

## **2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting**

### **County of Los Angeles**

**May 5, 2011 Pathfinder Community Regional Park**

### **Fourth District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

##### **Self-introductions were made.**

- **Mr. Frank Cheng, Chief Executive Office (CEO), welcomed all in attendance which included members of the community, Boundary Review Committee Members, staff from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Executive Office.**
- **Chair Curt Pedersen, representing the Fourth District, welcomed all in attendance and encouraged input from community members on the redistricting process. Chair Pedersen noted that there have been some population shifts among the five districts according to the 2010 Census and to expect some changes to the Supervisorial boundaries.**
- **Commissioner Herb Hatanaka, representing the Fourth District, welcomed all in attendance and reiterated the importance of community input regarding the redistricting process. Commissioner Hatanaka also asked community members not to hesitate to speak up if they had a question or comment at any time during the community meeting.**
- **Commissioner Brian Mejia, representing the Fifth District, welcomed all in attendance and stated that although he represents the Fifth District, he assured the public that each Boundary Review Committee member is very interested in hearing input from community members.**

#### **2. Purpose of Meeting**

- **Every 10 years after the Census count, the Board of Supervisors oversees a redistricting process to assure as equal representation as possible for all residents within each supervisorial district. This meeting is to inform community members about the redistricting process, why it is important and how redistricting may affect their community.**
- **In addition to providing the community with information about the redistricting process, the Board-appointed Boundary Review Committee also wants to solicit input from the community.**

3. What is Redistricting and Why is it Important?

a. What are the Key Objectives?

**Mr. Cheng reported the following statistics:**

- **At the latest Census count, the County of Los Angeles has 9.8 million people, making it the most populous county in the United States.**
- **Its current Budget is \$23.3 Billion dollars.**
- **It has approximately 100,000 employees, making it the largest local employer.**
- **There are 88 incorporated Cities within the County of Los Angeles and between 120 and 140 individual unincorporated areas. Municipal services are by-in-large provided by each City, with the County providing certain regional services. However, within the unincorporated areas, the County is both the municipal government as well as its regional government. Well over half of the cities contract with the County for services that can be more conveniently provided by the County.**
- **The Board is also responsible for public policy and funding decisions that impact the lives of County residents, such as public hospitals and health care centers, law enforcement (Sheriff, District Attorney), restaurant inspections, social services (Children and Family Services), water quality, County roads, parks and libraries, and a host of major cultural resources.**
- **Every ten years, the United States attempts to count every person in the country through a process called the Decennial Census. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The latest Census was conducted on April 1, 2010, and provides a snapshot of how many people there are and where they live.**

**He discussed the “Total Population Comparison: 2000 to 2010” chart, indicating:**

- **The 2001 Benchmark Plan was based on the population count from the 2000 Census indicating the population of the 5 Districts based on the lines that were in affect before they redistricted. The total deviation among the 5 Districts was 6.45%, indicating how the Districts had grown out of balance over the decade.**
- **The Plan adopted in 2001 brought the deviation down to 1.40% by approving certain boundary adjustments.**
- **Under the 2011 Benchmark Plan (boundary lines from 2001, but using 2010 Census figures), there is a total deviation of 9.97%.**

- Once it is determined how many people there are and where they live in the County of Los Angeles, the County seeks to divide the population as evenly as possible into five supervisorial districts for the County of Los Angeles. Adjusting the boundaries is called “redistricting.”
- Mr. Cheng referenced the recent State propositions to create an independent Boundary Commission for California redistricting. The California redistricting process is for the State’s Congressional districts, Senate districts, Assembly districts, and the Board of Equalization districts.

b. What are the Legal Aspects of Redistricting?

**Ms. Nancy Takade, County Counsel reported the following:**

- “One Person, One Vote” under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution talks about the equality of representation which for our purposes means making everyone’s vote count. The proposed redistricting plans must comply with requirements of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution and with the mandate of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. That is the main message for redistricting not only from a legal level but from a policy level as well. These community meetings will be taking place across the County, in each Supervisorial District in an effort to reach out and inform residents about the redistricting process.
- In addition to federal law, there are other laws governing redistricting. There is also the California Election Code, which controls the timeline for the redistricting process. Finally, the County Charter, our local constitution, provides that the County of Los Angeles shall have a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members and five districts. Additionally, there are court decisions which interpret these laws. It should be noted that in order to change the number of districts, a vote by the people is required to change the number of supervisorial districts. