

1 **ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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4

5 October 29, 2011
6 1:08 p.m.

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9 **Location**

10 Yuma City Hall
11 One City Plaza
12 Yuma, Arizona 85364

13

14 **Attending**

15 Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair

16 Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
17 Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
18 Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
19 Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

20

21

22 **PREPARED BY:**

23 AZ Litigation Support, LLC
24 Michelle D. Elam, CR
25 Certified Reporter
 CR No. 50637

Yuma, Arizona
October 29, 2011
1:08 p.m.

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4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good afternoon.

5 Let's go ahead and get started.

6 Thank you all for being here.

7 First, let me thank the City of Yuma for
8 hosting this event with Greg Highland.

9 Where is he at?

10 Greg, thank you. Everybody clap for
11 Greg.

12 We have Mayor Al Krieger as well.

13 So thank you to both of them for setting
14 up this public hearing.

15 Again, thank you all for being here.

16 This is our second round of public
17 hearings. This is the second time we've been in
18 Yuma. And the whole point of this today is making
19 sure that we hear your concerns and your comments
20 about our maps. And I think when you guys came in,
21 there was a large map that was blown up, both I
22 think the congressional and legislative maps.

23 You should have also picked up a packet.

24 Now, for those of you that don't have a
25 packet -- that did not get these maps, raise your

1 hand and I'll have Shane -- back there -- Shields
2 give you a map. So keep your hands raised, and
3 Shane will pass a map to you.

4 So before we start, let's go ahead and do
5 the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 Now, before we start with the
9 presentations, what I would like you to do, anybody
10 that wants to speak needs to fill out one of these
11 yellow forms.

12 And if you don't have a yellow form, you
13 can raise your hand and I think Shane will be happy
14 to -- I'm sorry, Shane, I'm putting you to work.

15 And if you don't want to speak but you
16 want your comments heard, there is a blue form -- I
17 think it's still blue -- there's a blue form in the
18 back where you can fill out your comments and submit
19 them and they will be part of the public record.

20 So if you definitely -- if you want to
21 speak, you definitely need to have this yellow form.

22 Let me introduce a couple of people.

23 From the staff, we have Ray Bladine, our
24 executive director, Ray.

25 We have -- you can clap for Ray.

1 We have Kristina Gomez, our deputy
2 executive director back in the back.

3 We have Buck Forst, our chief technology
4 officer. I think he's hiding back there. He's
5 right there.

6 We have Joe Kanefield, our legal counsel.
7 Joe Kanefield.

8 And then we have Willie Desmond with
9 Strategic Telemetry, Willie.

10 And let's see. I think we have Shane
11 Shields, our community outreach representative as
12 well as Karen Herrman.

13 And then we have Michelle Elam, our court
14 reporter.

15 Before we start the presentations, make
16 sure that you speak loudly and clearly. Michelle
17 will be typing everything you say. So spell your
18 first and last name. Spell it out clearly and don't
19 assume she'll know how to spell your name. Even if
20 it's Bob. Just spell it for her. I think we'll be
21 better off if we do that.

22 And again, your comments will be limited
23 to three minutes. So I would recommend that all of
24 you limit your comments to three minutes. I'll have
25 Alexis explain this.

1 Alexis, do you mind explaining?

2 ALEXIS: The mic is on a timer. And once
3 the -- there will be a red light flashing at 30
4 seconds or close enough and then it will just shut
5 off at the three-minute mark.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

7 Now, let me also introduce a couple
8 individuals, the commissioners.

9 Now, these public hearings are not --
10 we're not required to all be here. There's so many
11 of them, so what we try to do is divvy up the public
12 hearings.

13 So we have Commissioner Stertz,
14 Commissioner McNulty, Commissioner Freeman, and
15 Chairwoman Mathis who are more than likely probably
16 watching this presentation via the stream on the
17 web. So please say hi to them.

18 Hi.

19 Okay. So before we begin, the whole
20 point to this is for us to hear what your concerns
21 are of our maps. So we want to hear what you like,
22 what you don't like, ways we can improve the map.

23 We are not here to answer questions.
24 It's about you and what your issues are and how we
25 can help you.

1 So that's the whole point of the public
2 hearings.

3 We also have a translator. So let me not
4 forget the translator.

5 Maria G. Gallardo -- Gallardo. Can she
6 step up here? Can you -- can you -- for those of
7 you that aren't -- she'll explain.

8 MARIA GALLARDO: Good afternoon,
9 Mr. Chairperson -- Vice Chair.

10 Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, in
11 accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a
12 translator/interpreter will be available at all
13 public hearings in order to provide translating
14 services that might be needed by citizens who do
15 need translating or interpreting services.

16 Please contact me at this meeting so I
17 can assist you.

18 (Speaking in native tongue.)

19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Before we begin,
21 what I'll have Willie Desmond do is -- Mr. Desmond
22 do a presentation on the whole purpose of the second
23 round hearings and just give us some background.

24 WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you.

25 My name is Willie Desmond. I work with

1 Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to
2 perform the technical assistance to the Commission
3 as they do the mapping.

4 I'm very happy to be here today and hear
5 what you guys have to say.

6 The goal of these meetings is to solicit
7 public comments about the draft maps. So thank you
8 all for attending, and as I mentioned, we're very
9 excited to hear what you have to say.

10 The draft maps that you will see today
11 are currently under a 30-day review period so that
12 the Commission can learn your opinions.

13 Before getting into the maps, though, I
14 do want to give just a little background and a quick
15 overview of the redistricting process in Arizona.

16 Arizona's redistricting process is
17 governed by the state Constitution amended by the
18 voters in 2000 with the passage of the Arizona
19 Independent Redistricting Commission's -- or
20 Arizona's Commission.

21 They are charged with redrawing the maps
22 following the most recent census. The most recent
23 census happened in 2010, and following the 2010
24 census, Arizona was allocated a ninth and additional
25 congressional district.

1 There are six criteria outlined by
2 Proposition 106 in the Arizona Constitution.

3 The first of these criteria is that all
4 plans must comply with the United States
5 Constitution and they must comply with the Voting
6 Rights Act.

7 The next criteria is that they must --
8 all plans must have equal population.

9 These first two criteria are federally
10 mandated and any redistricting plan that anyone has
11 in the country has to follow these two criteria.

12 The other four criteria are
13 Arizona-specific and part of Proposition 106, and
14 they are to the extent practicable, the districts
15 must be compact and contiguous; they must respect
16 communities of interest; they must use visible
17 geographic features such as city, towns, county
18 boundaries and undivided census tracts where
19 available. And you must favor competitive districts
20 where there is no significant detriment to the other
21 goals.

22 Just to expand a little bit on the Voting
23 Rights Act.

24 Arizona's congressional and legislative
25 districts must receive preclearance or approval from

1 the Department of Justice or a federal court under
2 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can
3 take effect.

4 To get preclearance, Arizona must
5 demonstrate that the new districts do not
6 discriminate against minority voters in purpose or
7 effect, which means there can be no intentional or
8 accidental discrimination.

9 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting
10 plans cannot be retrogressive. Plans cannot weaken
11 or reduce minority voters' rights.

12 And the way you can tell if a plan is
13 retrogressive is determined by analyzing population
14 and election results.

15 I want to take a brief pause to show you
16 a video by Bruce Adelson, an attorney with Federal
17 Compliance Consulting. He's advising the Commission
18 on the Voting Rights Act and the preclearance
19 process.

20 Just one second.

21 (Mr. Bruce Adelson's video presentation
22 was played.)

23 WILLIE DESMOND: Okay. Now I'm going to
24 give just a little background on the process of
25 redistricting.

1 Just wait one second for the PowerPoint
2 to come back.

3 The first step in the redistricting
4 process is the creation of the Arizona Independent
5 Redistricting Commission. This happened earlier
6 this year, and the five commissioners were appointed
7 through a thorough screening process to serve in a
8 voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

9 This year and then for the rest of the
10 decade, the five commissioners are Vice Chairman
11 Scott Freeman; Vice Chairman Jose Herrera, who is
12 here this evening -- or this afternoon, excuse me;
13 Chairman Colleen Mathis, and Commissions Linda
14 McNulty and Richard Stertz.

15 The second step after the establishment
16 of the Commission is the first round of public
17 hearings.

18 Before drawing a single line, the
19 Commission held 23 public hearings around the state
20 in July and August to get input from the voters and
21 members of the public about issues they think are
22 relevant to the process.

23 After that begins the mapping process.

24 According to Proposition 106, we start
25 with a clean slate.

1 They started with a clean slate. The
2 state is then divided into equal population
3 districts in a grid-like pattern forming a grid map.
4 We'll talk a little bit more about this later, but
5 the grid map only meets two of the six
6 constitutional criteria. So there's equal
7 population and there's compact and contiguous
8 districts.

9 That needs to be adjusted to adopt -- to
10 meet all of other criteria laid out in the state
11 Constitution.

12 The grid maps were approved on
13 August 18th. And then following that, the
14 Commission met several more times, 25 times
15 actually, to consider adjustments to those grid maps
16 to accommodate all of the rest of the criteria.

17 During this time they also received a lot
18 more public input and public comments and citizen
19 and groups submitted draft maps and plans.

20 Following that, the draft maps were
21 created. They were approved on October 3rd. The
22 Commission approved the congressional draft map. On
23 October 10th, the Commission approved the
24 legislative draft map.

25 The next step is what's happening right

1 now, the second round of public hearings.

2 So there's the 30-day comment period
3 where we go around the state and we like to hear
4 what people say.

5 We're currently -- it says visiting 25
6 towns and cities. It's actually 26 now, I believe
7 -- to share the draft map and receive additional
8 input during October and the beginning part of
9 November.

10 Following that, the final maps will be
11 voted on.

12 And after they have been adopted, they
13 will be sent to the Department of Justice for
14 preclearance.

15 And again, because Arizona is subject to
16 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district
17 maps must be approved by the federal Department of
18 Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C.,
19 before they can be used for Arizona elections.

20 So now just to give you a little bit of
21 progression of how we came to these draft maps.

22 This is the old map. This was the map
23 last used in 2010. It was retired after those
24 elections. What we're working on right now -- what
25 we're discussing today is the maps to replace this

1 one.

2 So per Proposition 106, we wiped the
3 slate clean and started with a totally blank canvas.
4 Didn't look at the old districts. We didn't look at
5 where incumbents live. All of that is disregarded
6 and they start with what is the grid map.

7 As you can see here, the grid map only
8 takes into account two criteria, that is compact and
9 contiguous districts and equal size population.

