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THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Yuma, Arizona

Parker, Arizona

Quartzite, Arizona

Online via Webex

August 4, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
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Reported By (via Webex):
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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at
3 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2021, at Yuma Civic Center (East
4 Wing), 1440 West Desert Hills Drive, Yuma; with satellite
5 locations at Parker Senior Center, 1115 West 12th Street,
6 Parker; Quartzite Town Hall, 465 Plymouth Road,
7 Quartzite; and online via Webex.

8
9 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
11 Ms. Shereen Lerner, Commissioner
12 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman (via Webex)
13 Mr. David Mehl, Commissioner (via Webex)

14 STAFF PRESENT:

15 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
16 Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
17 Mr. Fred Johnson, Snell & Wilmer
18 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
19 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

21 Douglas Nicholls, Yuma
22 Karen Watts, Yuma
23 Gary Knight, Yuma
24 Tony Reyes, Yuma
25 Danette Nicholls, Yuma
Gary Snyder, Yuma
Karen Simmons, Yuma
Tim Dunn, Yuma
Gilbert Hernandez, Yuma
Glenn Gimbit, Yuma
Lisa Otondo, Yuma
Carl Kizer, Yuma
Neil Bowman, Yuma

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Lynne Pancrazi, Yuma
3 Fernie Quiroz, Yuma
4 Robbie Woodhouse, Yuma
5 Shara Whitehead, Yuma
6 Patricia Kenyon, Yuma
7 William Bowlus-Roots, Yuma
8 Rafael Fonseca, Yuma
9 Ross Poppenberger, Yuma
10 Diego Ortiz, Yuma
11 Wade Noble, Yuma
12 Robyn Stallworth Pouquette, Yuma
13 Laura Noel, Yuma
14 Phil Townsend, Yuma
15 Jesse Logo, Yuma
16 Ken Rosevear, Yuma

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P R O C E E D I N G

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3 MS. VAN HAREN: So we are honored to welcome
4 Mayor Nicholls to come and stand and do the Pledge of
5 Allegiance, and then he's going to do some opening
6 remarks.

7 But before we do that, I wanted to introduce
8 our interpreters. We have a Spanish interpreter here,
9 Angelica. She's over in the corner here. If anybody
10 needs any interpreting services, please let me know.

11 (Speaking in foreign language.)

12 At this point we will ask Mayor Nicholls to
13 come up and say the Pledge of Allegiance. If you would
14 all please stand.

15 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

16 MR. NICHOLLS: Thank you very much.

17 Good evening, Madam Chair, Commissioner.
18 Welcome to Yuma and to our virtually neighboring cities
19 of Parker and Quartzite. We truly appreciate the
20 opportunity to engage our area in the great state of
21 Arizona. Having the ability to have face-to-face
22 interactions is something that with which we have
23 developed a great appreciation for in this last year
24 and a half, so I truly appreciate your physical
25 presence here today.

1 As one of the mayors of the third largest
2 metropolitan area in the state of Arizona, I wanted to
3 take a minute and offer a quick overview of our greater
4 Yuma community. Agriculture is our single largest
5 industry, representing 70 percent of our economy at
6 three and a half billion dollars. During the winter
7 growing season the Yuma area produces 80 percent of the
8 leafy greens consumed in the United States and Canada,
9 utilizing 50,000 workers.

10 Our second segment of the greater Yuma economy
11 is our two military installations that make up the
12 southwest military complex in conjunction with Luke Air
13 Force Base. The U.S. Army proving ground tests and
14 evaluates nearly every piece of equipment from
15 stitching to drones to the future connected battlefield
16 technology that protects our forces while effectively
17 engaging our enemy at a distance.

18 The Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is the
19 busiest Marine airfield in the Corps, with much of the
20 training focused on the Barry M. Goldwater range. Just
21 tonight at our city council meeting that will begin in
22 half an hour, the colonels from MCS Yuma are briefing
23 the community on the 44th year of this weapons and
24 tactical instructors course that hosts 5,000 additional
25 military personnel for six weeks of training. The

1 six-week course culminates in exercises within the Yuma
2 parks and schools for real-life scenarios.

3 And as you know, we are located at the
4 confluence of the Colorado and Gila rivers, making all
5 of this and more possible. These rivers define our
6 region. The other element that defines our region is
7 our relationship with Mexico. The communities north
8 and south of the border are linked economically,
9 culturally, and socially together.

10 Again, thank you for coming to the Yuma area
11 to understand our concerns and desires, and we look
12 forward to working with the Commission through this
13 redistricting process. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you, Mayor. We
15 are very appreciative that you're here.

16 I now call to order the next meeting of the
17 listening tour of the Independent Redistricting
18 Commission. I want to just say thank you all for being
19 here. We appreciate your interest in what we're doing.
20 We look forward to hearing from you tonight.

21 We would like to remind you that COVID-19 is
22 still prevalent, and we ask that you follow the Arizona
23 Department of Health guidelines. If you're not fully
24 vaccinated you should wear a mask in a public space.
25 If you would like to participate from home, each of

1 these meetings is being streamed through Webex. Please
2 note if you would like to make a public comment you may
3 do so by signing in with the staff and filling out the
4 public comment card. If you haven't already done so,
5 please fill out the community of interest survey.

6 There is a QR code at the sign-in desk and the public
7 comment cards that will direct you to the link. Please
8 see a member of the staff if you have any questions.

9 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
10 joining us virtually, and we have interpreters and
11 headsets available for those in attendance. We also
12 have a transcriptionist who will be transcribing every
13 meeting. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a
14 clear record of your input.

15 Will the interpreters in attendance introduce
16 themselves now, please?

17 THE INTERPRETER: Hello. My name is Tiana. I
18 am one of the ASL interpreters for tonight, and my team
19 is Tiffany Jones.

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I think we have -- we're
21 not showing you on here so we have a little problem
22 with the feed, I think. We're going to get that worked
23 out. We are not seeing you on the screen. So we're
24 going to have to get that -- we're just going to hold
25 for a minute while we get this taken care of.

1 All right. So at this time we're going to go
2 ahead and introduce ourselves. I going to start with
3 our Chairwoman of the Commission.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hi. My name is Erika
5 Neuberg. I am the independent chair. I live in
6 Chandler, from Maricopa County, and it's very exciting
7 to be here. Thank you so much for everybody, you know,
8 coming and making the effort to share your voice.

9 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And my name is Shereen
10 Lerner. I'm from Maricopa County and one of the
11 Democrat representatives. And we have two of our
12 Commissioners on Webex. I'm going to ask them to
13 introduce themselves.

14 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good evening, everybody.
15 I'm Derrick Watchman, the Vice Chair of the Commission.
16 I represent the Apache County folks, and I come to you
17 from Window Rock, Arizona, and I'm the Democratic
18 appointee to the Commission. Good evening, everybody
19 in Yuma. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And my name is David Mehl.
21 I'm a Republican appointee to the Commission, and I'm
22 from Tucson, Pima County, and thank you all for being
23 here tonight.

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you,
25 Commissioners.

1 Okay. Now we're going move to Agenda Item No.
2 2, which is a presentation on the process. First we
3 will start with a representative from our legal team.

4 MR. SUMMERS: Good evening, everyone. Can you
5 hear me all right? Great. My name is Shawn Summers.
6 I'm one of the attorneys for the Commission, and I'm
7 joined tonight by Fred Johnson, one of my colleagues,
8 also at the -- also an attorney for the Commission.
9 I'm with the firm Ballard Spahr. Fred is here from
10 Snell & Wilmer.

11 So I'm going to talk a little bit tonight
12 briefly about what the IRC is, what it does, and what
13 the rest of the process is going to look like over the
14 next six months or so. So we'll start with the
15 Constitution. That's always a good place to start.

16 As you know, every ten years the Constitution
17 requires the government to run a census and to
18 reapportion representation based on the results of that
19 census every year -- or every ten years, I should say.
20 How the lines are drawn within each state,
21 redistricting, is something that's left to the states.
22 From statehood in 1912 until the year 2000 Arizona did
23 what every state did at the time and what most states
24 still do, and they had the legislature redraw the
25 lines, so every ten years the Arizona legislature would

1 draw its own lines, and it would also draw the U.S.
2 Congress district lines. That changed in the year 2000
3 when the voters of Arizona passed Prop 106, a
4 Constitutional amendment to the Arizona Constitution
5 that established an Independent Redistricting
6 Commission to redraw the lines every ten years. That's
7 what we're doing here today.

8 So the Arizona Constitution has requirements
9 for what this Commission has to look like. It has to
10 have five members. No more than two members can be of
11 any one party. There is an independent chairperson.
12 And no more than two of the original four members
13 before the independent chair is chosen can be from the
14 same county. So the Commissioners that are here for
15 the five have introduced themselves to you already.
16 You can see their names and what counties they're from
17 and which parties they represent on the PowerPoint
18 there behind me.

19 As they're drawing the lines, the
20 Commissioners will be taking into account six goals
21 that are laid out in the Arizona Constitution. First,
22 districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act and
23 the U.S. Constitution.

24 Second, both Congressional and legislative
25 districts must have equal population to the extent

1 practicable.

2 Third, the districts should be compact and
3 contiguous to the extent practicable.

4 Fourth, the districts should respect
5 communities of interest to the extent practicable. And
6 that fourth piece is a large part of what we're here
7 tonight to talk about, to get input from you as members
8 of the public who will be living with these lines for
9 the next ten years what your communities of interest
10 are, and we'll talk more about that in just a moment.

11 Fifth, to the extent practicable the district
12 lines should respect visible geographic features, city,
13 town, and county boundaries, and undivided census
14 tracts.

15 And then finally, to the extent practicable,
16 competitive districts should be favored where to do so
17 would create no significant detriment to the other five
18 goals.

19 Those are the six goals that the Commission
20 will be taking into account as they draw these lines
21 guided by the state Constitution.

22 So what is the process going to look like?
23 First, July and August the Commission is currently
24 performing a listening tour all over the state. This
25 is -- we were around all last week. We'll be on the

1 road all this week as well.

2 Mid-August, in a couple of weeks, we will get
3 the data from the U.S. Census Bureau. That's later
4 than we typically would get it. Census was delayed
5 this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that
6 should be released August 16th.

7 Once the Commissioners get the data they will
8 adopt what's called the grid map. The purpose of the
9 grid map is to just wipe away whatever the lines were
10 before. The Commission has to start from scratch every
11 ten years, and the grid map, which is just sort of a
12 map that contains districts of equal population and is
13 compact as possible but doesn't take into account any
14 of the other criteria, that's what the grid map does.

15 Then the Commissioners will adjust the grid
16 map. The grid map will change a lot from September to
17 October. They will develop draft maps. Once a draft
18 map is adopted there is a minimum 30-day comment period
19 required where you as members of the public will have
20 the opportunity to comment on the draft maps.

21 And then finally, from December to the end of
22 the process the Commission will adjust those draft maps
23 and then adopt a final map.

24 So how can you get involved? There are three
25 main ways that I want to talk about right now. First,

1 all Commission meetings are open to the public. They
2 are streamed live at irc.az.gov/public-meetings, and
3 you can leave comments there and watch the Commission's
4 meetings.

5 Second, initial input on communities of
6 interest. That's, as I said, what we're here tonight
7 to talk about. Where are your communities of interest
8 and where are they on the map?

9 Third, comments on draft maps, both before the
10 official draft map is adopted that we'll talk in just a
11 moment about some tools that our mapping team has put
12 together to help you submit comments on maps and your
13 own draft maps, comments on the maps that the
14 Commission is considering, and then also comments on
15 the draft map before it's adopted into the final map.

16 And so with that I'm going to turn it over to
17 my colleague, Mark, from Timmons, our mapping team, who
18 is going to talk about some of these informational and
19 empowerment tools.

20 MR. FLAHAN: Hello, everyone. My name is Mark
21 Flahan. I'm with Timmons, on the project management
22 side for Timmons. On my team I have Ivy Beller
23 Sakansky, who is our demographer from NDC, and I have
24 Parker Bradshaw over there, our project coordinator.

25 Today I want to talk about the three

1 empowerment tools that we've made for you guys, the
2 public, to be able to use. The first is our
3 socioeconomic report. It's an interactive website that
4 allows you to see demographic data on a map for all of
5 Arizona, and we'll show you a little bit more on the
6 next slide.

7 The other two mapping tools that we have is
8 our community of interest survey, which is why we're
9 here today. You guys probably saw it on a QR code as
10 you walked in, and the survey is also available 24/7
11 online, and it allows you to actually draw your own
12 community of interest boundaries on a map.

13 The third tool that we're currently setting up
14 is our redistricting system, and that system will allow
15 you to draw and submit proposed maps.

16 So here is our socioeconomic report. Like I
17 said, it's an interactive website. There is a
18 screenshot on the right-hand side of it for all of
19 Arizona. It has 14 different demographic points that
20 you can turn on and view. The acronym, CVAP, is
21 Citizen Voting Age Population.

22 The second one we have is our community of
23 interest survey. Again, this is online, available to
24 you 24/7, and you can get to it from the Commission's
25 website. On the right-hand side you see a community

1 boundary map. This allows you to actually go in and
2 draw your community of interest boundaries live on a
3 map, and this helps us accurately interpret exactly
4 what you are trying to say with your boundaries, so we
5 really hope and appreciate if you guys could go online
6 and do that.

7 With that being said I'm going to turn it over
8 to Ivy, who is going to talk to you about what is a
9 community of interest.

10 MS. BELLER SAKANSKY: Thank you, Mark.

11 So what is a community of interest? It is a
12 geographic area of people who share a common story or
13 connection. That connection can be common social
14 interests, shared demographic characteristics, similar
15 impacts from a legislative or Congressional issue, or
16 any connection that leads people in a given area to
17 believe they would benefit from being kept together,
18 united, in one Congressional and/or legislative
19 district.

20 This evening as you think about your community
21 think about the factors that Mark listed on the
22 community survey online, which says, think about you
23 and your neighbors. Do you have similar jobs? Do you
24 rely on similar public services? Belong to the same
25 neighborhood associations? Are you impacted by some

1 regional environmental concern? Is your community
2 defined by similar regional land uses? Transit
3 concerns? Languages spoken? Community celebrations or
4 tradition, or other similar issues or characteristics?
5 Any of these characteristics can define a community of
6 interest.

7 Now it is your turn. As they travel the state
8 on this listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear
9 from you. What do you want the Commissioners to
10 consider as they draft and ultimately adopt their maps?
11 How do you define your community of interest? Using
12 the various tools that Mark has described and in your
13 testimony today, we want to hear two things. What
14 brings your community of interest together, and what
15 are your communities geographic boundaries? Remember,
16 the Commissioners can incorporate your community into
17 their maps only if you let us know where your community
18 is on the map.

19 Thank you for being here today. Now I will
20 turn it back over to Commission staff to begin taking
21 your comments.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: So before we move to
23 Agenda Item 3, the public comment period, staff is
24 going to read the rules of the meeting.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. First, this is not

1 a political event. Please do not distribute campaign
2 materials in the hearing room.

3 Next, citizens may only speak when recognized
4 by the chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if
5 the chair is absent or has otherwise delegated hearing
6 administration authority.

7 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting law,
8 speakers should confine their statements to the issue
9 on the posted agenda which is before the Commission.
10 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments to
11 approximately three minutes.

12 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
13 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate
14 language. Foul and/or abusive language will not be
15 tolerated. Any speaker failing to follow proper
16 decorum or proper guidelines may be asked to leave.
17 Any breach of the peace or disruption of a Commission
18 public hearing may be cause of a report to law
19 enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

20 If someone has expressed the same sentiment as
21 you you do not need to speak in order to have your
22 comment recorded. As long as you have filled out the
23 survey your input will be received and considered by
24 the Commission. Everyone is welcome to speak, should
25 you choose to do to.

1 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
2 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded
3 to address their comments to the chair and the
4 Commission and not to the audience present. Please
5 show respect for all speakers and avoid personal
6 comments.

7 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides
8 of an issue to make an informed decision.

9 Our first speaker will be Mayor Nicholls.

10 MR. NICHOLLS: Thank you. And, again, thank
11 you Chairman Neuberg and the Commissioners for coming
12 here this evening. We truly appreciate your time and
13 your attention to the whole state of Arizona. I
14 recognize the level of importance of your service to
15 the state of Arizona as redistricting is an incredibly
16 important process for the future of Yuma.

17 As a local elected official, I work with both
18 our state and federal legislatures on a very regular
19 basis. The configuration of both the legislative and
20 Congressional districts determines the amount of
21 engagement in communicating issues. With our two
22 legislative districts the majority of the electeds are
23 from the greater Yuma area, so the base knowledge of
24 issues are easy to communicate. The electeds from
25 outside of Yuma can rely upon not only the local

1 advocacy, but the understanding from their fellow
2 electeds from Yuma. Therefore, I feel that the current
3 legislative districts as they're delineated should be
4 maintained with some minor variations. The utilization
5 of Interstate 8 as a boundary will divide the community
6 and should be avoided.

7 With our Congressional districts, I suggest we
8 look to the Colorado River as defining very specific
9 communities of interest to include communities of rural
10 lifestyles along the river, communities of agriculture
11 workers and businesses, and the community centered on
12 the southwest military complex and the related veteran
13 populations.

14 Thank you for your opportunity to address you
15 today. We're here to engage and assist as the state
16 goes through this redistricting process. Thank you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker will be Councilman Karen
19 Watts.

20 MS. WATTS: Thank you.

21 Madam Chair, Commissioners, my name is Karen
22 Watts, and I'm here to speak on behalf of my
23 constituents in the city of Yuma. I have a unique
24 position and challenge as a nurse practitioner serving
25 the Yuma area for over 25 years and as an elected

1 nonpartisan official since November 2017. As a nurse
2 practitioner I have spent a great deal of my
3 professional career helping those on AHCCCS insurance,
4 which is for low income, and the underserved
5 communities in the greater Yuma area. I am proud to be
6 part of the multidisciplinary group that created
7 Amberly's Place in the late 1990s for victims of
8 domestic violence and sexual assault, and today I'm
9 still the medical coordinator for forensic medical
10 services, and due to the nature of services provided by
11 Amberly's I work closely with law enforcement agencies
12 in the Yuma county. I have extensive experience as
13 well as with substance abuse patients and currently
14 provide medical services for Crossroad detox
15 rehabilitation that serves patient of all ages or that
16 serves homeless and low income. In addition, since
17 2007 I've been in private practice serving patients of
18 all ages and economic status. This has given me the
19 opportunity to interact with a diverse population and
20 understand the variety of issues that are important to
21 our citizens.

22 Yuma is over 60 percent Hispanic and has a
23 large Spanish-speaking population. I do not want to
24 see representation of this diverse population to be
25 diluted or taken away as their voices need to be heard.

1 As an elected official I see firsthand how important
2 the agriculture industries and the military bases are
3 to our economy of our -- to the economy of our
4 community. Their voices as well need to be
5 represented. I hope the IRC will view how important it
6 is to have two legislature districts representing the
7 uniqueness of Yuma county as we have a diverse
8 population and the need -- and need our communities of
9 color to continue to have representation. My hope is
10 that the IRC will make fair adjustments without
11 diluting the representation, especially to the
12 communities of color. Thank you very much.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 Our next speaker is council member Gary
15 Knight.

16 MR. KNIGHT: Thank you.

17 Madam Chair, Commissioner, good evening. My
18 name is Gary Knight, and I currently serve on the Yuma
19 city council and have for the past eight years. I also
20 serve on the state transportation board. I was Yuma's
21 largest boat dealer for over 30 years so I have a
22 pretty good idea of river communities and what the
23 river means to everyone along the Colorado River.

24 I don't really have a problem with the
25 legislative districting. I think we're fairly

1 represented.

2 On the other hand, the current Congressional
3 districting leaves much to be desired for us as a
4 community. In my opinion we need a single district
5 that combines Yuma with the other communities along the
6 river, so it would be majority of La Paz County and
7 Mohave County in addition to the city of Yuma and the
8 military bases. The military bases are extremely
9 important. Agriculture is extremely important to all
10 the communities up and down the Colorado River.

11 So that being said, if we can also get the YPG
12 and MCAS, which are basically MCSs in the city and YPG
13 is very close, and also include Luke Air Force Base,
14 then we would have communities that have a common
15 interest, and therefore we wouldn't be divided like we
16 are now with communities that have absolutely -- if you
17 look at the way we're district now, we're district with
18 communities that have absolutely no common features
19 with us, no commonalities. They just don't. They
20 don't understand the river except they want the water.
21 But, anyway, we just need a Congressional district that
22 is -- that will combine the communities with interest
23 in the river, military bases, and agriculture.

24 Thank you very much for coming to Yuma and
25 listening to us tonight. It's much appreciated. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

3 And next speaker will be supervisor Tony
4 Reyes, followed by Danette Nicholls and followed by
5 Gary Snyder.

6 MR. REYES: Thank you, Commissioners.

7 First of all, a little bit of an introduction.
8 Hi. My name is Mark Antonio Reyes, and I'm known as
9 Tony Reyes because when I was in grade school the
10 teacher couldn't pronounce Mark Antonio so I ended up
11 with Tony, and that's how it stayed.

12 Now, as a little bit of background I was the
13 mayor of San Luis for ten years, the vice mayor for
14 two. I've been a county supervisor for 23, and I am
15 currently the board supervisor chairman. So it's
16 really difficult for me to talk about a certain
17 specific area of the county, because we do represent
18 the whole county, but in this particular case I want to
19 talk about south county, which is my district, most of
20 it. And I want to talk about the fact that I don't
21 believe that the district has to reinvent the wheel.
22 The way that the district were drawn ten years ago --
23 and this is not my first rodeo, as most people would
24 say. As you can tell I've been around 40 years in
25 politics, so it certainly isn't my first time.

1 But I certainly believe that over the last ten
2 years that representation we've had has been excellent,
3 both -- initially I had some problems with the fact
4 that Yuma County was split, really literally split in
5 two. And there was one legislative district and
6 another legislative district, and the legislative
7 district that encompasses south county was represented
8 mostly by Democrats, and the legislative district that
9 is the other district was represented by Republicans,
10 and I felt that one way or another they would sort of
11 cancel each other, but it hasn't turned out to be that
12 way. It's actually helped us get our voices across and
13 our needs across. So I've learned to appreciate the
14 way that the districts are set up from ten years ago.
15 And contrary to what some speakers may say, I think it
16 works well for Yuma County. I think it works well
17 because we can get our voices heard both in the south
18 district as in the eastern or northern districts.

19 And so I just wanted to emphasize that the
20 southern part of the county, it's really sort of like a
21 different type of area. It is bound together by
22 Hispanics. I mean, you heard that the county is
23 60 percent Hispanic, but the majority of the Hispanic
24 population lives in south county. I was a little
25 disappointed earlier in the process where San Luis

1 wasn't considered as part of the listening tour, and I
2 sent my comments about that. It is a large population
3 base between Somerton and San Luis. They probably make
4 up about 50,000 or 60,000 people, and they have -- we
5 have a very small transportation system that really
6 can't provide the kind of transportation choices that
7 you would get in an urban area. And I know most of you
8 represent Maricopa or Pima County, but out in the rural
9 areas people, you know, sometimes just can't get to
10 where they have to be because they don't have a way to
11 get there.

12 So on behalf of them, on behalf of the people
13 in south county, I would like to repeat, I don't think
14 you need to invent the wheel again. I think the
15 representation we have right now is pretty good. It
16 does cover the different geographical interests, and it
17 does cover the likes and dislikes of the people in the
18 district, so I think that should say enough. I could
19 take another ten minutes, but this is great. Thank you
20 very much. Thank you for the opportunity to say that,
21 and thank you for coming over to Yuma.

22 We do have kind of an identity crisis with
23 Yuma. It seems like any time Yuma County is mentioned,
24 the city of Yuma is what in reality takes over, and the
25 county has grown diversely over the last few years, and

1 we just want to make sure you knew that. Thank you
2 very much.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Before you could go, if
4 I could ask you as a follow-up where do you have the
5 boundary between your south and north? How would you
6 define that?

7 MR. REYES: Well, my district is almost purely
8 south Yuma County, so the boundaries are geographically
9 the District 4 boundaries to me. But, obviously, the
10 city of Yuma has certain portions of the city that are
11 mostly low income, and it's a certain area. And, look,
12 it's not unnatural. That happens just because of time
13 and the way the growth is experienced. So I would say
14 that south county is anything on the south of County 14
15 and on the west of Avenue D or C, in this area,
16 anything all the way to the river, anything all the way
17 to the Mexican border. And I still -- I still have a
18 tough time realizing when people talk about the
19 U.S./Mexico border, they talk about Yuma. It isn't
20 Yuma. It's San Luis, Arizona. And it's really weird
21 to me that over 30 years of growth we still can't get
22 people to talk about the border as being San Luis,
23 Arizona, which is what it is. Okay? So I just want to
24 make that point.

25 Any other questions?

1 COMMISSIONER LERNER: No. That's great.

2 Thank you. Appreciate that.

3 MR. REYES: Anything else?

4 Thank you very much for the opportunity, and
5 thank you for letting me go early, because after the
6 mayor it's kind of difficult sometimes. Thank you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker will be Danette Nicholls,
9 followed by Gary Snyder, followed by Larry Killman.

10 MS. NICHOLLS: Hi. Good evening. Hello,
11 Madam Chairman, Commissioners.

12 Thank you for coming to Yuma to include our
13 community in this very important statewide discussion.
14 My name is Danette Nicholls, and I'm a local realtor,
15 mother, and wife. I was raised in Yuma and chose to
16 raise my four children here. After starting our family
17 in Maricopa County we returned to Yuma for the
18 lifestyle and the sense of community that Yuma offers
19 to raise our children. I want to preserve the
20 community we chose to live in. The primary ways we can
21 do that is to make sure the elected U.S.
22 representatives and state legislators that represent us
23 hold the same community of interest as the people here.
24 I would like to support the existing legislative
25 districts as they are currently defined without any

1 dramatic changes. I would also suggest that the
2 Congressional district for Yuma be part of a river
3 district. I believe these two positions best support
4 the community of interest that is the way of life in
5 rural Arizona.

6 Thank you for your time, and, again, thank you
7 for holding this public meeting in Yuma.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Gary Snyder, followed by
10 Larry Killman, followed by Darren Simmons.

11 MR. SNYDER: Good evening, Madam Chair and
12 Commissioner. Thank you for coming to Yuma County. I
13 do vouch it would be nice for you all to take a yonder
14 down to south county, which is Somerton and San Luis,
15 Arizona, with Gadsden.

16 My name is Gary Snyder. I'm actually in the
17 LD4, Congressional 3. I actually live in San Luis,
18 Arizona, with Tony Reyes. I'm here on the behalf of my
19 city here in San Luis, Arizona, to represent the change
20 in ten years, the change that has developed. We have a
21 lot of modernization. We have a lot of agriculture as
22 well. We have a lot of taxis. We have a lot of small
23 business workers, education, but most importantly,
24 governmental employees.

25 For our city and for our district to flourish,

1 we need to withdraw from Pima County and go up towards
2 Maricopa, which is towards the river as well as the
3 Luke Air Force Base, which would be Buckeye, Goodyear,
4 and Avondale, which we have more in common, because we
5 have the governmental, we have the medical, but most
6 importantly we have agriculture, which is our
7 foundation here in Yuma County, which the mayor told us
8 is 70 percent. Those communities as well is Latin
9 based as well. Nowadays Latinos are a part of Arizona.
10 (Speaking in foreign language.)

11 I focus on both sides, not just on Tucson,
12 because, to be honest, for any legislation that comes
13 out of Tucson, any candidate that comes down here is
14 very rare, so the opportunity to not see a candidate
15 running in Tucson to come to our beautiful city in San
16 Luis, Arizona, it's a shame. So the opportunity for
17 non-political realms, but the opportunity to flourish
18 as a city, flourish as a district, is take off Pima
19 County into the LD4, but also take off Pima County in
20 the Congressional, and stay towards the river, as other
21 people have told us.

22 I thank you for the opportunity for coming
23 down. I do wish that you hear our voices and depend
24 not on a political realm that was spoken a few people
25 away, but as of us, the people that are nonpolitical,

1 willing to flourish as a community and not as seen as
2 we're low poverty, because we have the education, we
3 have the drive to work. We're willing to flourish. We
4 need the opportunity. And it's all up to your hands,
5 and I know you'll make the smart decision. Thank you
6 very much.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Larry Killman, followed by
9 supervisor Darren Simmons, followed by representative
10 Tim Dunn.

11 MR. KILLMAN: Madam Chair and Commissioner,
12 thank you for coming today. I'm here to represent the
13 Town of Wellton. The mayor couldn't make it tonight.
14 I am the town manager, so I'm here representing my
15 municipality.

16 With that, there are some communities of
17 interest we have. We are an agricultural community.
18 We are on the -- we use water off the Colorado River,
19 but we're on the Gila River because we're 30 miles east
20 of town here. So with that, we have the water
21 association with all the river communities and
22 everybody north of us. We also have the privilege of
23 having YPG boundaries basically just north of town, and
24 then the Barry M. Goldwater range just to the south.
25 So keep us in mind. Interstate 8 is an easy way to

1 draw a line, but it goes right through the middle of my
2 municipality, and I would hate to split my town in
3 half, so I guess that's my main concern. Please
4 consider that we are a municipality. We do have
5 boundaries.

6 Thank you again for your time.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Representative Darren
9 Simmons -- I'm sorry, Supervisor Darren Simmons, and
10 then Representative Tim Dunn, followed by Gilbert
11 Hernandez.

12 MR. SIMMONS: Good evening, Madam Chairman,
13 members of the Commission.

14 My name is Darren Simmons. I'm the current
15 District 3 supervisor for Yuma County, which
16 encompasses pretty much all of eastern Yuma County to
17 include most, if not all, the Yuma Proving Grounds, the
18 Barry Goldwater range, as well as a large volume of
19 agricultural areas to include the Mohave Valley, Dome
20 valley, and the north Gila Valley, so as you can tell
21 I've got a rather large district.

22 With proper expanding growth of Arizona,
23 mainly in the large suburb areas of Maricopa, Pima, and
24 Pinal counties, it is important more than ever to make
25 sure that rural areas of Arizona have an equal voice,

1 even though they may not have the large population
2 centers. As we have seen over the last few years,
3 water has become more and more scarce, yet this has not
4 altered its consumption, but has significantly
5 increased it. This mainly is due to the growth of the
6 above-mentioned areas. If we don't have districts in
7 place that will fight for the outlying areas of Arizona
8 these areas will die due to lack of water, to include
9 our agriculture as well as eventually the entire state.
10 There will be no water unless we have legislative
11 districts in place that will fight for it and not be
12 concerned about the large metropolitan areas.

13 Other concerns should include a district that
14 encompasses the three main military bases in central
15 and southwest Arizona. With government constantly
16 looking at closing bases around the country, we need
17 strong districts that can fight for the bases when
18 needed to ensure they remain open for our economy, our
19 state, and our country.

20 Also, look at the boundaries as well. Don't
21 divide cities into separate districts. Keep them
22 together. Like Mr. Killman said, with Wellton if you
23 use the interstate it divides a small city into two
24 separate districts, so please avoid that. Current
25 lines seem to work well, but with Interstate 8 being so

1 handy you might say there is a line on the map. It
2 will seriously divide communities, which I believe is
3 not fair to those elected, nor the constituents we
4 serve.

