I know that you are working to re-draw the urban districts given my last requests.  The following changes will affect the urban districts in Maricopa County.  The instructions as to how to divide those CDs remain the same in terms of the north-south dividers I gave you.  In light of these refinements to what is included in the “urban” area of the Phoenix metro area, other adjustments might be required.

The idea behind the following changes stems from the desire to keep rural areas in predominately rural districts, while putting areas that are urban in nature in urban districts.  A corollary benefit the fell out of the whole counties approach is that we were left with a map that respected those communities of interest.  These refinements attempt to further address the rural vs. urban issue.

The overall approach to the map is the same:  we adjusted the grid map to minimize splits to counties.  Next tribal lands were kept whole, irrespective of county lines. Next, the VRA districts proposed by the Hispanic Coalition were incorporated into the map, which was at the expense of county lines but not tribal lands.  Next further refinements were made to eliminate unnecessary splits of Pinal and Pima Counties.  Population adjustments were made to CD 1 at the expense of the Maricopa-Pinal County line in the Apache Junction area.   Then, we began the process of constructing urban districts considering compactness, minimizing splits, and communities of interest.   Competitiveness was assessed at each stage.

With the following changes, an attempt is made to place certain rural, farming areas in the far west valley that are currently in the western urban district (district 9 per Whole Counties version 6E) and from the western tip of the northern area of CD 3 into the rural CD 4 district.  To balance population in CD 3, territory is added that adjoins CD 7, making the lines more closely resemble the lines proposed by the Hispanic Coalition, although not exactly.  Google Earth was a great help.  Plus, given my recent travels back and forth to Yuma, I have made a point to drive through these areas by different routes.

Removing these tracts of rural, farming land will over populate CD 4.  This population can be given back by adding to the northern boundaries of each of the urban districts.  The northern boundary for these urban districts will now be defined by the city limits of Peoria, Phoenix, New River, and Scottsdale, thereby avoiding unnecessary splits of these municipalities.  In addition, please eliminate the split of Rio Verde and place the entire town in the urban district.  When adding the northern portion of Peoria, please do not cross the Yavapai County line.  This results in a split of Peoria, but avoids splitting the county.  Finally, to further balance population and to enhance compactness, please add the portion of Surprise and unincorporated land that is south Peoria down the U.S. 60.   It would be nice for compactness considerations to further round out this area by adding more territory to the south, but that area of Surprise is sparsely populated, and the census blocks are large and do not lend themselves to a neat north-south divide.

I see no way around not splitting Surprise, but the areas split off to the northwest are sparsely populated ranching land.  I might be able to make a further refinement that would keep Surprise whole, but it would be at the cost of compactness.  Buckeye and Glendale are split, but these splits are necessary to comply with the VRA.

The following is an explanation of the "carve out" adjustments.:

From the West Valley, urban district “9,” put the following into CD 4:

Area from Northern to West Peoria up to the El Mirage border.

Area from Northern to Waddell along the 303.  Back west to the current CD 4 line and then south to what was added above.

From 3 into 4:

Area from Northern and the 303 south to Camelback.

The part of Buckeye and unincorporated land that is west of Goodyear and north of McDowell.

From “9” into 3:

Area of Glendale east to Dysart Road.

From 4 into 3:

Extend CD three along Camelback to 195th Ave.

From 3 into 4:

Move the line of 4 west along Glendale Road to Litchfield Park Road, but do not include the parts of Goodyear and Litchfield Park that extend north of Glendale Road.

If the foregoing was not clear, the following is a description of the new borders:

The border between 3 and 4, beginning at the point where the line moves north from I 10 and intersects McDowell goes as follows:  along McDowell until it intersects 195th Ave.  North on 195th Ave. until it intersects West Camelback.  East along Camelback until it intersects the portion of the City of Goodyear that extends north of Camelback.  The line then jogs to not split Goodyear and Litchfield Park until it intersects Litchfield Road.  North on Litchfield Road until it intersects Glendale Avenue.  East on Glendale until it intersects 135th Avenue.  Jog south so as to not split Glendale, then return north to Glendale and continue to Dysart Road.  North on Dysart until it intersects Northern.  East on Northern until 99th Avenue.  South on 99th Avenue until you hit CD 7.

By my count, CD 3 is now balanced within 47 persons and the lines are closer to the Hispanic Coalition’s proposal.  If I have missed something, please balance as appropriate keeping VRA, compactness, and no splits in mind.   The other non-Maricopa County districts are also balance to less than 500 persons.

Return to the intersection of Dysart and Northern.  The following describes the line between CD 4 and part of the Western Valley district.  Proceed west, then northward, following the El Mirage border until you hit Peoria Ave.  Then proceed west on Peoria until the 303.  North on the 303 until Weddel.  West on Waddel until Beardsley Canal Road.  North on Beardsley Canal Road until you hit Bell.  Then continue north along that canal until you hit U.S. 60 (this is the old border).   Take US 60 northeast until Jomax.  Jomax east until 181st Ave.  (very hard for me to read streets).  Take this north and follow the Peoria city line, but do not cross into Yavapai County.  You then follow the northern boundary of Peoria, Phoenix, and New River for the northern boundary of the urban districts.