10 The Commission asked that two grid maps
11 be prepared for both legislative and congressional
12 and that they just pick one of the two.

13 They settled on option 2 for both the
14 legislative and congressional. And again, they were
15 adopted on August 18th.

16 All right. Now after more than 25
17 meetings to discuss changes to the grid map, the
18 Commission voted to approve this draft map that you
19 see here.

20 In addition to taking into consideration
21 the six constitutional criteria, the Commission also
22 received a lot of public comment from the public
23 meetings, from round one of the public hearings,
24 from comments mailed, e-mailed, hand-delivered,
25 faxed, and telephoned in. In total, over 5,000

1 public comments helped form this map.

2 As you see, some of the highlights of the
3 map are that there are two predominantly rural
4 districts, there are three border districts, there
5 are three districts in the Greater Tucson region,
6 five districts that are entirely within Maricopa
7 County. The plan avoids splitting Arizona's Indian
8 reservations and there are two districts where
9 minority voters have the opportunity to elect
10 candidates of their choice.

11 Going onto the legislative district, this
12 is the old map that was last used in 2010.

13 Again, per Proposition 106, we started
14 with a blank slate and then we came up with a grid
15 map. Again, option 2 was selected.

16 So here is the legislative draft map that
17 we are presenting today. It was voted on on
18 October 9th (sic), I believe, and some of the points
19 about it is the old map, because of population
20 growth and shrinkage in other areas, had districts
21 that had as few as 155,000 people in them and as
22 many as 378. So some of the districts were more
23 than twice as large as others.

24 This current draft has a deviation of
25 about 207,000 to 215,000.

1 Also to comply with the Voting Rights
2 Act, the plan includes ten districts in which
3 minority voters should have the opportunity to elect
4 candidates of their choice. Also the draft map
5 includes three districts wholly within Pima County
6 and three additional Southern Arizona districts, has
7 seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County
8 and nine primarily rural districts.

9 Okay. As I mentioned, the Commission
10 really wants to hear what you have to say about
11 these draft maps.

12 There are a lot of ways to have your
13 voice heard. You can fill out a request to speak
14 form at one of the public meetings, like you're at
15 today.

16 Examples of criteria for what you can
17 talk about are constitutional criteria, the draft
18 map congressional and legislative maps, or anything
19 else that you want to talk about.

20 You can -- aside from speaking at one of
21 the hearings, you can fill out one of the blue forms
22 and turn it in today. That will also go on the
23 record.

24 You can also fill out a form on our
25 website and submit it or you can call us at

1 602-542-5221 or toll free at 855-733-7478 and give
2 us your comments.

3 We do want you to stay connected
4 throughout the process. Right here is a screenshot
5 from our website. I just want to highlight a few
6 things.

7 If you click on the meetings tab, you can
8 go and find out information about future meetings,
9 locations, and times. You can watch live streams of
10 the meetings as they are happening if you're not
11 able to attend in person and you can go back and
12 rewatch all of the videos of all of the meetings
13 that have happened in the past.

14 So if you're interested in how these maps
15 came to be, you can go back and watch as the
16 Commission developed them in public meetings.

17 Probably most importantly and what most
18 people care about is looking at the maps.

19 So you can click on the maps tab either
20 on the top or the bottom, and if you do, it will
21 take you to a page that looks very much so like
22 this. There's been a few small changes.

23 The maps are available in lots of
24 different formats. There are PDFs or JPEG.

25 One thing, though, I do want to highlight

1 is the maps are available as Google map files. So
2 if you click on the Google map button that's circled
3 in red here, what it will do is it will take you to
4 a page that looks like this.

5 What these allow you to do is zoom in and
6 zoom out to as small a level of geography as you
7 wanted possible. If you wanted to just go all the
8 way down to see just your house, you could do that.
9 You can follow the borders. You can see what really
10 comprises these districts.

11 By clicking on some of the buttons on the
12 left, you're able to turn the shading on and off,
13 remove the county lines, whatever makes it easiest
14 for you to do.

15 So just as an example of how you can zoom
16 in, this is a zoom in I think in Maricopa County,
17 but you can drill down a lot farther than this even.

18 Just in conclusion, to wrap this up, I
19 would just like to, again, highlight the
20 Commission's website, www.azredistricting.org.

21 On the website, besides just looking at
22 the maps that we have put up, there are tools for
23 you to draw your own maps and submit them to the
24 Commission.

25 You can watch the current meetings or the

1 past meetings. You can get updates on future
2 meetings.

3 If you do want to stay connected, you can
4 follow us on twister at #AIRC or friend us on
5 Facebook.

6 So I want to thank you again for taking
7 the time to be here and be part of this process.

8 I want to extend an invitation to come
9 speak with me afterwards or any other member of the
10 staff if you have any questions. We'll make sure to
11 answer anything we need to know.

12 So thank you very much for having us
13 today and we very much so look forward to hearing
14 your comments.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you,
16 Mr. Desmond.

17 Now, again, if you wish to speak, make
18 sure you fill out one of these yellow forms.

19 And just to remind you, there will be a
20 three-minute talking period and then within I think
21 30 seconds before the three minutes is up, you'll
22 have a light and then your mic will be completely
23 shut off.

24 What we want to do is maximize as many of
25 the public comments, so we want to limit it to three

1 minutes. I think that's a good amount.

2 And let's see. You know, I would
3 encourage -- you have all taken time out of your
4 schedules to be here instead of being with your
5 families; you chose to be here. So thank you very
6 much.

7 So when people speak, whether you agree
8 with them or not, clap for their public comments.

9 Again, we are here in Yuma. I know you
10 guys are all very hospitable, good people, and you
11 will be very polite and gracious of every speaker
12 that comes before us.

13 Let's start with our first speaker, Al
14 Krieger.

15 What I'll do is, Mayor Al Krieger, I will
16 not time you but I will advise you to be as short as
17 possible. If not I'll have to --

18 AL KRIEGER: Well, that's an interesting
19 proposition.

20 Thank you very much for bringing the
21 Commission here to our community.

22 I guess I would like to say just a few
23 words to everyone that came here today, that there
24 has been much speculation and comment up to this
25 point relative to the Commission's activities, but I

1 want to remind everyone today that this is a
2 community in Arizona, maybe like others, but
3 somewhat unlike many others in Arizona.

4 We are in somewhat of an isolated corner
5 of the state; however, the city of Yuma is the 11th
6 largest city in the state and we are continually
7 gaining notoriety for being a growing, vibrant
8 community and a region of importance.

9 The maps that we have, the
10 Commission-approved congressional map and the
11 Commission-approved legislative map appear to divide
12 our community, which I think is a serious error in
13 judgment.

14 If anything today -- if we need anything
15 today in this community, in this state and in this
16 nation, we need to understand that there is a system
17 that however flawed it may be, is the system that we
18 must use to move forward for the next ten years.

19 And I am just going to politely ask
20 everyone to take just a minute to consider some
21 civility. We hear a lot about diversity and
22 minority votes.

23 You know what, it's about time we came
24 together as Americans, as citizens of Arizona, and
25 people of a community who can be neighbors, who can

1 work together, who can communicate and understand
2 that what we are trying to do for the future is much
3 larger than what maybe one individual is trying to
4 do to protect a certain political party or a certain
5 voting bloc.

6 And if there ever was a community in
7 Arizona that is about as color-blind as you can get
8 relative to minorities -- in fact, in Yuma, I'm the
9 minority, if there was one. 52 percent of our
10 county is Hispanic or other races.

11 So the Voting Rights Act coming down from
12 Washington is somewhat -- cannot apply it
13 accurately.

14 There's been so many maps put together.
15 The ones that we have here and the ones that I have
16 here divide our county, they divide our communities,
17 and I am very, very fearful that it's going to set
18 up an extremely divisive fight for the next ten
19 years that is simply unnecessary.

20 I will just finish up with one comment
21 that the Voting Rights Act, relative to the
22 congressional districts, may apply; however, the
23 federal government simply does not have jurisdiction
24 over the state of Arizona to mandate any program,
25 funded or otherwise, unfunded, and direct us to do

1 something simply because they are the federal
2 government.

3 Arizona gets to decide what Arizona is
4 and does.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Now we will begin
7 timing. Again, it's three minutes. You'll see a
8 red light when you're close to 30 seconds are almost
9 up, the last 30 seconds.

10 So we'll start with Russ Jones. And
11 again, would you please introduce yourself, state
12 your name, your spelling of your name, and who you
13 are representing.

14 Mr. Jones.

15 RUSS JONES: My name is Russ Jones,
16 R-u-s-s, J-o-n-e-s. State Representative District
17 24, representing myself and my constituents.

18 I appreciate you coming back to Yuma. I
19 know that you -- I'm sure there's demands from all
20 over the state and requests from all over the state
21 for you to have hearings in the various communities.

22 I didn't speak at the first hearing
23 because I felt -- and I was there to listen more
24 than anything, but I heard a very common theme over
25 and over again, and that was to keep this community

1 whole and so I didn't feel it was necessary to
2 speak.

3 I even in watching the maps as they
4 rolled out, when I saw grid map 2 that you selected
5 prior to this most recent one, I was somewhat
6 relieved. Wow, they actually heard us. They
7 listened to us. They are keeping our community
8 relatively whole.

9 And then the final map came out and I saw
10 where we were, once again, divided, and divided in
11 many ways.

12 It's been written, "A house divided
13 cannot long stand." A lot of people attribute that
14 to Lincoln. I believe it came out in the Bible.

15 But there is so much truth to that
16 statement that transcends time that it's important
17 to consider in this set of circumstances with our
18 community.

19 Yuma -- and my proposal is pretty simple.
20 Along with grid map 2, you keep Yuma and La Paz
21 counties together.

22 Yuma and La Paz counties -- you may or
23 may not know, we used to be just one county. And we
24 found -- I mean, and this is my personal opinion --
25 in dividing -- many people have had second thoughts

1 about that over the ensuing years. But in spite of
2 that, we find that we continue to be a community
3 together.

4 We share a community college district,
5 which is a taxing district, and we have been sharing
6 state legislators. And I spend time up in La Paz
7 County. We do a lot work together.

8 You can talk to Lynne Pancrazi, Don
9 Shooter, myself about the time we spend in La Paz
10 County. And when they have issues, the state
11 legislature -- they bring them -- generally they
12 bring them to us because we are part of them, even
13 though we are divided.

14 So I think it's time to put us back
15 together again in this -- in a legislative district
16 that actually makes some sense.

17 I want to talk about -- isolation breeds,
18 in my cooperation, and we have such a history in
19 this area of regionalism not only with La Paz, in
20 our legislature, in our higher education, but simply
21 also here in Yuma County.

22 As an example in education, we share the
23 Arizona Western College district, we share a common
24 high school district, we're in the process of
25 forming a JTED, we have a consortium between our

1 elementary school districts that would be divided by
2 the map that's proposed. We have an economy and
3 workforce --

4 Whoops. Three minutes.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you wrap it up
6 in 30 seconds?

7 RUSS JONES: Pardon?

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Could you wrap it up
9 in 30 seconds?

10 RUSS JONES: Yes, I can.

11 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Give him 30 seconds.

12 RUSS JONES: I appreciate it.

13 In our economy we share a chamber of
14 commerce, Yuma Vegetable Shippers Association,
15 visitors bureau, YBGMZS, San Luis port of entry,
16 GYDC, GYPA, and the list goes on and on and on of
17 how we've worked well together, and I would just ask
18 you in closing to please keep us whole.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 That was -- State Representative Jones,
22 thank you so much for our first test run with our
23 timer.

24 I think the 30 seconds is blinking on the
25 rim of the microphone, so be aware of that.

1 Again, three minutes and then we'll have
2 Martin Porchas from the mayor city of Sonora.

3 MARTIN PORCHAS: Good afternoon, vice
4 chair.

5 My name is Martin M-a-r-t-i-n, Porchas
6 P-o-r-c-h-a-s. I'm the mayor for the city of
7 Somerton.

8 You know, in hearing some talking about
9 division, dividing, we just went through our
10 redistricting county -- the redistricting.

11 Guess what happened to us? We were
12 divided. And since the very beginning I was
13 attending all of the meetings and the Commission
14 never happened to even consider what were our
15 comments.

16 But I would also like to thank you, thank
17 the Commission for listening to the people of South
18 Yuma County.

19 We -- the residents responded with almost
20 a thousand letters to you asking to honor the Voting
21 Rights Act. I support the current congressional
22 maps, San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and parts of Yuma
23 have more in common with Tucson and Nogales than
24 with Parker and Bullhead City.

25 I thank the Commission for -- I thank the

1 Commission for recognizing this and making the right
2 call with the congressional map.

3 Once again, I thank the Commission for
4 your hard work and dedication, and I ask -- don't be
5 intimidated by the political bullies who only want
6 to dominate the state.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, if you guys
9 don't mind -- I mean, I don't mind you clapping, but
10 the booing, that will not -- I'm not going to put up
11 with that.

12 Let's respect each other and people. And
13 if you disagree with them, that's fine. If you want
14 to clap for what they say, I love that, but booing,
15 if you want to be escorted out of the, keep booing
16 and you will be escorted out of the room.

17 So we have Don Shooter, State Senator Don
18 Shooter.

19 Again, three minutes, sir.

20 DON SHOOTER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

21 Since it's readily apparent to me that
22 you really don't care what we have to say about
23 redistricting, I thought I would use this time to
24 tell you and tell the people why hopefully you will
25 be removed next week.

1 You respect -- you repeatedly violated
2 open meeting laws that got Strategic Telemetry
3 selected.

4 You violated state procurement laws to
5 select the Democratic firm that you preferred.

6 You bid-rigged during that process when
7 confronted with it.

8 You stonewalled and shredded evidence.

9 When asked to testify to the bid-rigging
10 inclusion, you stonewalled investigators and
11 proceeded to hire six or eight attorneys at \$400 an
12 hour, which we, the taxpayers of Arizona, are paying
13 to defend your shenanigans. This after already
14 paying your in-house lawyer over a quarter of a
15 million dollars.

16 I'm sure that there are other malfeasance
17 and crimes yet to be discovered, but these alone are
18 more than enough to justify removal.

19 You have betrayed the trust of the people
20 of Arizona. You have colluded in the very kind of
21 corruption that this law was intended to prevent,
22 and you have betrayed the sacred trust of the people
23 of Arizona when they entrusted this with you.

24 Therefore, it is my great hope that next
25 week our great Governor Jan Brewer will remove any

1 and all of you on the Commission.

2 And as a line from one of our
3 sister-cities movies named Tombstone says, Jan is
4 coming and hell is coming with her.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is State Senator --
7 State Representative Lynne Pancrazi.

8 LYNNE PANCRAZI: Good afternoon.

9 You're the only commissioner I haven't
10 met. Nice to meet you.

11 First, let me thank the Commission for
12 the hard work and service for our great state.

13 Having attended four other IRC meetings,
14 I have come to know you as thoughtful and concerned
15 about meeting the needs of the people and
16 communities and at the same time meeting the federal
17 and state mandates.

18 Yuma County has a reputation of sending
19 outstanding legislators to the state capital.
20 People like Jones Osborn and Bob McLendon, Pat
21 Conner, Jim Carothers and my mentor and first female
22 and Hispanic from the area, Amanda Aguirre.

23 This draft map -- this is a draft map,
24 and let me emphasize, a draft map. It is subject to
25 changes, and that is why the Commission is going

1 around the state to get input from the people in the
2 communities from around the state.

3 I have some concerns about these maps.

4 First, rural Arizona does not have the
5 same needs and concerns as Metropolitan Phoenix and
6 Tucson.

7 Rural Arizona does not want to be
8 attached to Metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson.

9 Please keep us separate so that the rural
10 voice can be heard.

11 Second, La Paz County has been
12 represented by Yuma legislators since before they
13 became a county and wish to stay with Yuma County.

14 I know the Arizona strip wants to be part
15 of District 5 and Mohave County. Please consider
16 swapping these two and bring La Paz County down with
17 Yuma.

18 And third, I would like Yuma County to
19 stay together, but if because of federal and state
20 mandates that's not possible, please consider taking
21 out all of Maricopa County except for Buckeye and
22 Gila Bend, putting these two in District 13 along
23 with La Paz County, then remove -- from District 4,
24 remove Glendale and Avondale, add the Santa Cruz
25 area and put it with District 4. At least then we

1 would have rural legislators representing rural
2 Arizona.

3 Thank you again for your time, your
4 efforts, and your hard work and the hard work you
5 have committed to Arizona.

6 Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 Ms. Pancrazi, do you mind stepping
9 forward and just spelling your name real quickly?

10 LYNNE PANCRAZI: I always forget to do
11 that.

12 Lynne Pancrazi, L-y-n-n-e, Pancrazi is
13 spelled like pancrazy, P-a-n-c-r-a-z-i, instead of
14 Y.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And next we have
17 Greg Ferguson, Yuma County Board of Supervisors.

18 GREG FERGUSON: Good afternoon.

19 It's Greg, G-r-e-g, Ferguson,
20 F-e-r-g-u-s-o-n.

21 I am on the Yuma County Board of
22 Supervisors but today I guess I'm here representing
23 myself and my biggest constituent, my wife.

24 I'm very concerned about the splitting of
25 Yuma County.

1 As you may know, Yuma and La Paz counties
2 have been represented in one district since anyone
3 can remember. In fact, as Representative Pancrazi
4 said, probably before they were even two counties.

5 I thought the state goals of
6 redistricting was to keep minority-majority
7 districts, establish as many competitive districts
8 as possible, and districts that keep communities of
9 interest.

10 That is exactly what we have in Yuma/La
11 Paz counties. That's exactly what we've always
12 enjoyed.

13 We have a huge farming industry, if not
14 the largest in the state of Arizona, and the
15 associated irrigation districts, we have two
16 military bases, and we are a minority-majority
17 county by population.

18 The proposed maps split all of this, put
19 the two military bases in a district separate from
20 the city of Yuma, split the ag community and the
21 irrigation districts and divides our population.

22 We have always been one of the most
23 competitive legislative districts in Arizona.

24 Let me remind you that we have had
25 Democrat senator representatives, we've had

1 Republican representatives and senators, we've had
2 women, we've had Hispanics, we've had any
3 combination you can think of. We're one of the few
4 districts that's able to do that.

5 Currently we have even have a tea party
6 member representing us.

7 Our delegation at the legislature has
8 always been a combination.

9 Again, I would like to remind you that we
10 are home to Representative Bob McLendon who served
11 us for 18 years, was the minority leader, and
12 currently on the Board of regents.

13 We were represented by Senator Herb
14 Guenther from Wellton, and in these new maps, I
15 don't think you'll ever see another -- anybody get
16 elected from as small an area as Wellton. And he
17 went to be the director of ADWR.

18 And as previously mentioned, we've had
19 Senator Pat Conner, Senator Amanda Aguirre, Senator
20 Bob Cannell and we can go on and on and on.

21 Our delegation has not only represented
22 us well, but Southern Arizona in its entirety.

23 And let me -- really I think one of the
24 major differences here is party really doesn't mean
25 that much. As I've said, we've had Democrats,

1 Republicans, it doesn't matter. In rural Arizona,
2 we still vote the people.

3 And what bothers me, in your presentation
4 you said there was nine rural districts. That's
5 about baloney. Go out there and look at the map in
6 the hall. I would say there's three districts that
7 even have the possibility of electing rural
8 representatives. And that's going to be nine out of
9 90.

10 I think -- currently I think we are a
11 minority-majority district. I think we have
12 excellent ability for anybody to be elected. And to
13 put us in with metropolitan areas of Phoenix and
14 Tucson is just crazy because nobody -- I don't think
15 anybody will ever be elected from here again.

16 So I ask that you keep us together with
17 La Paz County.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next three
19 speakers -- what I'll do is -- so I can line them
20 up, is Paul Johnson, city council member; then we
21 have Theresa Ulmer, former state representative;
22 followed by Edward Foster, former mayor of
23 Quartzsite.

24 PAUL JOHNSON: My name is Paul Johnson.
25 That's spelled P-a-u-l, J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

1 I'm a member of the Yuma City Council.
2 I'm also chairman of the Rural Transportation
3 Advocate Council.

4 And I would like to speak to you today
5 about why you have ignored and deliberately
6 contradicted all of the constitutional requirements
7 that was set forth in your charge to redistrict.

8 What does Yuma have in common with
9 Litchfield Park and Surprise?

10 What do we have in common -- what does
11 the southern part of our county have in common with
12 Three Points and the people that live at the
13 intersection of Valencia Road and Mission Road over
14 in Tucson?

15 I'll tell you what the answer to that is,
16 nothing. There's no commonality of interest and
17 there is surely no compactness of it.

18 Additionally, the suburbs of Litchfield
19 Park, Buckeye, Goodyear, Surprise, those are all
20 bedroom communities for the great sovereign state of
21 Maricopa County.