5 In closing, I would like to encourage the
6 committee to take a hard look at the districts and
7 ensure that there is equal representation for all of
8 Arizona. I would also like to thank the committee for
9 caring enough to come out into the rural areas to hear
10 our views and concerns. Thank you for this opportunity
11 to speak today.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Representative Tim Dunn,
14 followed by Gilbert Hernandez, followed by Glenn
15 Gimbit.

16 MR. DUNN: Good evening. Thank you for
17 allowing me to speak. Thank you for being here. Thank
18 you for coming out to rural Arizona. Representative
19 Tim Dunn, born and raised here in Yuma. We have a
20 farming operation and several businesses here and also
21 in the West Valley of Phoenix, and so I really applaud
22 you for getting out to rural Arizona and seeing what's
23 going on, because as the -- I'm a legislator, and as a
24 legislator I was elected by my peers to be the rural
25 caucus chairman, and so it's very important as a

1 legislator that we get our rural caucus together to
2 make sure that those issues that are going on are
3 effective and brought about because we have around 20
4 to 25 rural legislators, and it's important that we
5 have those common issues that affect Yuma, Yavapai,
6 Sonoita, all around the state to make sure we bring
7 those ideas together. So as a caucus chair we do that,
8 and we're very effective at that because it's important
9 that as you do the legislative districts that you keep
10 that in mind because with those communities of interest
11 we're able to -- when you come down and represent your
12 community you're actually able to speak for those, and
13 you know who you're talking to.

14 When I was first appointed, you go back three
15 years ago, coming from being a farm boy from Yuma, when
16 I was first appointed to go to the legislature when I
17 reached out and started talking to the mayors of the
18 West Valley when they were talking about Luke Air Force
19 Base -- we represent Marine Corps Station. We've
20 always -- we always work about what is going to happen
21 for Marine Corps air station. What are we going to do
22 generationally to make sure our city zoning, our county
23 and our state rules are good for Marine Corps Air
24 Station. So I was able to sit in those meetings and
25 talk to those at Luke Air Force Base and understand

1 that because that's what Litchfield Park does. That's
2 what Goodyear does. That's what Buckeye does. So
3 having that commonality is very important for a
4 legislator, to be able to -- even though they're not
5 from a district, from the area, when they represent
6 that rural area they understand it because it's
7 firsthand to them, so that's super important to those
8 communities of interest. Keep us -- make sure we're
9 not diluting everything so we can have those folks
10 represent those communities of interest, because what
11 happens when you bring in someone -- if you dilute an
12 area too much -- and Yuma does not necessarily
13 represent that. They don't need Yuma to win an
14 election. They don't necessarily come down and talk to
15 the folks. They come down one time a year. They don't
16 come down and talk and say, Hey, this is what's going
17 on. They need to understand the issue, how they're
18 common with Yuma, with Buckeye, with Goodyear. Same
19 for LD4. When you come down and you work with LD4 and
20 you work with San Luis and Somerton, you go to Gila,
21 you work with those things.

22 So I would just caution you to make sure that
23 you don't put too much votes in Pima County, the city
24 of Tucson, to make sure you don't dilute it. Keep it
25 rural. Keep LD4 a rural district, because that's

1 another community of interest when you have that
2 demographic. Make sure you don't overpopulate it with
3 too much stuff out of Tucson proper. Same thing as you
4 go too far into Phoenix.

5 When you move into the legislative -- or the
6 Congressional districts, super important, like you
7 heard before, on the water. Right now with our
8 Congressional district, if you go to constitutionality,
9 we are not very strict and compact. Mr. Gosar
10 covers -- LD4 goes all the way over to Superior and
11 Goodyear and makes a big horseshoe. I've been at
12 meetings with him in Superior, and it's a very
13 different, unique demographic. And so I think if we
14 can focus on someone that's working on the river
15 issues, we can really help with that with the
16 Congressional district. Make sure that you keep the
17 lines like they are. Keep south of Interstate 8. Keep
18 like the Congressional districts and/or the
19 LD13 District where it's at.

20 So with that, I enjoy representing our
21 district. And I think you guys have a good job.
22 Again, thanks for coming out to rural Arizona.

23 COMMISSIONER LERNER: A couple of comments.
24 One is as folks are coming up and speaking and you're
25 talking about where you would like to -- mostly I'm

1 hearing -- we're hearing from the Congressional, but
2 how you would like to be realigned, if you can give us
3 ideas on that because we know that we have a
4 population, a certain population that has to be met, so
5 that's part of what we want to hear from you is as you
6 were just talking about, and as we heard a little bit
7 already of this is who we want to be aligned with. And
8 then are you saying then that you would -- in your
9 comments just now that you would like to see this go
10 into Luke Air Force Base? We've heard that, again, a
11 couple of times.

12 MR. DUNN: Yes, ma'am. So, and I know
13 depending on the numbers, how they're drawn, if you can
14 keep it out of -- start looking at Estrella, looking at
15 my district, and you start going south of -- south of
16 Interstate 10, if you can keep our district and you can
17 kind of go to the rural, more rural parts of LD13,
18 which is Verrado, Buckeye, and get a little bit of
19 Litchfield, some of Goodyear Park -- Goodyear, you get
20 Luke Air Force Base, because then you keep that
21 commonality of the interests, because now we have those
22 meetings, we work on the -- the western Arizona with
23 all three YPG, with Luke Air Force Base, with the --
24 we're in those meetings already, so it's really
25 effective, and especially with the Congressional

1 district comes in there. My LD13, that's what's in
2 now, but it depends on the population, so I don't know
3 how -- if we can get that far up there or -- depends
4 where you draw the lines, but I would like to keep that
5 more rural western focus and keep Luke Air Force Base
6 and not so much of Estrella, by -- you know where
7 Estrella Parkway is, so I would focus on that.

8 And then also in Yuma, though, as you get down
9 here right now you kind of -- you leave the
10 demographics of the south side of Yuma County in city
11 of Yuma into LD4, and so it's -- which is fine, because
12 that's the -- historically that's the demographics that
13 goes with the more Hispanic and goes with that
14 demographics. But if we can move those into LD13 it
15 clears up, because people think they're going to go
16 vote for me and they're like, not even on my ballot,
17 because they don't realize that Yuma, the city of Yuma,
18 is divided in half, which is fine because of the
19 demographics. But if we can move that a little bit to
20 the west then it would help -- help that. But just
21 make sure that -- because Interstate 8 does not include
22 most of Yuma County. Most of our voters are on this
23 side where you're sitting at now, so my district is
24 basically a mile to the east -- or to the south, comes
25 around, and circles back -- clear back up to the

1 downtown Yuma, so that's -- we can get more specific
2 about that.

3 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I appreciate that.

4 And as others come and speak if you could also
5 speak to what you would like to be combined with as
6 you're coming up, that would be great. Thank you very
7 much.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Gilbert Hernandez,
10 followed by Glenn Gimbit, followed by Senator Lisa
11 Otondo.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Hi. My name is Gilbert
13 Hernandez. I've been in Yuma since 1950 so I know the
14 area pretty good.

15 First of all, I want to say I am truly
16 blessed, Yuma is blessed, the state of Arizona is
17 blessed by having you guys being appointed to this
18 Commission. It's not an easy task, period. You guys
19 are going to hear a lot of discussions on both sides.

20 But what I want to say right now, I'm not --
21 and I am not PC at all. First of all, I'm hearing
22 60 percent Hispanic, people of color. We are
23 Americans. We're not hyphenated Americans. We are
24 Americans. We represent Americans. There is already
25 laws in place. Now, I see the 60 percent Hispanic

1 population that wants to be represented. Who is going
2 to represent the other ethnic groups? We're talking
3 about Hispanics. I've been hearing Hispanic, Hispanic,
4 and I am a proud Latino. My name is Hernandez, so I'm
5 not a Tio Taco. So what I want to say is let's
6 concentrate on fulfilling the dreams of Americans. You
7 have a hard task, and there is no doubt there will be a
8 lot of outside influences on each and every one of you
9 from the political parties, from business parties to
10 making your decisions. Listen to what Yuma County has
11 to say, what we have to offer. And I'm not going to
12 repeat everything that everybody has said because I
13 don't want to be redundant, but I do agree on the
14 Interstate 8 division, no. Too many of us have
15 families on both sides of Interstate 8 and will be
16 separated.

17 I am the chairman of the Colorado River Tea
18 Party. Maybe that's how my mindset is influenced.
19 But, again, we are truly blessed that you guys have
20 been appointed to do this task. It's a hard and
21 probably non-rewarding task, and I wish you all the
22 best of luck. Keep us -- consider us the Yuma County.
23 Try not to be influenced by outside entities to push
24 their agenda on to us. Thank you.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Glenn Gimbut, followed by
2 and Senator Otondo, and then followed by Carl Kizer.

3 MR. GIMBUT: Good evening, Commissioners.

4 My name is Glenn Gimbut. I am the
5 semi-retired city attorney for the City of San Luis. I
6 am now part-time assistant city attorney for San Luis.
7 I've been in Yuma County since 1976. I'm the lawyer
8 you blame for the incorporation of Quartzite. I have
9 represented Apache Junction. I have represented
10 Nogales. Or as Cathy Connolly at the League of Cities
11 and Towns once said, "Glenn, you haven't represented a
12 normal city yet, have you?"

13 I want to echo the comments of my friend, Tony
14 Reyes. I was surprised when this Commission chose
15 to -- on its tour to choose 2,000 basically white
16 people in Quartzite over 60,000 in southern Yuma
17 County. We are the fastest growing area in Arizona.
18 San Luis is now 35,000 and growing quite rapidly. Our
19 commercial port of entry is getting unbelievable, 1,200
20 trucks a day, and they are projecting it to get to
21 4,800 trucks a day within the next couple of months,
22 and that's the economic impact through the commercial
23 port.

24 What's southern Yuma County? Basically the
25 city of Somerton, the city of San Luis, and all the

1 areas in between. It is 98 percent Hispanic, but as
2 you can see, that's not me, but I am proud to live
3 there and have been proud to live there since 2005.
4 Yuma has always had a great cooperation, regardless of
5 who you are politically. It has always been Yuma
6 first, party second. That's why, while I'm a lifelong
7 Democrat, my closest friends are Republicans, and I
8 work -- we work very well because it's Yuma first.
9 Please, as you see the elected people come in front of
10 you, they are also of that stripe. They care very much
11 about this community, and you have heard them speak
12 very eloquently about it. Please keep Yuma as compact
13 as possible. I don't mind two legislative districts,
14 but please try to keep us as close and as tight as
15 possible. We really don't have a lot in common with
16 Tucson or Ajo or Tolleson or Avondale or some of the
17 other places we have been thrown in with. You've heard
18 several people talk about how their districts look very
19 odd and are spread all over. Please don't do that.
20 Please keep us as compact as possible. Again,
21 regardless of whether you're Hispanic or not, we care
22 very much about our area. We work very well together.
23 Please keep us together. Thank you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Senator Otondo, followed

1 by Carl Kizer, followed by Neil Bowman.

