experience, and I wanted to come to one to
4 see what that was like, and it is fantastic.

5 I have to say I'm superimpressed with the
6 videostreaming capability and the audio and all of it. And
7 I would encourage anybody in these remote locations for the
8 rest of our hearing schedule to be sure to come to those
9 remote locations, if that's more convenient to you, because
10 you're just as much a part of the process as the folks in
11 the main location.

12 And I also just want to say it was really
13 interesting hearing from everyone, from a couple of
14 different mayors today, to a surgeon, to offspring of a
15 territorial sheriff. I think that's pretty cool.

16 And I really appreciate the input, and we heard it
17 all and we thank you for your participation.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Thank you so
20 much. We will adjourn. I don't have a -- we will adjourn
21 at 2:30. Thank you.

22 (The proceedings concluded at 2:30 p.m.)
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25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF YUMA)

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I, MICHELE E. BALMER, Certified Reporter
No. 50489 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that
the foregoing printed pages constitute a full, true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the
foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and
ability.

DATED at Yuma, Arizona, this 3rd day of August,
2011.

MICHELE E. BALMER
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50489