22 We're not part of the great sovereign
23 state of Maricopa County. We live in rural Arizona
24 and the circumstances out here are entirely
25 different.

1 40 percent of this community's economic
2 activity is based directly upon agriculture
3 that's -- the water is provided by the Colorado
4 River, 25 percent is from the military, 25 percent
5 of it is from tourism.

6 We have a lot more in common with La Paz
7 County and Mohave County where they use the same
8 kind of irrigated Colorado River water irrigated
9 agriculture.

10 If our agriculture goes away, our
11 community goes away.

12 If the military goes away, we go away.

13 When I look at this map, this map you've
14 got here is a real nice map for the city of Yuma.
15 It shows the city of Yuma split in half, it shows
16 the school district split in half, it shows the
17 community college district split in half, it shows
18 the irrigation district split in half, it shows the
19 high school district split in half.

20 But this isn't the bad part. The bad
21 part is when you get into the details and you take a
22 look at how you gerrymandered us into a Maricopa
23 County district.

24 And it seems to me, and after carefully
25 looking at the way you've drawn these maps, it is a

1 deliberate attempt to disenfranchise the rural
2 voters of the state of Arizona and concentrate
3 control in Maricopa County.

4 I deal with this on a weekly and monthly
5 basis on a transportation basis. 71 percent of the
6 state highway system of lane miles is in rural
7 areas. We only get 50 percent of the money.

8 You're taking away our representation
9 from us so that we'll never be represented in a
10 state legislature.

11 Put us back together.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

13 I just want to remind you there's three
14 minutes. When that light goes off, it will be --
15 the microphone will be cut off. So I just want to
16 remind you.

17 THERESA ULMER: Thank you.

18 My name is Theresa, T-h-e-r-e-s-a. Last
19 name is U-l-m-e-r, and I would like to thank you for
20 coming to Yuma again and hearing our concerns.

21 I do want to start off and just commend
22 you for surviving what was a very extensive
23 selection process.

24 The voters, when they approved Prop 106,
25 they put in place a system to make sure that there

1 were appointed people by various governors of the
2 past and current to actually scrutinize who was
3 selected.

4 That process took place and you're here,
5 and we appreciate your volunteer work that you are
6 doing. And you are absolutely fulfilling what the
7 voters requested and we appreciate that.

8 I just want to say that there are some of
9 us who don't buy into the conspiracy theory of all
10 of the ill things that you have done. And I find it
11 a bit irresponsible of our elected officials to feed
12 that theory that you've done so many wrong things.

13 You have a tough job. You're doing what
14 you should be doing. And if both sides are upset,
15 you're doing the right thing.

16 So thank you.

17 I just want to comment on and provide you
18 with a report that was done by National Demographics
19 Corporation for our county redistricting process,
20 and it is basically the polarized voting analysis.

21 What this report does is basically
22 confirm the work that you are doing, and that is to
23 meet the criteria of the Voting Rights Act, which
24 has to be met. And as much as -- you know, you're
25 hearing applause from different sides of the room,

1 as much as everybody says we're not a divided
2 community, we're one big happy family, I'm going to
3 call the elephant out of the room.

4 We're not. We have different interests.
5 We have minorities that need to be protected, and
6 that's the number one criteria that has to be met,
7 like it or not.

8 Splitting our community is difficult and
9 none of us like that, but we are growing. Things
10 change. It evolves.

11 I don't love the maps, but they are a
12 draft. I know that. You have a lot work to do.
13 And I know you will continue to do that.

14 Take into account the different opinions
15 you are hearing, the requests.

16 I think that we do have a history of
17 representing people that truly care about our
18 community. And we could potentially have two
19 representatives which -- or two, you know, scenarios
20 where we have more representation, and I think
21 that's actually a good scenario.

22 So again, I thank you for your work, and
23 I will provide this to Mr. Kanefield for you.

24 Thank you very much.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Foster.

1 The next three speakers will be S. Scott
2 Magana, Irma Meyers, Frank Bernal.

3 ED FOSTER: Ed Foster, former mayor of
4 the town of Quartzsite.

5 I am here -- I'm sort of confused. I
6 mean, we had this meeting earlier in the summer
7 here. We all got up here and we asked certain
8 things of this Commission.

9 We asked to be a community of western
10 Arizona. We asked not to be included in the major
11 metropolitan areas of the state.

12 And I'm not as generous as the previous
13 speaker. I cannot find a congressional district
14 that doesn't infringe somewhere in one of the two
15 major metropolitan areas.

16 In particular now, the congressional
17 district that I'm in goes clear around Phoenix to
18 come into the east side of Phoenix.

19 I mean, what in the world do we have in
20 common with the east side of Phoenix out here in the
21 desert?

22 They don't -- we'll get a congressman
23 from the east side of Phoenix who will never come
24 out here. We'll never see a congressman out here.

25 That was the most stupid redistribution

1 of power that I have ever seen.

2 We asked at that first meeting for a
3 congressional district that represented the
4 agriculture and the tourism interests of Western
5 Arizona. We got nothing but divided.

6 I thank you, sir.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: S. Scott Magana.

8 SCOTT MAGANA: Vice Chairman, welcome to
9 Yuma. You may not like it later, but my whole thing
10 is as X -- anyways -- S-c-o-t-t, M-a-g-a-n-a.

11 Third-generation family from Yuma -- or
12 from Somerton, and I agree with most of the people
13 here that we are -- have nothing to do -- or in
14 common with Tucson or the Phoenix area.

15 About three months ago the Commission was
16 here and I thought that this area was quite clear
17 that we don't want to be split.

18 This has happened. Apparently you don't
19 care about us. As far as I see it I'm upset about
20 it. I look at it as we're over here in the corner
21 and you basically tell us go back in the corner, sit
22 down and shut up.

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, I'm going to
24 name the people that will be next, if you guys can
25 get ready.

1 Irma Meyers, followed by Frank Bernal,
2 and then I'll name George Reiners, and then Javier
3 Perez.

4 And again, three minutes. Please do
5 spell your name.

6 IRMA MYERS: Irma Meyers, I-r-m-a,
7 M-y-e-r-s.

8 Thank you very much for coming to Yuma
9 and listening to our concerns. I support the kind
10 of work that you guys are doing.

11 It is great to be listened to and I'm
12 here to represent more than a thousand people that
13 have spoke up by letters of writing to you guys in
14 South Yuma County.

15 Our main interest is that as a minority
16 population we have similar needs on the border. We
17 have more in common with Nogales, Naco and all of
18 those areas and Tucson than we have with Bullhead
19 City and other areas in Mohave County.

20 On behalf of this group, we thank you for
21 considering our input in this process.

22 Thank you very much.

23 FRANK BERNAL: Good afternoon,
24 Commissioner.

25 Frank Bernal. F-r-a-n-k, Bernal,

1 B-e-r-n-a-l.

2 I'm a resident of Yuma, and I'm here to
3 thank you for a wonderful job you're doing. It's a
4 tough job.

5 It's sad that representatives are not
6 using the correct words if they are unhappy with
7 your job. I just think they should use other words.

8 For me, it gives me great honor to see
9 the process moving along. I'm proud to be living in
10 Arizona.

11 I'm supporting the two districts. I
12 think we do have a lot in common with Tucson and
13 Nogales, and I just want to once again thank the
14 Commission for the great work you are doing.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

16 After Mr. Reiners, Javier Perez will be
17 Jack Kretzer and John Colvin.

18 Mr. George Reiners.

19 GEORGE REINERS: Good afternoon
20 Commissioner Herrera.

21 My name is George Reiners, G-e-o-r-g-e,
22 R-e-i-n-e-r-s.

23 I've provided you with folders of two
24 legislative and one congressional map and a draft of
25 my comments. My comments may change.

1 When you were here in July, nearly every
2 speaker endorsed a river district, including the
3 mayor of San Luis.

4 At that meeting I provided you with a
5 description of a congressional map that could have
6 formed the basis for the required river district, a
7 requested river district.

8 You appeared to listen but obviously you
9 did not hear. The maps you are presenting today are
10 a clear indication of that.

11 After I saw the maps you approved, I went
12 to work and created my own alternative maps, and I
13 used your map program. I created one congressional
14 and two legislative maps that would achieve to the
15 greatest extent possible what we here in Yuma
16 requested.

17 I used the required criteria of
18 population, Voting Rights Act, compactness,
19 contiguity, communities of interest, and
20 competitiveness. I paid particular attention to the
21 Voting Rights Act.

22 Let me first describe the legislative
23 maps for the audience.

24 The first legislative map would keep all
25 of Yuma County and most of La Paz County together.

1 This map includes the northeast and some
2 of northwest portions of La Paz County and the town
3 of Wenden. It was developed with a population
4 standard in mind. It exceeds the populations
5 standard by one person.

6 This map would have a Hispanic 18-plus
7 population of 49.7 percent, minority population will
8 be 54.5 percent, registered Democrats would be
9 35 percent, registered Republicans would be
10 30.8 percent, registered other would be
11 34.2 percent.

12 Second legislative map would keep all of
13 La Paz and Yuma counties whole.

14 It would not encroach into any other
15 county. It would exceed the population standard by
16 only 3172 or .15 percent.

17 I think that's what was in your
18 limitations.

19 This map would have Hispanic population
20 of 49.1 percent, total minority population at
21 53.9 percent.

22 Registered Democrats would be
23 34.8 percent, registered Republicans 31.2,
24 registered other 34.1.

25 Both of these maps favor Democrats and

1 they pick up 15.5 percent of others in any election
2 that they would be able to win.

3 I would like to conclude by asking the
4 audience for a show of hands --

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir.

6 GEORGE REINERS: Would those of you who
7 would like to see Yuma County whole, please raise
8 your hands?

9 Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

11 Javier Perez.

12 JAVIER PEREZ: My name is Javier Perez.

13 I would like to thank you for giving Yuma two voices
14 in congress. Not only do we get more but these maps
15 make it possible for the Commission to create legal
16 maps in accordance to the Voting Rights Act and
17 maintain minority voting rights for residents of
18 South San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and Yuma.

19 San Luis, Gadsden, Somerton, and parts of
20 Yuma have more in common with Tucson, Nogales,
21 Parker -- than with Bullhead City.

22 I thank you, the Commission, for
23 recognizing this and making the right -- the right
24 call with the congressional maps.

25 Thank you so much for your service.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 The next people are Jack Kretzer, I hope
3 I'm pronouncing it correctly, John Colvin, followed
4 by Don -- or Dan Dawson and Lucy Shipp. If you guys
5 don't mind starting to get to the front so we can
6 get everybody speaking as quickly as possible.

7 JACK KRETZER: May I use the overhead
8 projector.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I guess you can.
10 Are we prepared?

11 JACK KRETZER: That's it.

12 Good afternoon. My name is Jack,
13 J-a-c-k, Kretzer, K-r-e-t-z-e-r.

14 You have a thankless job, sir. I hope
15 you have Band-Aids.

16 I want to direct your attention to the
17 overhead. The two parts of it, the two end columns
18 where it talks about Republicans, Democrats, and
19 other, that's where you should have started. That's
20 where you should have started.

21 The "other" is -- has the same rights as
22 Democrats and Republicans, but you're a Democrat;
23 they are Republican, and all your concern is having
24 a Democrat district or a Republican district,
25 whether it's a state legislature or the

1 congressional districts, and that's wrong.

2 You started at the wrong place and you
3 ended up with the comments that you have today
4 because all you're interested in is being Democrat
5 or a Republican.

6 And let me point out to you that every
7 problem of our country, of our state, of our city,
8 and our county were created and sustained by
9 Democrats and Republicans. No one else has any
10 ability to do the bad things that have happened.

11 The simple solution to Don Shooter is for
12 the state Constitution to be changed to have equal
13 representation of counties, and that's simple, if
14 you reduce the senate from 30 to 15.

15 La Paz County, you would have a senator.
16 Yuma County would have a senator. They would be
17 equal to Maricopa County.

18 All the comments you have heard today are
19 from people who are either a Democrat or a
20 Republican.

21 In Yuma County -- in the city of Yuma,
22 the majority of people here have Hispanic surnames.

23 If the Hispanic people actually voted,
24 there wouldn't be Mr. Krieger here to talk,
25 Mr. Johnson here to talk, Mr. Shooter here to talk

1 if they have a Hispanic surname, would they?

2 I object, sir, to your setting three
3 minutes for people to speak when you gave the mayor
4 four minutes and 50 seconds.

5 Everyone should have the equal right to
6 speak and present their ideas, whether you're an
7 elected official or just a common citizen.

8 I appreciate your being here, but go back
9 to the drawing boards. Sweep the maps clean and
10 start over. Use three parts Democrat, Republican,
11 and other. Other should be equal in every case.

12 Gotcha. I got a second light.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: John Colvin.

14 And Dan Dawson next, Lucy Shipp, followed
15 by Gail Beeler, if you would like to get ready to
16 speak after them.

17 JOHN COLDIN: Good afternoon. Glad to be
18 here.

19 One ain't happy, ain't nobody happy.

20 I'm John Colvin, J-o-h-n, C-o-l-v-i-n,
21 and I found out a long time ago in the country, it's
22 the United States of America. United is the key
23 word. Your individual freedoms are guaranteed by
24 the conservation -- the Constitution, thus we have
25 one man, one vote presently.

1 There is to be no discrimination. There
2 is to be no preferential treatment.

3 Your proper redistricting includes equal
4 populations using and established administrative
5 boundaries like the counties and consideration for
6 geographic and geological features like the rivers,
7 the mountains, and so forth establishing a community
8 of interest where appropriate. Mining and -- as
9 opposed to farming are not conflicting and it
10 permits competitor districts when doing what would
11 not significantly undermine the other goals.

12 The other goals are the ones that are the
13 basis for why we are here, not the discrimination
14 goal.

15 One man, one vote, no discrimination. No
16 preferential treatment will avoid competitive
17 districts and exacerbate dividing our population.

18 Facilitate the meeting requirements of
19 the Voting Act as listed above several times today
20 and it will assure progress for a united Arizona.

21 A map to accomplish this simply requires
22 congressional and legislative districts based on
23 populations. Exclude individual's political,
24 ethnic, economic, religion, gender, or whatever
25 national origin you can take and citizenship should

1 be required for all voters.

2 Jack Kretzer put some figures up there.
3 There's only two numbers you really need to use.
4 The population 3.2 million and the number of
5 precincts, 2240, block off the state, square them
6 up, and I'm sure your fifth and less desirable
7 requirement there on your competitive thing will be
8 met.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

11 Dan Dawson.

12 No Dan Dawson.

13 Lucy Shipp followed by Gail Beeler,
14 followed by Terry E. Lambert.

15 LUCY SHIPP: Thank you.

16 Lucy Ship, L-u-c-y, S-h-i-p-p.

17 And I would like to thank the Commission
18 for doing thankless work. I was on the Yuma County
19 Board of Supervisors when we formed our own
20 independent commission, and I know how hard it is to
21 get the numbers to match. It takes a lot of
22 tweaking.

23 I am appalled that the governor and the
24 Attorney General are making this political.

25 The whole purpose -- the whole purpose of

1 voters passing Prop 106 was to take it out of the
2 political arena; however, let's be realistic. This
3 is the most political thing we do, period.

4 With that in mind, I would like to first
5 talk about the legislative map.

6 I know it can tweaked. I know it's
7 difficult to tweak, but that's what this gentleman
8 does professionally, and he can tweak it.

9 I would like you to consider
10 Representative Pancrazi's proposal to tweak District
11 13 to put La Paz County back in with Yuma County,
12 and as the numbers require, go on over to Gila Bend
13 and Buckeye -- that makes a community of interest
14 for us as a rural district.

15 Then I think you will find the numbers
16 will make Surprise, Glendale, Avondale, and
17 Litchfield Park into a separate district and they
18 would have a community of interest.

19 We really belong with La Paz County and
20 they with us. Historically they were part of Yuma
21 County, as has been mentioned. They are part of our
22 districts, our college districts, our school
23 districts. They belong with us.

24 I think it can be tweaked and that would
25 work.

1 On the congressional end, I think it's
2 very interesting -- again, I would like to see Yuma
3 County not split. Splitting us simply is not
4 recognizing a community of interest.

5 If it has to be split -- again, I think
6 it can tweaked so that we are not split. If it has
7 to be split, I think it's interesting that those who
8 want a river district basically get one and those
9 that want a border district basically get one and we
10 get twice the representation.

11 Now, it's a weird map. It does not
12 recognize community of interest for any of us.

13 Yuma County's communities of interest,
14 even though we're agriculture, is really border on
15 the congressional level.

16 When we go back to D.C., we talk about
17 border issues, we talk with the port of entries, we
18 talk about immigration, we talk about border trade,
19 we talk about securing the border. We need border
20 representation, and that is our community of
21 interest on the congressional level.

22 Again, I would rather see you tweak it to
23 make all of Yuma County in one district, but I think
24 we need to go across the border.

25 And again, I thank you for your time and

1 your effort and your thick skin.

2 Good luck.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 So again, after Gail will be Terry
5 Lambert, Richard Nix followed by Betsy Gottsponer.

6 GAIL BEELER: Good afternoon Vice Chair
7 Herrera.

8 I'm Gail Beeler and I voted in the 2000
9 election for a change in Arizona Constitution to
10 give back to the citizens of Arizona the
11 redistricting of our political districts.

12 I saw the past political influence that
13 preceded this new process. I was in hopes that the
14 Independent Commission, county and state, would
15 improve greatly on the fairness of redistricting,
16 which is required every ten years.

17 Just this month the Yuma County
18 supervisors voted a new district for Yuma County,
19 and I followed the process looking for independent
20 decisions following the Voting Rights Act.

21 I was disappointed in the process as the
22 county commissioners was not -- the county
23 commission was not balanced.

24 There was a majority of one party over
25 another. They went through a process allowing the

1 public to speak but they did not feel -- I did not
2 feel that they listened. I'm sorry. I did not feel
3 that they listened, as shown by their decisions.

4 Maps were indeed presented and were voted
5 down with little study in facts and figures. I was
6 indeed concerned that this would happen.

7 It went to the county supervisors and
8 they forwarded that -- on their decision last --
9 this last month that it would go to the Department
10 of Justice.

11 And I think that we are going to find
12 that the Department of Justice is going to be the
13 final decision for Yuma County instead of locally
14 here.

15 Saying that, I am here today to commend
16 you as an independent and well-balanced Commission.
17 Thank you for not allowing the influence of state
18 and federal politics and politicians to interfere
19 and influence your decisions. I hope that this
20 continues on to the final decision.

21 None us like change, but when Arizona is
22 growing at as fast a pace as it is, we need to
23 identify the communities of interest and
24 competitiveness so that the Voter Rights Act is
25 supported and all voters are protected.

1 Thank you for serving. Thank you for
2 your fairness, and thank you for your independence.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 TERRY LAMBERT: Hello. My name is Terry
5 Lambert, T-e-r-r-y, Lambert, L-a-m-b-e-r-t.

6 I'm here -- I'm going to try to talk a
7 little bit about our agricultural economy, the
8 military economy, and the snowbirds.

9 Part of the military and the snowbirds,
10 large part of those have their residency somewhere
11 else and they don't vote here, but they are an
12 integral part of this Yuma area. And because of
13 that, they are part of the respectful communities of
14 interest that shouldn't be split in half either.

15 I think these cash cows deserve to be
16 considered in with us as a community because they
17 are an integral part of this community, even though
18 it may be six months.

19 The employment right here is extremely
20 high. Ask them if they are waiting for them to show
21 up.

22 So they should be considered in this area
23 because they come to this area. They have -- some
24 of them go to Yuma or go to Tucson or Phoenix or
25 other parts, but the ones that come here are part of

1 this community and should be considered and
2 therefore also not split the county up and make the
3 confusion even worse for the people who pay the
4 bills, these cash cows.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

7 RICHARD NIX: My name is Richard Nix,
8 N-i-x.

9 We assumed integrity in the IRC but what
10 you are offering is gerrymandering raised to a
11 science.

12 The map you proposed bisects Yuma County
13 in violation of the requirements of compact and
14 contiguous, districts of communities of interest, of
15 town and county boundaries, and of competitive
16 districts.

17 It solidifies Grijalva's seat in congress
18 by removing Republican North Yuma from the South,
19 but you don't realize that the Hispanics in south
20 county are waking up to the fact that Grijalva does
21 not really represent their values.

22 Even left-leaning media, such as the
23 Arizona Republican, Washington Post, the Daily Coast
24 brag that the map, and I quote, screws Republicans.

25 Do they have the same writers?

1 While District 4 violates starting with
2 the grid as the district surrounds -- District 4
3 surrounds Phoenix on three sides. That's hard to do
4 with grids. It even includes Fountain Hills, hardly
5 a community of interest with Yuma and La Paz
6 counties.