2 MS. OTONDO: Thank you to the Commission.

3 I didn't plan on speaking today, but I did
4 hear a couple of things that made me want to speak.
5 I'm Senator Lisa Otondo. I have had the honor of
6 representing Legislative District 4 for nine years, and
7 I wanted to discuss just for a moment a little bit
8 about Legislative District 4, and, being a native
9 Yuman, a little bit about the importance of having a
10 lot of representation for Yuma.

11 Legislative District 4 is the second largest
12 district in Arizona, but there are many commonalities
13 that go across this large district. What hasn't been
14 mentioned is the Native American tribes within my
15 district. We have the Cocopah, Tohono O'odham, and we
16 also have many members of the Quechan. These
17 individuals within this legislative district often have
18 similar needs and desires, and with this we can
19 represent them being a solid vote, representing them in
20 Legislative District 4. Earlier my colleague,
21 Representative Dunn, was discussing some of the
22 districts. I only have one word of caution: Please
23 remember that Tohono O'odham has a district located in
24 Gila Bend, and I think it would be unfair to divide one
25 of the districts represented -- excuse me,

1 representative of Tohono O'odham separated from their
2 larger reservation, so please keep that in mind.
3 Legislative District 4 has Gila Bend, San Lucy, Tohono
4 O'odham, a piece of Tucson, Ajo, and of course, Yuma, a
5 piece of Buckeye, and Goodyear.

6 Within my district there are also a lot of
7 commonalities amongst some of the constituents. Ajo,
8 for example, many of the residents of Ajo work in
9 border patrol, and many are retired teachers. I would
10 say predominantly retired teachers. Throughout my
11 district, also, there is a lot of commonality in
12 religious beliefs. We find many Catholics, not only in
13 south county but in Ajo, in Tohono O'odham, and in
14 Tucson, and, of course, in Yuma County. So there are
15 threads of commonalities.

16 Lastly, I have had the honor of working on the
17 Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation, Conservation
18 Council and also the Drought Contingency Plan. I
19 cannot tell you the importance of the Colorado River
20 for Yuma County, and I would like to remind --
21 respectfully remind all of you how important
22 agriculture is in Yuma, and the amount of the money
23 that is given to the state from agriculture here. We
24 do feed the world, period. And the water is extremely
25 important to us, not only for our growing communities,

1 but for our military bases and our cities that reside
2 within Yuma County. I can tell you that when we were
3 in mitigation in the Drought Contingency Plan, the
4 voices from Maricopa and Pinal were very loud but --

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. That's time.

6 MS. OTONDO: -- Yuma cannot be ignored. It
7 cannot be ignored, and there need to be voices on the
8 river not only for the health of Yuma County, but for
9 the health of the state and for the health of the
10 river. I cannot say that enough.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you. I'm sorry.

12 MS. OTONDO: Okay. Was that -- I'm sorry.

13 Anyway, I didn't expect to speak, but thank
14 you very much for listening.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Next speaker is Carl Kizer, followed by Neil
17 Bowman, followed by Lynne Pengrasskey -- Pancrazi.
18 Sorry.

19 MR. KIZER: Good evening to all of you. A
20 correctness on the name. It's Carl Kizer.

21 I've been a Yuma resident for 67 years, and I
22 have not any one clue why my Congressman is in Tucson
23 and I live in Yuma. The only reason I think that is
24 happening because on our last redistricting we seen a
25 lots of gerrymandering. I think you folks are smart

1 enough and hope you will look out for the people of
2 Yuma and all of Arizona and leave the gerrymandering at
3 home. I think that Yuma needs to stay together. We
4 need our good, strong rural communities to help protect
5 Yuma. Thank you very much, and I wanted to thank you
6 for coming down and visiting us tonight. What you are
7 doing is very, very important, and keeping us a good
8 rural community is also important. And I'll say it
9 again: I do not need to have my Congressman in Tucson.
10 He needs to be closer to me here in Yuma. Thank you
11 very much.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Sorry, Mr. Kizer.

13 The next speaker will be Neal Bowman, followed
14 Lynne Pancrazi, followed by Fernie Quiroz.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Thanks for the opportunity to
16 speak today, Madam Chairman and Commission. Honestly,
17 I checked the wrong box, I guess, but I'll get up and
18 speak anyway.

19 I'm born and raised here in Yuma. I spent my
20 whole life here and proud to call Yuma my home. First
21 generation farmer here in Yuma. So in my business, in
22 the vegetable business, water is key to our future. I
23 would have to say in my experience being a vegetable
24 farmer requires me to not only go to south county, but
25 it requires me to go all the way out east. And maybe

1 to the dismay of a few people here, I would say that my
2 experience is each area from the east to the Gila
3 Valley to Yuma Valley is truly unique in so many ways
4 that that needs to be recognized, that while we are
5 bound together by agriculture on a national scale and
6 on a congressional scale, certainly on a state scale,
7 we are unique communities, and we take a lot of pride
8 in uniqueness of that community, and we want to see
9 those communities represented fairly. So I'm proud to
10 do business everywhere, and it's been a pleasure to do
11 business in Yuma. But my suggestion is congressional,
12 we need to be bound by the one thing that drives our
13 economy, and that's water. By the state, I love to see
14 the uniqueness of the communities we have, rich
15 diversity, something that this community should be
16 proud of. Thank you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Lynne Pancrazi or
19 Pancrazi, followed by Fernie Quiroz, followed by Robbie
20 Woodhouse. Got that wrong.

21 MS. PANCRAZI: It all depends on who you talk
22 to. I can still remember as a kindergarten teacher I
23 had a little boy who called me crazy pot instead of
24 Pancrazi, so anyway, yes, it is Pancrazi.

25 First of all, let me thank you for being here.

1 Let me thank you for being willing to serve, all of
2 you. Your job is tremendous, and you have some very
3 big, big decisions to make, and I thank you for being
4 here and for listening to us and our concerns.

5 Now, I am the county supervisor for District
6 5, which incorporates most of this Yuma Valley, and
7 before that I was the state senator for District 4, and
8 before that I was the state representative for District
9 24, which was Yuma and La Paz. I can tell you
10 firsthand that when I -- when the new district came out
11 ten years ago I was a skeptic as to whether or not Yuma
12 being divided would work. It has worked beautifully,
13 and it helps -- it helps us at the legislature because
14 rural -- rural Arizona is underrepresented at the state
15 legislature, and having six legislators who all
16 represent Yuma County and who all work together for
17 Yuma County helps rural Arizona and helps Yuma County.

18 Now, you've heard agriculture is our biggest
19 industry. It is the most important thing to this
20 community, and having Yuma divided all the way up
21 District 4, even it picks up a little bit of Pinal
22 county, it's rural. Most of District 13, a good
23 portion of it, is rural. It picks up Wickenburg, even.
24 So as long as when you're dividing these districts, if
25 you'll remember that rural is important and keeping the

1 rural communities together. Dividing Yuma has worked
2 beautifully and putting us into two districts, and it
3 has allowed to us work together on both sides of the
4 aisle. So I'm not going to go on because everyone has
5 said everything that I would like to say, but thank you
6 for serving and thank you for coming down here.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Fernie Quiroz, followed by
9 Robbie Woodhouse, followed by Sheena Whitehead.

10 MR. QUIROZ: Good evening, or good night,
11 already. My name is Fernie Quiroz. Welcome to the
12 Commissioners. I know it's tough, tough choices you
13 guys are facing ahead, but to come to our community,
14 one of the things I wanted to make sure is that I think
15 Tony brought it up, southern community -- (speaking in
16 foreign language.) I'm the son of immigrants. My
17 parents worked in the fields. By looking at the
18 crowd -- even earlier today before I left, I was at my
19 sister's house, she just got home from the fields, and
20 she goes (speaking in foreign language.) And I said,
21 "No. I got to go to this meeting." And she goes, "You
22 speak for us."

23 So we got to remember the communities that you
24 guys are trying to divide are compact. It's a human
25 entity that we also got to think about. I know we have

1 a lot of issues -- our economic, our growth, our
2 water -- but it's the individuals, the issues that
3 affect these communities that sometimes are overlooked,
4 from education, from the immigration issues, from
5 minimum wage. My wife is a teacher for over 30 years.
6 Those issues, our representatives who we have right
7 now, speak for us, and I'm proud that we have the
8 district that we currently have. And the reality is we
9 have six individuals that represent this large
10 community, six, where before it was only three. Now
11 we're six. And how Supervisor Lynne Pancrazi just
12 stated, we work together. They fight for the issues.
13 They're accessible. I think the district lines that
14 exist right now represent us. They represent our
15 voices. Those individuals who are elected, whatever
16 party they're chosen from, they represent their
17 communities, whether it's from ag or it's individuals
18 in my community that represent the ag worker, that
19 minimum wage, the ability to have healthcare. Those
20 are the issues that need to also be heard, and I'm very
21 proud the districts that exist, legislative and also
22 congressional, I think represent, and they have done a
23 good job. So I'm an advocate to keep it as is because
24 those issues and those individuals who are being
25 elected in those communities truly speak on behalf of

1 those individuals they're representing.

2 Once again, thank you for being here, and
3 welcome to Yuma.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 The next speaker is Robbie Woodhouse, followed
6 by Sheena Whitehead, followed by Patricia Kenyon.

7 MR. WOODHOUSE: Hello, Madam Chair and
8 Commission members. I would like to welcome you all to
9 beautiful Yuma County. My name is Robert Woodhouse. I
10 live out in rural, way out in east county. I may be
11 the furthest east Yuma person you hear from tonight.
12 My wife and I are family farmers out there, third
13 generation farmers, and a fourth generation coming
14 along.

15 Yuma County is a very rural part of Arizona,
16 and we have a strong agriculture and military base for
17 our economy. We're also on the front line of the
18 southern border and all the illegal activities along
19 our border. We also depend on the Colorado River to
20 sustain our region. I would like to let you know I,
21 too, believe the current legislative districts serve us
22 very well. We've been able to elect strong
23 representatives, senators, to our state legislature. I
24 would like to see those districts stay as they are
25 currently. We find many things in common with the

1 party of our district in west Phoenix. We find a lot
2 of commonality in things with them. I believe this has
3 given us great representation at the state legislature.