7 Do you have a reason for that?

8 Arizona Republican Congressman Schweikert
9 will lose his seat.

10 How many Arizona Democratic congressmen
11 will lose their seats? None.

12 Two Republicans total will lose their
13 seats if this map is adopted. Coincidence? Hardly.

14 This proposed map is a travesty of law
15 and justice and must not be allowed.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 We have Betty Gottsponer, Valerie Cook
19 followed by Alex Bejarano, and John, I think it's
20 Boelts.

21 BETSY GOTTSPONER: My name is Betsy
22 Gottsponer, B-e-t-s-y, G-o-t-t-s-p, as in Paul,
23 o-n-e-r.

24 I am a third-generation born in Yuma. My
25 great-grandfather was a territorial sheriff here. I

1 have a stake in this area and a history that goes
2 way back.

3 My first of the questions, in looking at
4 the timeline, it says that two of you on the board
5 are from Maricopa County and three of you on the
6 border are from Pima County.

7 What happened to the rest of the state
8 that we've only got Tucson and Phoenix in this?

9 And then in looking at the congressional
10 map, every single one of these areas is either going
11 to have Phoenix or Tucson in it.

12 When are we going to get our own people
13 elected when we've Tucson and Phoenix people running
14 against us?

15 We won't get anybody from any other part
16 of state of Arizona. We don't have a monopoly in
17 Phoenix and Tucson of the smart people. We've got
18 them all through this state, and yet they are the
19 ones that are going to win because every one of them
20 can come from Phoenix or Tucson.

21 I'm greatly concerned about dividing Yuma
22 County. I'm greatly concerned that you've stuck us
23 with Pima and Maricopa County. And also what
24 happened to our original thought that La Paz and us
25 could go together because we have common interests?

1 And we do have people smart enough to be in
2 congress.

3 The same is true with the state. You
4 give us two possibilities for state representation
5 except you also lumped us in with, again, areas in
6 Phoenix. So even state legislators won't be coming
7 out of Yuma any longer.

8 I think the map has got to be redrawn and
9 it's got to be reconsidered. That there's more to
10 this state than Phoenix and Tucson. Yuma is the
11 third largest population in the state of Arizona and
12 we need to have our own people representing us
13 there.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 VALERIE COOK: Good afternoon. My name
17 is Valerie Cook, V-a-l-e-r-i-e, Cook, C-o-o-k, and I
18 don't like the maps.

19 I see our city and our county being
20 divided, and I don't feel that it calls for any
21 common ground for anybody the way the map is drawn
22 now and I would beg you to reconsider and redo the
23 maps.

24 Thank you.

25 ALEX BEJARANO: Good afternoon

1 commissioners. My name is Alex Bejarano, A-l-e-x,
2 B-e-j-a-r-a-n-o, and I am a member of the Wellton
3 Town Council.

4 First of all I would like to commend you
5 for the work that you have done for our state and
6 for the people that live in Yuma County.

7 I do support the districts as they are
8 currently drafted. I do, however, have some
9 concerns that Wellton will not get the
10 representation that we deserve.

11 I know that our population is small, but
12 I do believe that we need to be in districts that
13 are -- in a district that's similar to us, and that
14 would put us in with Southern Yuma County.

15 Wellton is heavily -- Wellton and East
16 Yuma County is heavily agriculture and that's one of
17 our main industries. That's where most of our
18 residents are employed.

19 And I would just ask that you consider
20 putting us -- you know, redrawing the line and
21 putting us in Southern Yuma County.

22 We have nothing in common with Bullhead
23 City or with Lake Havasu or with Fountain Hills. We
24 wouldn't be able to compete in that district. Any
25 federal help that would come would go to the places

1 where there is the majority population.

2 So again, I do thank you for the current
3 map as drafted, but I would ask you to, as I think
4 Lucy Shipp said, to tweak it a little and put us
5 down with a district where we might get represented.

6 Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have John Boelts,
8 William Ladd, followed by Maria, I think it's Retez,
9 and then Emma Torres.

10 JOHN BOELTS: Good afternoon,
11 Mr. Commissioner, Vice Chairman.

12 My name John Boelts, J-o-h-n, Boelts is
13 B-o-e-l-t-s.

14 I come here today representing Yuma
15 County Farm Bureau and the many members of that
16 organization and the nearly \$4 billion industry that
17 we comprise here in Yuma County.

18 And I wanted to add about 20 minutes to
19 my speech here by saying I want to parrot what
20 Ms. Pancrazi, Mr. Jones, Supervisor Ferguson, Mayor
21 Krieger, and Councilman Johnson said. I think they
22 were right on the mark.

23 Specifically to talk about ag, I would
24 like to say that our county farm bureau goes and
25 lobbies, and I don't care what party affiliation

1 they are, when we go to the state house and we go to
2 congress and we talk what our industry needs, that's
3 people from all stripes, all walks, all
4 nationalities.

5 And when we go there to speak about what
6 our industry needs, that's really where the rubber
7 meets the road because oftentimes our legislative
8 bodies, whether they are federal or state, are
9 regulating our industries, affecting our jobs.

10 And ag being one of the largest, if not
11 the largest employer in this county, I would like to
12 say that it's a lot easier when at least I know I
13 have two or three folks there in congress or at the
14 state house that I don't have to preface with, yes,
15 this is the map of Arizona and Yuma is down here in
16 the corner and that's where I come from.

17 And it's really nice when we have folks
18 up there that already know where Yuma is, already
19 have a pretty good idea what I'm there to talk to
20 them about. And that way I can spend my time on the
21 rest of the folks that have no idea what our
22 industry needs or doesn't need and what their
23 regulations, what their ideas for regulatory
24 practices may bring to our industry.

25 The ag industry here in Yuma produces a

1 lot of crops, but specifically vegetables. It
2 reaches most of Canada and North American. Over
3 70 percent of the populations of both Canada and the
4 United States are eating produce that comes right
5 out of here.

6 So when we go to congress, we speak for
7 that industry. When we go to the state house, we
8 speak for that industry.

9 And it really would be beneficial if you
10 guys would go back, get rid of this draft that you
11 are working on right now and go back to a previous
12 map and draw lines a little bit straighter. It
13 would really benefit all of us.

14 Thank you.

15 WILLIAM LADD: My name is William Ladd,
16 W-i-l-l-i-a-m, Ladd, L-a-d-d.

17 I would like to say I'm really sorry that
18 the state of Arizona citizens were duped ten years
19 ago or so when they passed Proposition 106. This
20 was a well-meaning socialist idea that just doesn't
21 work.

22 What we have now is five people on a
23 Commission, supposedly two Republicans, two
24 Democrats, and one, quote, Independent, although I
25 understand the Independent is married to a

1 high-ranking official in one of the parties, the
2 Democrat party.

3 But, be that as it may, what it means is
4 that instead of having the legislature do their job,
5 people that we have elected, people that are
6 responsible to us, we have five unelected people,
7 only one of which has to be influenced to change the
8 entire districting and the legislation for the
9 entire next ten years. It's wrong.

10 We started out with a presentation
11 with -- a lecture from a Mr. Adelson, a federal
12 compliance consultant in Washington, D.C.,
13 threatening us and telling us we had to use the
14 federal government. We had to bow down and ask
15 their permission to get approval.

16 Somebody needs to tell them that the
17 government works for us; we don't work for the
18 government.

19 And I'll ask the gentleman over here
20 that's drawn the maps. Where is your headquarters?
21 Washington D.C.?

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, this is about
23 you and --

24 WILLIAM LADD: I know what it's about.
25 It's about the whole legislative thing here.

1 So I have a real problem with all of
2 that.

3 Now, I've only lived here for ten years,
4 and I thought it was really interesting when I came
5 here because here is Yuma out in the middle of
6 nowhere. I mean, to go to a big city, it's a couple
7 of hundred miles no matter what direction you head.

8 And we obviously have something here in
9 the water because the leg- -- this committee thinks
10 we are so powerful that we have to be split in half
11 so we don't have any representation and power in
12 electing representatives.

13 That's ridiculous. We need to redo it.

14 Thank you.

15 MARIA RETEZ: Good afternoon.

16 My name is Maria Retez, M-a-r-i-a,
17 R-e-t-e-z. I live in Somerton, in the south
18 community.

19 I would like to say thank you for coming
20 and listen to us, and I think you have good things
21 and the map is a little bit (inaudible) but
22 that's -- the community and that rural community
23 does have more in common in Nogales and Tucson, but
24 in Gadsden and Somerton, we would like to stick
25 together because it's rural place and -- but you be

1 considering all of that community because you need
2 to care the community, the young people and all of
3 the community in the state.

4 Thank you for coming and listening to us.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

6 We have Emma Torres, I think it's Steve
7 Miller, followed by Russ Jones, which I think he
8 already spoke. Shelly Baker would be next.

9 EMMA TORRES: Good afternoon, Vice Chair
10 Jose Herrera. Thank you for being here.

11 My name is Emma Torres, E-m-m-a,
12 T-o-r-r-e-s, and what I want to say here is that I'm
13 a borderlander. I'm proud for this. I have grown
14 in this community, and I can tell you that if you
15 are not from the community or from the border, you
16 don't understand the border.

17 So people are talking here about
18 common -- people of interest, they don't even
19 understand. They have never been to South County
20 and San Luis. They have no clue even about our
21 needs.

22 They are talking about nondevisiveness.
23 Well, two weeks ago we pleaded not to be divided in
24 our community and they cared less. They divided our
25 community, our county, in a ridiculous way that I

1 hope that something is being done about that.

2 But in reference to supporting the map, a
3 border map, I totally support that because we do
4 have -- those of us from the border understand each
5 other and we do have commonalities with Nogales and
6 part of Tucson and some of those areas.

7 I do not agree as most the people here in
8 reference to being together with Maricopa state like
9 they said, because it's true, we are not -- we would
10 not have a lot of representation with that, but I
11 definitely support the border map.

12 We do not have enough -- the border
13 doesn't have any commonalities with Mohave and
14 Bullhead City. I've been there, too. I work in all
15 that area and we have nothing to do with them, but
16 Parker, definitely, we work together. We are a
17 common community.

18 And again, as Representative Pancrazi
19 mentioned earlier, a little tweaking on the maps
20 will probably help.

21 So thank you so much.

22 STEVE MILLER: My name is Steve Miller,
23 S-t-e-v-e, M-i-l-l-e-r.

24 I came to the Commission's first meeting
25 out at AWC. We had nothing. Unfortunately, I still

1 believe we have nothing. You are taking Yuma's
2 representation away from us.

3 I'm a Democrat, and I don't believe I'm
4 going to get a Democratic representative from Yuma
5 elected because you put us in Tucson and Phoenix.
6 So all of our representation has been negated by
7 your map.

8 We have more in common, and like a lot of
9 these people are saying, when Yuma County was with
10 La Paz, than we do with being part of Tucson or part
11 of Phoenix.

12 So you put the population to negate all
13 our Yuma representation in our two districts. I am
14 sorry, I don't believe you guys fairly or
15 realistically understand the importance of Yuma
16 County. You negated our representation by what you
17 did on this committee.

18 I don't agree with all of the stuff that
19 was said here, but how can we have somebody elected
20 to voice our concerns when you put them in part of
21 the state of Maricopa or the state of --

22 We don't get any representation. All we
23 do is lose our funds to them.

24 So at this point in time, I would request
25 that you redraw the map and remove us from Tucson

1 and from Phoenix.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 After Shelly Baker we have Dr. Constance
5 Uribe followed by Stephen Replogle -- Replogle,
6 thank you, and then Charles Roecker.

7 SHELLY BAKER: Good afternoon.

8 Shelly Baker, S-h-e-l-l-y, B-a-k-e-r, La
9 Paz County recorder.

10 I've heard a great deal today about the
11 Voter Rights Act being used to trump all other
12 criteria. And I would just like to say that among
13 life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a
14 voter's right to a private vote is supreme. And the
15 Voters Rights Act says in bullet point 3: The
16 presence of discrimination can be determined by
17 analyzing population data and election results.

18 I can tell you as an election officer,
19 that the only thing election results can tell you is
20 who won the election. I cannot tell you -- it
21 cannot tell you how any one individual voted and
22 whether or not they were discriminating when they
23 voted, as that vote is private and it should remain
24 so. And their reasons for voting also should remain
25 private.

1 The 2008 presidential election should
2 have proven that United States citizens don't vote
3 based on race but rather we vote based on whose idea
4 resonates with the majority, and that is as it
5 should be.

6 I'm asking you today to use caution when
7 you interpret election results as being skewed to
8 discriminate against one party or another or one
9 race or another.

10 I also would like to ask you that you
11 keep La Paz County with Yuma County as we are
12 communities of interest.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 CONSTANCE URIBE: My name is Constance
16 Uribe, C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e, last name U-r-i-b-e.

17 It's a Hispanic name. Does that mean
18 anything to anybody? Hispanic?

19 You guys seem to be focused on this
20 Hispanic thing.

21 Okay, Mr. Herrera, I graduated from Kofa
22 High before you were born. We spoke Spanish in
23 Spanish class.

24 You know what, you guys had a job. You
25 had an assignment. You were supposed to be focused

1 on population, you were supposed to be focused on
2 concentration of voters, you were supposed to be
3 focused on community of interest, you were supposed
4 to be focused on contiguousness of areas.

5 And you lost it. You got sidetracked.
6 You forgot something very important. Arizona is
7 part of the United States of America. And we have a
8 saying in the United States of America, "All men are
9 created equal." Okay? It doesn't matter. It just
10 doesn't matter.

11 You had it all here. Yuma is
12 concentrated. The Yuma area is concentrated. We
13 have it all. We have the minority-majority that you
14 are so concerned about. We have it all. It was
15 here for you. You had it right here. And you
16 divided it. You divided Yuma. You divided my
17 community. You divided my people. You even divided
18 my family.

19 And as far as the dead space that you are
20 supposed to be concerned about, you reached out
21 towards Pima County and you brought that in.

22 Well, when I was studying medicine at the
23 University of Arizona, Raul Grijalva was messing
24 around with a bunch of people who were studying the
25 politics of Cuba and Karl Marx.

1 And then when he got into office, he
2 started writing articles for something called "The
3 People's Weekly World," which is a communist rag,
4 it's a communist newspaper.

5 And then in Chicago at this national
6 communist convention, an Arizona member of the
7 communist party was bragging about how they helped
8 Raul Grijalva get elected.

9 This man has ties to the communist party
10 and somebody named Susan Thorpe wrote articles in
11 this communist rag, this "People's Weekly World"
12 about how they helped Raul Grijalva get elected.

13 You know what, I will not -- I will not
14 tolerate -- I will not tolerate having a communist
15 take over Yuma County. I simply won't allow this.

16 You know, all the Progressive Democrats
17 want, all they understand is hate and vitriol.

18 When I came and spoke to you before over
19 there at the college, I was nice. Well, I'm not
20 going to be nice anymore. You don't understand.

21 Let me explain something to you. Before
22 you were born, there was Democrat -- I campaigned
23 for his -- okay.

24 STEPHEN REPLOGLE: Stephen,
25 S-t-e-p-h-e-n, Replogle, R-e-p-l-o-g-l-e.

1 I would like to challenge the name of the
2 Independent Redistricting Commission. I do not see
3 any independence in it whatever.

4 I see actually a person who was supposed
5 to be as independent as the chairperson who
6 basically is an undercover Democrat who basically
7 went against the open meetings rule, who basically
8 solicited votes outside of that format to try and
9 line up Strategic Telemetry, which is basically a
10 Democratic, you know, group to draw these
11 districting maps.

12 I see a lot of corruption going on, and I
13 see a lot of politicking going on. I do not see any
14 Independent Redistricting Commission in evidence
15 whatsoever.

16 You've got a group that has basically
17 swayed this to try and guarantee altered elections,
18 to guarantee an outcome.

19 This is not the purpose of elections.
20 Elections are to be representing the people of an
21 area, and Yuma has not been represented for an awful
22 long time. And it's the type of thing you look at
23 your maps -- you're splitting a city right in half,
24 you're dividing the community.

25 This should be along the Colorado River.

1 Our communal interests are along the agricultural
2 basin and along the Colorado River and along the
3 irrigation districts in this area, and I do not see
4 any interests whatsoever being done by this
5 Commission in regards to those interests of the
6 community. All I see is an attempt to sway
7 elections and guarantee outcomes.

8 I think that the Independent
9 Redistricting Commission needs to be independent and
10 the current one needs to be replaced.

11 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

12 CHARLES ROECKER: Can I use this thing?
13 All right. Great. I'll put it up when
14 I'm ready.

15 All right. Thank you.

16 My name Charles Roecker, R-o-e-c-k-e-r,
17 and Charles is Charles.

18 I want to actually come before you
19 representing the Democratic point of view. I am
20 very appreciative of the Commission's effort to
21 break up the Arizona Republican power block in
22 Arizona. You have done a wonderful job and I hope
23 you get away with it.

24 Thank you, commissioners, also for
25 promoting a more Democratic ideology.

1 The adopted map is a great start;
2 however, I would like to see a more Progressive one
3 that symbolizes the IRC's and today's Democratic
4 party's ultimate agenda.

5 First, I have a map here -- there we go.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take it off,
7 please.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I object.

9 CHARLES ROECKER: This is a map of
10 Arizona and the letters are districts, our new
11 districts we can use.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you remove
13 that, please?

14 CHARLES ROECKER: Why?

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Some people in the
16 audience are offended by it. I need to respect
17 everyone.

18 CHARLES ROECKER: Sir, your party
19 represents that. I'm just doing what your party
20 represents.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you get to your
22 presentation without the --

23 CHARLES ROECKER: Okay. Well, in any
24 case, the -- our Democratic party -- come on, we all
25 know who we are, we're socialists. Okay? Let's

1 just be proud of that. All right?

2 And so what we can do is let's make
3 Arizona truly red. All right? Not just a red state
4 like it used to be, but a real red state. I mean
5 mal and Marx and Obama. Okay?

6 So we have these words. We can use those
7 as independent districts and then the hammer and
8 sickle, that can be the very Progressive hammer in
9 the sickle. That can be one district in the middle
10 of Phoenix.

11 And so we do that, and then I have
12 another one, too. I'll just --

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think your three
14 minute are up.

15 Thank you, sir.

16 CHARLES ROECKER: All right.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sharon White
18 followed by Russ Clark.

19 Is Sharon White not here?

20 Russ Clark.

21 RUSS CLARK: My name is Russ Clark.
22 That's R-u-s-s, C-l-a-r-k.

23 I was at the first meeting at AWC, and I
24 know the mics were working and I know you were
25 listening. I don't think you were paying attention

1 or there was a plan to just ignore us because you
2 had a different agenda. I don't know which it was,
3 but I know the outcome.

4 The outcome is that we've got a map that
5 is split, and it's unacceptable to the people in
6 this community, people in south county, people in
7 north county all have expressed concerns as they did
8 at AWC. At AWC we had mayors from San Luis and
9 Somerton as well as from Yuma that expressed to you
10 that we are a continuous community, well-balanced,
11 and one that gets along and relies on each other.

12 You've been effective in splitting YPG,
13 you've been effective from our military base, the
14 marine base, and you've weakened us.

15 You've weakened us because now we have
16 two representatives that don't care about us. We're
17 going to have two, because we're going to be small
18 sections of those two.

19 As Don Shooter says, we're two small
20 tails now instead of one large tail. You've made us
21 less effective. We're not going to get the
22 representation as it sets now.

23 You've ignored the fact that you were
24 supposed to keep these things compact. You've
25 ignored it. You've ignored communities of interest.

1 You've ignored community -- or county barriers.
2 You've ignored all of that for some other agenda,
3 which I can only guess is to make things competitive
4 by unseating our current representatives or making
5 it difficult for our current representatives to get
6 elected. We find that unacceptable.

7 I do applaud our governor, though. Our
8 governor has had the courage to see something that's
9 swimming and call it a duck.

10 She has asked you to come forward and
11 talk about shredded documents, to talk about
12 meetings in secret, violations of public meeting
13 laws. She's asked you why you haven't come forward
14 to testify when the legislature has asked you to.

15 The community, this entire state, made a
16 mistake back in 2000. In 2000 they voted to take
17 out of the hands of the legislature something that
18 they were supposed to do, something that they had an
19 obligation to do -- redraw these boundaries.

20 Somehow they thought it would be better
21 to put it into five hyper-partisan hands with no one
22 to answer to versus doing it in the legislature that
23 we voted for and they have strict guidelines of
24 conduct.

25 You obviously don't have the conduct that

1 the legislature has and no one can hold your feet to
2 the fire. And it's unfortunate.

3 My hope is that after the governor gets
4 done with her duck comments, that we are going to go
5 right back to the voters and we're going to ask to
6 undo this and go back to the voters and put it back
7 in the hands of the legislature where it belongs.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next three
10 speakers are Luis Heredia, Lornna Brooks, followed
11 by Sandy Pierce.