4 As a farmer, I'm very concerned about the
5 drought and the declining reservoir levels on our
6 Colorado River. Because of this I believe a
7 congressional district of Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave
8 counties would give us great representation at the
9 congressional level and a strong voice on our water,
10 our military, and border issues. We in these counties
11 have been water users for generations.

12 In closing, I would again like our legislative
13 districts as they are and hope the Commission agrees
14 and will leave them basically as they are. The
15 congressional districts I believe we need to -- the
16 congressional districts, I believe we need to form a
17 district of the three river counties, in addition of --
18 in addition -- with an addition of the necessary
19 population possibly from west Maricopa County to meet
20 your population requirements. This would be a logical
21 way to shape the congressional district because it
22 could encompass Luke Air Force Base with MCS Yuma, YPG
23 Yuma, and the Barry Goldwater range that all those
24 military bases use. These military bases are critical
25 to the United States of America for training purposes.

1 Madam Chair and the Commission, I sincerely
2 thank you for coming to Yuma and listening to our
3 concerns about redistricting. I know this is a
4 daunting task you have before you, and I would like to
5 thank you for your great service to the state of
6 Arizona, and I pray as you go through this ordeal that
7 you go through that you'll have guidance and make wise
8 decisions. Thank you very much.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 The next speaker is Sheena Whitehead, followed
11 by Patricia Kenyon, followed by William Bowlus-Root.

12 MS. WHITEHEAD: I really want to appreciate
13 the fact that you drove to Yuma in the summer. That
14 right there speaks a lot.

15 I am Shara Whitehead, and I am a Yuma
16 resident. I was born and raised here. The rural
17 communities are really struggling. I mean, we hear a
18 lot of voices back and forth. I work for the Yuma
19 Community Food Bank. And I have bad allergies so I
20 apologize. I work for the Yuma Community Food Bank,
21 and the district actually is right in front of my
22 street so I actually get to see both sides of the
23 street, figuratively speaking. We serve all of Yuma
24 County and all of La Paz County. Being a Yuma resident
25 and a native, my parents worked in agriculture as well.

1 This was back into the '40s and the '50s.

2 What I really appreciate about your job is the
3 fact that you get ten years to be able to predict what
4 we're going to look like, and I think it's a very
5 difficult task. I think to what every -- the other
6 speakers have said, that the legislative districts seem
7 to be working very well, but I think the congressional
8 district is not, and I think with the similar interests
9 that we have we don't want to lose our way of life. We
10 don't want to lose our heritage because of lack of
11 representation. We do have some, but it's not enough,
12 and having a second district with enough influence to
13 be heard and elect representatives that understand our
14 community is needed. Having military and agriculture
15 as our common -- common industries also helps us with
16 our water issues as we go forward.

17 So I appreciate the time that you came to
18 Yuma, and your forethought going forward. Thank you.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Patricia Kenyon, followed
21 by William Bowlus-Root, followed by Rafael Fonseca.

22 MR. BOWLUS-ROOT: Good evening. I made a copy
23 of my notes. Can I give it to someone?

24 Good evening, Commissioners. I thank you for
25 the opportunity to present my thoughts to you about

1 redistricting. My name is Patricia Kenyon, and I'm
2 going to focus a little bit different and some all the
3 same. I live in postal code 85365 in a neighborhood
4 called College Acres, which is an old neighborhood in
5 the south Gila Valley. A few days ago I submitted a
6 written statement and a community boundary map on your
7 website, and I focused mostly on this neighborhood.
8 College Acres, however, is part of a community which
9 includes the entire populated area along the lower Gila
10 and Colorado rivers. Our children go to the same
11 schools. They share soccer and football and softball
12 teams. They belong to the same 4H FFA and FHA groups.
13 We share the same public spaces for recreation,
14 including hunting. We speak English, Spanish, and a
15 smattering of other languages as our native tongues.
16 Our employers include various city governments, Yuma
17 County, large agricultural employers as you've heard,
18 YPG, MCAS, local retailers, and Arizona Western
19 College. A few of us are retired, but not very many.
20 And as you've heard, we are all dependant for our
21 survival as a community on the use of water from the
22 Colorado and Gila Rivers for irrigation and for
23 household use.

24 Our community does currently hold prior use
25 rights over the Colorado River Water Compact that was

1 first adopted in 1922. In this time of rapidly
2 decreasing water surface flow, water use rights will
3 become an ever-increasing point of conflict among
4 Arizona communities. We need the advocacy of elected
5 officials at all levels of government, some of whom
6 have spoken to you already, acting to conserve our
7 water and to protect our farming. We need a
8 congressperson and legislators who will represent us,
9 not who will be torn by differing interests in
10 disparate parts of Arizona.

11 Arizona has become a competitive state in its
12 voting, but cited in Congressional District 4 and
13 Legislative District 13 the Gila Valley has not been
14 politically competitive since 2011 when it was cut away
15 from its actual community and tied into a broad swath
16 of western Arizona, which shares little in common with
17 us in terms of work, land use, and culture. Please
18 draw the new map differently. And you've heard several
19 proposals about that, and I know you're going to be
20 wrestling with this a long time because I know the
21 population is important and the differences in the
22 population are important.

23 I thank you for coming to Yuma County, for
24 requesting our ideas, and for your work to create
25 district maps which are fair and which protect the

1 voting rights of all communities in the state of
2 Arizona. Thank you.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 The next speaker is William Bowlus-Root,
5 followed by Rafael Fonseca, followed by Ross
6 Poppenberger.

7 MR. BOWLUS-ROOT: My name is William
8 Bowlus-Root, and I'm a retired software engineer living
9 in Yuma, 85365, and I'm in CD4 and LD13.

10 And Chair Neuberg and Commissioners, it's a
11 pleasure to finally see you here in person. I greatly
12 appreciate the personal sacrifices that each of you has
13 made to help us with this civic duty, and we all need
14 to help you do that work conscientiously so that you
15 can draw maps that result in fair and good
16 representation and to put out good governance as well.
17 So my comments tonight are intended in the spirit of
18 constructive criticism, a reminder that I hope will
19 help you do your work well.

20 I'm here tonight as a concerned citizen and an
21 independent, like roughly a third of Arizonans, about
22 the same as for each of the major political parties.
23 We cast our ballots not based on a candidate's
24 political party, but if the person has a good grasp on
25 the challenges facing our communities as well as the

1 connection to the people who struggle every day to
2 live, work, and play in them. We ask how a candidate
3 will be able to tap into the rich set of talents and
4 skills and ideas that Arizonans have for solving those
5 kinds of challenges and for making life better for us,
6 all of us, not just Democrats or Republicans, but all
7 Arizonans. We can't make those kinds of evaluations
8 based on -- between candidates if the best candidates
9 each party has to offer are not on the ballot.

10 At the end of the last century Arizonans
11 became sick of the political parties vying for the
12 power rather than effectively governing. We became
13 apathetic about voting, and candidates with the new
14 ideas were reluctant to enter a race that they felt was
15 stacked against them from the start. As a result and
16 as our framers fully anticipated in the Federalist
17 Papers, the people took back the step -- or took the
18 steps necessary to take back the power that they had
19 entrusted to their representatives. They passed
20 Proposition 106. It pays to remember what those voters
21 read at the top of their ballots that day: "Relating
22 to ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving
23 voter and candidate participation in elections by
24 creating an independent commission of balanced
25 appointments to oversee the mapping of fair and

1 competitive congressional and legislative districts."

2 Fair and competitive districts, districts that
3 are responsive to voters, to the will of the people.
4 That's the vision that voters had, and that's what your
5 tasked with making reality. To do your duty it is
6 necessary for each of you to set aside your political
7 bias and work together not as competitors, but as
8 collaborators, to draw districts that are fair and
9 competitive. Doing so will bring out the best of both
10 the major political parties, encourage new candidates
11 with fresh ideas to come forward, and give all
12 Arizonans meaningful choices at the polls.

13 Once again, I thank you for your time and
14 effort on behalf of all Arizonans, and I hope that my
15 comments will serve to assist you in your mission to
16 make that vision a reality.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Rafael Fonseca, followed
19 by Ross Poppenberger, followed by Diego Ortiz.

20 MR. FONSECA: Hello. So Yuma County is
21 notable for being a minority majority county, for being
22 a bilingual border county, and it's very famous for its
23 agricultural community and for being the death place of
24 Cesar Chavez. To me, I used to live on one of the
25 streets, the border that had like -- it was like one of

1 the congressional -- one of the streets that had like
2 the congressional border. And to me it was shocking
3 that if I stood on one part of the street I was
4 represented by one of the most progressive members of
5 Congress, one of the longest-serving Hispanic members
6 of Congress, notable for his fight for climate change
7 and his fight for indigenous communities, and if I
8 stood on the other side of the road I would be in the
9 district of one of the 14 white men who voted against
10 Juneteenth, a notable climate change denialist with
11 links to QAnon, and a spreader of COVID misinformation.
12 And recently he became notable because he's been
13 spreading -- he tried to create the Anglo-Saxon caucus
14 and obviously has links to white supremacy. It seems
15 like every two years his brothers come up to speak
16 against him and make television commercials for him.
17 Do we really want a person like that to represent the
18 entire county?

19 I really -- I really like how the lines are
20 right now. I do really feel that like somebody
21 mentioned that can you show us like actual lines.
22 There is this really good article by the New York Times
23 that shows the most detailed map of the 2020 elections
24 by precinct. I think the lines are good, but if you
25 were to update them you could look at that. I know

1 like -- like the lines are pretty good right now, but
2 in my personal opinion they could be improved, but I
3 just -- I really feel it's important to note that the
4 county should never be represented by one side of the
5 aisle. The entire county is not a single -- we have
6 our differences. We should be represented by one
7 person or the other. So I agree with how the lines are
8 right now. Thank you. I live on the counties, like
9 east of Somerton.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 The next speaker is Ross Poppenberger,
12 followed by Diego Ortiz, followed by Wade Noble.

13 MR. POPPENBERGER: Good evening, Madam
14 Chairman and members of the Commission. I'm Colonel,
15 retired, Ross Poppenberger. I chose to live in Yuma
16 upon retirement from a 31-year distinguished military
17 career. As a community of interest, many veterans
18 choose to live in Yuma. My final assignment was a
19 commanding officer of U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Ground,
20 where I grew to respect and love this community. I'm a
21 combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom with two
22 deployments, Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom,
23 with one deployment, to include several other shorter
24 trips to both combat zones in support of various
25 efforts.