12 LUIS HEREDIA: Luis Heredia, L-u-i-s,
13 H-e-r-e-d-i-a.

14 I want to say that there is a lot of work
15 that is placed in trying to get public comment here,
16 a lot of work to try to present the information that
17 this state really deserves.

18 In casting the light in what Yuma County
19 is -- I represent -- I work for a federal office
20 here in Yuma County and the issues that we dealt
21 with were primarily border, primarily the funding
22 for public education, the funding for the sunset
23 community, health clinic.

24 There were several points of round tables
25 that we used to hold to try to get this community

1 work that was necessary. So I believe that the maps
2 do present at least a scenario that understand what
3 this area is really about.

4 Now, there are differences and there are
5 comments and concerns. I think we should all
6 respect those comments and concerns.

7 I think when we work together to present
8 this information, we can come up a reasonable and
9 acceptable conclusion. But we all need to respect,
10 I think, the opinions that we have. We do need to
11 respect the communities that make up this great Yuma
12 County.

13 Now, we are all trying to respond to
14 building political boundaries that represent the
15 community, that represent the ideas that our
16 communities, either in the city of Yuma, the city of
17 Somerton, and Wellton and the city of San Luis all
18 do to try to elect the people that best represent
19 them.

20 Now, not everyone is going to get what
21 they want but there needs to be respect. I could
22 say that working in the federal offices, we receive
23 calls or comments, voice messages that I know the
24 mayor mentioned about a color-blind society. It is
25 about being color-blind but it's also about being

1 accepting of difference of opinions, differences of
2 political judgment.

3 And I can say that many of these voice
4 messages and many of the comments that were received
5 were not respectful. I mean, they were not, I
6 think, meaning of what our former government was
7 meant.

8 So this was after seven years in working
9 in a federal office receiving voice mail after voice
10 mail.

11 We are -- we can achieve a color-blind
12 but we also have to be accepting.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 Lornna Brooks.

16 Hi. Lornna Brooks, L-o-r-n-n-a,
17 B-r-o-o-k-s, and I just want to support the map.

18 You had one on your website that was
19 called a 3 border district. That's the closest one
20 to logic.

21 Yuma County should not be cut in half nor
22 should the town of Yuma be cut in half. And I think
23 it makes more sense to be put with La Paz County,
24 Mohave County, parts of Yavapai County, perhaps
25 Quartzsite and, of course, to include the Barry

1 Goldwater bombing range. These areas are all rural,
2 agricultural, and often interrelated through
3 families, not to mention the water districts, the
4 farming groups, the business organizations, the
5 college districts and all of that's been outlined
6 before.

7 Also our Colorado River Indian tribes are
8 interrelated. I don't think it's right to split
9 them in half items.

10 It would be nice to have our own
11 district, a river district, and that is for the
12 congressional plan.

13 As far as the legislative plan goes, La
14 Paz and Yuma County should be kept together.

15 And as others have said, we have nothing
16 in common with Phoenix or Tucson. I've lived in
17 both cities, they are light years different from
18 Yuma.

19 We have a much more relaxed way of living
20 here and we are dependent on agriculture, which they
21 are not and they don't understand it. They also
22 don't understand the Colorado River and the needs of
23 the people living along it.

24 Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 Sandy Pierce.

2 SANDY PIERCE: My name is Sandy Pierce,
3 P-i-e-r-c-e.

4 I am District 1 supervisor for La Paz
5 County.

6 I've lived in Parker over 50 years. My
7 husband farms in the valley on the Colorado River
8 Indian tribe. Colorado River Indian tribes is also
9 part of my district, District 1.

10 Our county government has always worked
11 with Yuma County. I mean, the representatives have
12 absolutely and the senator, they have been so
13 helpful to La Paz County on many issues that we have
14 had and they have always been there and stood up for
15 us.

16 We need to stay with Yuma County. We
17 don't need to be separated. We have too many things
18 in common besides the river, the agriculture, the
19 tribes, the Hispanic, you know, it's just -- we're
20 all one big community of interest.

21 So I am here today asking you to please
22 keep La Paz County with Yuma and do not split Yuma
23 into two pieces.

24 Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 William Michael Smith.

2 WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH: Good afternoon.
3 My name is William Michael Smith, S-m-i-t-h. I am
4 the chairman of the Yuma Democratic party.

5 I want to thank you for having this
6 hearing here today, and I'm a little bit encouraged
7 about listening to all of the comments.

8 I know we have a lot of differences with
9 our Republican friends, but we do have some things
10 in common and I would like to address those.

11 I would like to reiterate, or at least
12 acknowledge, supporting the comments of former
13 chairman of the board of supervisors, Lucy Shipp and
14 our present legislator, Ms. Pancrazi.

15 There are some details about the
16 commonality of interest in Yuma and La Paz County
17 that have been addressed in a very general fashion,
18 but people fail to realize, I think, how important
19 they are.

20 Yuma and La Paz County hold 1.2 million
21 acre-feet of the 2.8 million acre-feet of Colorado
22 River water rights. 45 percent of all of Arizona's
23 share of the Colorado River rights exist in Yuma and
24 La Paz County.

25 Yuma ships 70 to 80 percent of all of the

1 fresh produce shipped in the United States between
2 the months of November and March of each year.

3 The agricultural is really the foundation
4 of the southwestern part of Arizona. And it more --
5 than that is these two counties that have been tied
6 together first as one county, one of the original
7 four territorial counties in the state of Arizona.
8 I still don't remember why we separated. Everybody
9 has forgotten, but we never lost each other.

10 There is no commonality of interest north
11 of La Paz County with La Paz and Yuma. That I
12 disagree with because they don't have the
13 agriculture that we have and they don't have the
14 water rights that we have. They may have recreation
15 and they may have some other things but they don't
16 have the tie that we have.

17 I would hate to see us get too far
18 involved with Maricopa and Pima County because there
19 is something they don't have that we have and that
20 we're very protective of and that's our water
21 rights.

22 And we don't need to be getting into
23 situations with representatives from the
24 metropolitan areas who would impact or attempt to
25 impact or divide us.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, your three
2 minutes are up.

3 WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH: In any event, I
4 would hope that you would consider those factors as
5 well as the border area and our locations there.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

7 And our last speaker is Russell McCloud,
8 Yuma County Supervisor.

9 Is Russell McCloud here?

10 RUSSELL MCCLOUD: Good afternoon.

11 Russell McCloud R-u-s-s-e-l-l, M-c-C-l-o-u-d.

12 Thank you for coming here today to listen
13 to the community.

14 I can tell you that sitting on the board
15 of supervisors, the most important lesson I've
16 learned is I can do hours of study and looking at
17 what looks right on paper but then I go to the
18 meeting and I hear it from the public. And there
19 are oftentimes that hearing from the public sways
20 the opinion of what you might see on paper, what
21 looks good on paper.

22 The residents of Yuma County have had the
23 opportunity to review the legislative district map
24 that was approved by the Commission on October 10th.

25 I can tell you today that I have not

1 received one single positive comment from any Yuma
2 County resident regarding the recommended
3 legislative districts.

4 The idea that Yuma County could lose its
5 collective voice in the state legislative process
6 over the next ten years is not only wrong, it's
7 absurd.

8 Not only does the proposed plan segregate
9 Yuma County into two separate geographic regions, it
10 ties both of those regions to areas that at best
11 have remote commonalities to the issues critical to
12 Yuma County.

13 We have a unified voice in Yuma County
14 that needs to be respected and preserved, not
15 fragmented.

16 Yuma County is now nearly over 200,000
17 residents. We have an economic base like no other
18 in the state. Two of five major military
19 installations are within Yuma County's boundaries,
20 the largest agricultural industry within the state
21 and a unique tourism industry.

22 Yuma County cannot expect that its
23 interest can be understood or served at the state
24 level by anyone other than someone that lives within
25 this community.

1 As a border community with an
2 agricultural base, Yuma County's security interest
3 differ greatly from its neighboring border counties
4 in the state.

5 The challenges that face communities in
6 Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties are vastly
7 different from those we deal with in Yuma County.

8 Presuming that any representative from
9 outside of Yuma County will understand the social
10 economic structure that has flourished in Yuma
11 County for decades is a series misjudgment.

12 Residents of Yuma County have been active
13 participants in state politics at the highest levels
14 for many years. Some of the best and brightest
15 minds to participate in public service have come
16 from within Yuma County.

17 We take great pride in our ability to
18 promote local issues while respecting the greater
19 needs of the state of Arizona.

20 The plan under consideration renders Yuma
21 County virtually irrelevant for all intents and
22 purposes for the next ten years.

23 This would be an injustice to a county
24 that has contributed so much to this great state.

25 And I would refer comments that John

1 Boelts made. He did an excellent job and I would
2 refer to that.

3 Thank you very much.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think we have one
5 more speaker, that's Ralph B. Williams. Is he here?

6 RALPH B. WILLIAMS: Thank you for letting
7 me talk and thank you for coming. Somebody told me
8 this was going to be changed from 1 o'clock to 4
9 o'clock and changed back to 1 o'clock.

10 You have a very difficult task, and I
11 appreciate that you've tried to meet the challenge
12 and I also appreciate that no Commission, no BODY of
13 people is ever going to draw maps that satisfy
14 everybody.

15 And your first responsibility is drawing
16 maps with equal population, and I believe from what
17 I see that you have done that, but the next priority
18 is adhering to already-established boundary lines.
19 And as far as Yuma County is concerned, your
20 Commission has totally violated its duty.

21 Interstate 8 is not an established
22 borderline. To follow your mandate, you need to
23 move all of Yuma County into one district.

24 There is an argument that the present
25 maps allow Yuma County to be represented by twice as

1 many representatives. But from what you have just
2 heard, that is the height of foolishness. Being
3 divided would be less than half as likely to have
4 any local representation.

5 We would be in a minute minority with two
6 congressmen and our legislature would be more
7 influenced by Maricopa and Pima counties.

8 I repeat my solution: Follow your
9 mandate to follow geographical lines for both
10 congress and the legislature. Do not divide Yuma
11 County.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think that was our
13 last speaker. So this ended a lot earlier than I
14 thought it would. That's fine. You guys can go
15 back to your families.

16 Thank you, guys, so much for being here
17 and spending time with us and voicing your concerns.
18 And we'll be next -- when is our next meeting?
19 South Phoenix will be on Monday -- Tuesday.

20 So thank you, guys, for being here.
21 Thank you, guys, for listening, and have a good day.
22 Take care.

23 (The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.)
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I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter
No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby
certify that the foregoing 91 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.

WITNESS my hand this 6th day of November,
2011.

MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637