1 Thank you for conducting these public hearings
2 and giving us the opportunity to discuss our thoughts
3 on redistricting in Arizona. Nobody knows more than I
4 do the importance of our military equipment to work as
5 needed when needed, whether it be aircraft -- fighter
6 aircraft providing air support to ground troops in
7 need, long-range artillery providing suppressive or
8 supporting fires, ground combat vehicles, being both
9 lethal and survivable, or our array of drones and
10 intelligence-gathering equipment to provide needed
11 information to our senior leaders. All these pieces of
12 military equipment are developed, tested, and trained
13 on right here in southwest Arizona. As we develop
14 longer range systems it's critical that we effectively
15 utilize our scarce resources here in the southwest
16 military complex.

17 During my tenure as YPG commanding officer, I
18 saw how effectively Arizona Legislative District 13
19 worked in providing resources across all installations
20 in the district to improve capability and enable
21 mission success. Maintaining this district
22 configuration at a national level would benefit the
23 installations within it. I believe having a similar
24 voice at the national level in Congress is critical to
25 continued success in our uncertain future budget and

1 resource constraints. Currently the southwest military
2 complex is spread across three congressional districts
3 singularly represented in Congress with no unified
4 voice. It is increasingly important that the southwest
5 military complexing be represented by one who has a
6 thorough understanding of our needs and challenges here
7 in southwest Arizona, one here in Yuma where the work
8 is being done, our river district that includes the
9 full southwest military complex, that has enough
10 influence to be heard and articulate our needs
11 collectively at a national level. Thank you for your
12 opportunity to speak today. That's all I have.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 Our next speaker is Diego Ortiz, followed by
15 Wade Noble, followed by Cora Lee Schengonty.

16 MR. ORTIZ: Hi. Thank you for taking the time
17 to listen to us. My name is Diego Ortiz, and I'm from
18 the city of San Luis, which is in the third
19 congressional district and the fourth legislative
20 district. I live a block away from the border with
21 Sonora, and I'm a university student.

22 My hometown of San Luis is a very large city.
23 It usually gets overlooked by the rest of the state.
24 We're a pretty important part of it. It has a
25 population of around 35,000, a good portion of which is

1 made of migrant field workers who move where the work
2 is depending on the season. Not only -- I guess I
3 should say the vast majority is primarily made up of
4 families like mine, with first-generation immigrant
5 parents and their children, and I believe around like
6 50 percent of Yuma is similar to my family and the rest
7 of San Luis. And as you may have guessed, we have a
8 strong sense of community, especially as Latinos, and
9 making proper representation of us is a key factor in
10 protecting our workers' rights and our community's
11 well-being. We need more programs based around
12 healthcare, helping poor families who work the fields,
13 getting the help that they need.

14 And I think our congressional lines are not
15 terrible. They're not very gerrymandered compared to
16 other states, and I'm proud of that. But I do see a
17 bit of a problem with Yuma County -- I mean Yuma itself
18 being split in half, maybe not in half, but at least a
19 portion of it is split between two districts. I think
20 we all look the same. We have the same culture. We
21 should be represented more equally and more compact
22 districts.

23 I think that's all I have to say. Thank you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 Our next speaker will be Wade Noble, followed

1 by Cora Lee, followed by Robyn Stallworth Pouquette.

2 MR. NOBLE: My name is Wade Noble. I live in
3 Yuma. Madam Chairwoman, members of the Commission,
4 thank you for taking your time to be here today. I am
5 general counsel for four of the five irrigation
6 districts located in Yuma County that provide
7 irrigation water for the agriculture industry that is
8 rural class and feeds, as was earlier mentioned, United
9 States and Canada during the winter months with those
10 wonderful salads that you eat. So for us, the issues
11 that you've heard today, at least two of the three that
12 are very important like agriculture and water, are
13 primarily the ones that I deal with on a daily basis.

14 With regards to the legislative districts,
15 there are three issues that have been repeated: water,
16 agriculture, and the military complex in the southwest
17 of Arizona. Not going to repeat what you've heard many
18 times, and that is we kind of like it. We want to keep
19 the districts relatively the same. On those three
20 issues the legislative districts work well. It's
21 somewhat of an anomaly to come to a community and hear
22 them say we like two. We don't want to be one. Well,
23 we do like two, and we work together. Now, you may
24 think that after this meeting closes all of us are
25 going to go outside, join hands, and sing Kumbaya.

1 Doesn't happen that way. But what really happens is
2 when it's time and we have contested elections, they're
3 hotly contested. Otherwise, on those issues that are
4 important to us we work together. And so keeping the
5 districts relatively the same would be worthwhile for
6 us.

7 We work well with western Maricopa County.
8 We've been able to get good representation when our
9 representatives have been from that area. We work well
10 because we send good people up to them, and they
11 recognize how much we can do with them. So agriculture
12 and water and the southwest military complex are
13 important to western Maricopa County as well.

14 Let's talk about the congressional districts.
15 Perhaps we're a little bit different when we come to
16 the congressional districts, because we do favor a
17 district along the river that would give us greater
18 representation on the water issues in Congress. Now,
19 we have good representation now. We suspect that
20 things are going to change, and if they are going to
21 change we ask you to change them to give us a
22 congressional district that is mostly rural western
23 Arizona and borders the river. That's the commonality.
24 That's the community of interest that exists. And
25 those in drought, those type of issues become extremely

1 important. They are extremely important right now, and
2 we are fighting over them to a great extent, and we
3 need someone that understands rural Arizona that can
4 take it to Washington and make sure that voice is
5 heard.

6 Again, we appreciate you coming here. We
7 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you. That we
8 are speaking with one voice, not a blue voice, not a
9 red voice, that we're speaking with one voice is
10 extremely important and perhaps a bit unusual. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Cora Lee, followed by
14 Robyn Stallworth Pouquette, followed by Laura Noel.

15 Is there a Cora Lee? The last name is S-C-H
16 and then -- no?

17 MS. STALLWORTH POUQUETTE: Good evening,
18 Chairwoman and members of the Commission. My name is
19 Robyn Stallworth Pouquette. I saw Cora Lee leave,
20 so --

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Oh, perfect. Thank you.

22 MS. STALLWORTH POUQUETTE: Thank you for
23 holding the meeting and others across -- others like it
24 across Arizona. I felt a sense of pride in Arizona
25 that we were seeing these meetings set in rural areas

1 for the work that you'll be doing moving forward. I
2 think that's important to all of the citizens of
3 Arizona to see what an important topic this is and the
4 efforts that you're making to hear public input.

5 I was born and raised here in Yuma. I'm proud
6 to have started my family and raised my children here.
7 Yuma County is, of course, a unique and vibrant
8 community, and you've heard the importance of the
9 agricultural community as well as the military
10 community. Throughout Arizona you will often hear that
11 many communities share strong bonds, and the livelihood
12 of those communities of interest should be protected
13 through this process, and you've taken great care to do
14 so, to ensure that representation is not diluted.

15 I'm currently serving my fourth term as county
16 recorder in Yuma County so trust and confidence in our
17 elections is extremely important to me, and working
18 through -- working in election administration and with
19 the voters in our county it is evident that a common
20 feeling amongst all voters is their desire to feel that
21 they have a voice. The confidence that that can bring
22 to a voter will propel interest and participation, and
23 any presumption that the voice of rural Arizona is
24 diminished by dividing communities of interest would be
25 detrimental to the strong ties that bind Arizona's

1 legacy.

2 The Arizona legislative districts in Yuma
3 County serve communities of interest very well both in
4 the southern area of our county and a second district
5 along the northern part of the county and the rural
6 western areas of Maricopa County. Of course, in
7 consideration of population I have enjoyed working with
8 all of the state legislators in both of the districts,
9 and I'm quite proud of how they have continued to work
10 together as well.

11 Yuma County has also been well-served having
12 two representative congressional districts, yet
13 communities of interest would be best served to look at
14 the lack of compactness in Congressional District 4.
15 As an increase in population continues in Arizona's
16 larger counties it is critical to ensure that the rural
17 communities retain that voice on a federal level. For
18 instance, there is inequitable balance of interest
19 between northern Yuma County and the fast-growing area
20 of western Pinal County as currently represented by
21 that district, yet there are common interests between
22 northern Yuma County along those river communities as
23 you've heard much about, La Paz and Mohave County, and
24 the rural western areas of Maricopa, where it's vital
25 to retain a strong voice on the water issues that

1 directly impact these communities of interest. I urge
2 you to keep supporting keeping together those unique
3 communities of interest both in the southern part of
4 our county and the northern part to ensure that Yuma
5 County continues to be well represented.

6 I commend your diligent efforts to provide
7 rural Arizonans the opportunities for input on this
8 important topic, and I think you are providing a great
9 example as we look forward to the future as it relates
10 to voter participation. Thank you very much.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Before you leave I just
13 had a quick follow-up. Since as county recorder you're
14 dealing with a lot of precincts, do you see the
15 precincts as communities of interest, and how do you
16 see -- do you see the IRC being involved in some ways
17 with, you know, identifying precincts as communities of
18 interest?

19 MS. STALLWORTH POUQUETTE: I would say we -- I
20 would say that it is difficult oftentimes to consider
21 that because we have -- the precinct lines are drawn
22 with consideration of school districts and
23 jurisdictions and any annexations, that type of thing.
24 One thing I think is confusing for voters is how many
25 precincts we have. So oftentimes if you live on one

1 side of a residential street, your neighbor across the
2 street may possibly be in a different precinct. And I
3 do understand the confusion with that, but I am excited
4 to see the work that our redistricting -- the
5 redistricting advisory committee that the Board of
6 Supervisors has put together recently and the work that
7 they'll do because that confusion causes a lot of -- I
8 guess kind of a feeling of discouragement when people
9 come to vote. There are precinct parts within the
10 precincts, and most of those are special districts,
11 similar to Mr. Noble's comments on irrigation
12 districts. Those run right through, of course,
13 congressionals and cities and towns, that type of
14 thing. So hope that makes sense. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Yep, it does. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Laura Noel, followed by
19 Daniel Ortiz, followed by Phil Townsend.

20 MS. NOEL: Hello. My name is Laura Noel. I'm
21 the superintendent at Somerton School District, but I
22 live in Wellton, 85356. So I work in 85350.

23 And I would like to speak on the part of
24 education. I was born in Buckeye. I was raised in
25 Glendale. I went to college, got my college degree,

1 master's and doctoral degree through NAU in Arizona,
2 and I've worked 19 years in Wellton as the school
3 superintendent of a small district, and I worked the
4 last six years as a superintendent in Somerton School
5 District, which is a medium-sized school district. And
6 when I was in -- I lived in Wellton, and when I was
7 superintendent at Wellton we would have the legislators
8 come through to do their little tour and give us the
9 spiel, and I was very discouraged because I felt like
10 these people who were coming from -- to me it's Phoenix
11 area -- they really did not understand us and the small
12 school districts. They did not understand our
13 community. They would breeze through and go into Yuma
14 and have whatever talks they had there, but they never
15 advocated for us. I felt they were very disconnected
16 from our needs.

17 Then when I came to Somerton, there were new
18 people elected. And we needed to build a school, and
19 we didn't have enough money to build, so we went to the
20 school facilities board and were approved to build two
21 schools, but the money that was appropriated was not
22 enough, and so we had to go to the legislature to get
23 money. All of a sudden I became acquainted with the
24 legislators again, and there were two districts to work
25 with because we were, you know, Somerton School

1 District plus the Yuma area, so what ended up happening
2 is that we had six people fighting for us in the
3 legislature plus others that recruited because they
4 were school people seeing what our problem was, and by
5 having these people in two legislative districts on all
6 different committees, you know, throughout, they were
7 able to protect us and make sure that our legislation
8 got through and we got our funding, so we're in the
9 process of building the schools.

10 So I was really surprised at that, and so now
11 all of a sudden I'm starting to think, well, maybe this
12 is a good idea that we do have two legislative
13 districts. However, the problem is those legislators
14 who end up coming from big cities trying to understand
15 what we're doing, so in the congressional district if
16 you have someone who is out of the Tucson area and
17 they're going to be representing more rural Yuma and
18 Yuma area, there is a disconnect there, and so I do
19 think that a look needs to be taken at the
20 congressional level.

21 At the legislative districts, I'm really
22 surprised at how well it worked, although I don't see
23 the connection between us and Tucson. I don't see the
24 same kind of community, and I don't see the same kind
25 of issues and needs. If we look at the way the school

1 districts work, we have Yuma School District and we
2 have all kinds of smaller school districts within that.
3 There is nine in Yuma County. Four are very small. If
4 you go up towards Maricopa, if you go up along the La
5 Paz -- La Paz County, up along the river, you see all
6 these small school districts, medium- to small-sized
7 school districts, and those are people who have the
8 same needs, concerns, and -- and issues. So I would
9 say maybe you look at the size of some of the school
10 districts to help you draw those lines between the
11 different communities. I don't know. But I'm sold on
12 the two legislative districts now, whereas before I
13 wasn't.

14 So good luck, and thank you for doing this
15 work for us.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Daniel --

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Just as a follow-up
19 question, along those lines, you know, if you feel that
20 you have recommendations as it relates to congressional
21 lines with keeping school districts intact and keeping
22 like-minded families, you know, working together,
23 that's valuable information, and so, you know, don't
24 underestimate your contribution and maybe submit some
25 maps.

1 MS. STALLWORTH POUQUETTE: All right. I'll
2 look at the maps. I didn't think of doing that before
3 I came tonight. Thank you very much. I'll do that.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Daniel Ortiz, followed by
6 Phil Townsend, followed by Jessica Logo.

7 Is there a Daniel Ortiz?

8 Okay. Our next speaker is Phil Townsend
9 followed by Jessica Logo, and our last speaker of the
10 night will be Ken Rosevear.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: Good evening, Madam Chairman
12 and members of the Commission. Thank you for being
13 here tonight. We really appreciate it.

14 My name is Phil Townsend, and I live in Yuma.
15 My wife and I own an agriculture business here in Yuma.
16 We appreciate the fact that you're going to the rural
17 communities and conducting these hearings and giving us
18 an opportunity to discuss our thoughts on redistricting
19 in Arizona. When the Independent Redistricting
20 Commission was created by Proposition 106 the intent
21 was to remove the redistricting process from the
22 legislature and to improve voter and candidate
23 participation. Thank you for this opportunity to
24 participate.

25 With most of Arizona's population growth

1 occurring in central Arizona, especially in Maricopa
2 and northern Pinal counties, it is increasingly
3 difficult for more rural communities to have a voice in
4 our state legislature and Congress. That is why it is
5 increasingly important that communities with similar
6 interests remain together. It would be sad to lose our
7 way of life and Arizona heritage because of a lack of
8 understanding and underrepresentation. We are
9 currently reasonably satisfied with our representation
10 in the state legislature, a minority majority district
11 in the southern portion of the Yuma County, and a
12 district that allows Yuma to have enough influence to
13 be heard and elect representatives that understand our
14 community in the second district, which is LD13. This
15 represents our communities well.

16 The agriculture and military industries in
17 Yuma County are common interests with western and more
18 rural Maricopa County. Item 14(C) in Proposition 106
19 states that districts shall be geographically compact
20 and contiguous to the extent possible. Our current
21 Congressional District 4 is anything but that. Having
22 Yuma County represented in Congress by two members of
23 Congress also makes sense. One member of Congress
24 representing our southern border and one representing
25 the northern portion of Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave

1 counties to the north, going into rural western
2 Maricopa County, would give us a strong voice on
3 Colorado River and military issues. The current
4 boundary dividing the districts in Yuma County roughly
5 coming into Yuma County along the Barry Goldwater
6 Range, not Interstate 8, going west along county 14th
7 Street to Avenue D, north to 24th Street, east to
8 Pacific Avenue, then north to Interstate 8, following
9 I-8 to the California border, gives Yuma County enough
10 population in these districts to at least have some
11 voter influence. That obviously can be changed to
12 population, but that does a good job of breaking the
13 district down in Yuma County.

14 With that, thank you for the opportunity to
15 speak, and thank you for traveling to Yuma today.

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Just as a follow-up, if
17 you can submit a map with that outline, if possible.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: That's the current
19 legislative --

20 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Oh, you just want to
21 keep it the same.

22 MR. TOWNSEND: That can be -- that can be
23 made, but that is a really a good dividing line coming
24 in, Barry Goldwater down County Line 14.

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I just wanted to make

1 sure if there were any changes. Thank you.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 The next speaker is Jessica Logo or Lego,
5 followed by Ken Rosevear.

6 MR. LOGO: Jesse Logo. Hello. My name is
7 Jesse Logo. I'm a PC28 south county. I'm 100 percent
8 (speaking foreign language). I'm a blue. And I like
9 the same district they are right now. Why, because I
10 support my candidates in Yuma County, south county,
11 Somerton. I support supervisors, city council, school
12 members. And that's my job, getting PCs to work and
13 look for those people registered to vote for elections.
14 Okay? So it's going to be hard for me if you guys
15 change the districts in my supervisor District 4 when 8
16 and Tony Reyes District 1, south county. And I have a
17 lot of candidates, Lisa Otondo, Charlie Fernandez, and
18 so, so, so. Okay? And thank you for doing that
19 because I need to learn more because doing some things
20 is not easy. It's hard. Districts, school district,
21 they're different. You see? It's different districts
22 in Yuma County. I'm from District 32. That's in
23 district. Okay? But I support people that do the job,
24 and that's the way it is. And somebody said he eat a
25 lot of tacos. I don't like tacos. I like steaks.

1 Okay? And I'm blue. And 100 percent people from the
2 border, they come to the counties, and like I said,
3 Yuma, to the county, to work in the fields. We are
4 number one in lettuce and everything. I support the
5 owners on the ranch because they're number one in
6 Gadsden. I live in Gadsden, Highway 95, okay, but I'm
7 District 1, and I support all the people from blue.
8 And I support 100 percent Raúl Grijalva. Like that's
9 my candidate. Okay? Thank you. But really I need to
10 learn more. Why? Because my volunteers need to know
11 where we going. Okay? Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Please have them take a
13 look at our website and get involved with that. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our last speaker of the night is Ken Rosevear.

17 MR. ROSEVEAR: I am Ken Rosevear. I have
18 lived in Yuma for 22 years, and I spent 15 years as the
19 director of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, so
20 when I took that job in 1998, I quickly learned that
21 the umbilical cord from Phoenix is stretched really,
22 really tight to Yuma, and consequently I spent a lot of
23 time at the Arizona legislature. Most of the
24 legislation that was good for Yuma started in Yuma, and
25 I learned very quickly that one size did not fit all.

1 What was good for Phoenix and Tucson was not usually
2 good for Yuma or any other rural community. So I
3 learned to get up early, drive to the legislature, and
4 work at committee level and walk the halls of the House
5 and Senate on bills that were either good for Yuma or
6 not good for Yuma.

7 And you've heard it said over and over that
8 agriculture is king in Yuma. It drives our economy.
9 We need the Colorado River. I think the districting as
10 it stands now is good. If we can reach that west side
11 of Maricopa County, that influence is really, really
12 needed for the issues that we work on here in Yuma.

13 As far as the military is concerned, I was
14 asked to join a group of what they call Base 50s, and I
15 started a group called the Yuma 50, and it represented
16 MCAS and YPG, and we joined together with Davis-Monthan
17 in Tucson and Fort Huachuca and Luke, and there is a
18 military facility up in Flagstaff. So we made two
19 trips a year to Washington, D.C., working with our
20 legislatures and all those that were on the Armed
21 Forces Affairs committees, and I made trips all the
22 time with the agriculture community to work on border
23 issues and water issues and agriculture issues.

24 So it's a constant challenge to training the
25 legislature and educate them on what goes on in Yuma

1 County. Every year when the legislature -- before they
2 convene we invite the freshman legislators to come down
3 here and visit the border and learn what goes on at the
4 border and learn what goes on in agriculture. So we're
5 lucky that we have good representation. I think we
6 should work harder to make it stronger and make the
7 right choices on the Commission boundaries.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. And that was our
10 last speaker.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: I just want to say thank
12 you to everybody for being here and for all of those
13 who came to speak, but also for those of you who
14 decided to just come and listen. We appreciate that
15 you did that. As you've seen today, we do have our
16 website which has a lot of tools that you can use both
17 to learn more about the redistricting process and to
18 share information yourself and about your community of
19 interest. We appreciate any input that you can give
20 us. Rather than relying purely on our interpretation
21 of your comments today, we encourage you to go online
22 and submit a map to us.

23 You also know that we're just at the beginning
24 of this, and so we will be -- you will be seeing
25 changes, and you'll be seeing new maps. We will

1 certainly be doing our best to take into account
2 everything you have said. It's important for you to
3 provide us with as much input as possible, and that
4 will ensure that we correctly understand the definition
5 of your community. Please encourage your friends and
6 neighbors to share their thoughts, too. Anyone can do
7 so online any time. There is no requirement to attend
8 any of these meeting to provide input and to be heard.

9 So thank you again, and with that we adjourn
10 the meeting.

11 (Meeting concluded at 6:54 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 82 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 23rd day of August, 2021.

Deborah L. Wilks

Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50849

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206.

Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 23rd day of August, 2021.

MCR

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058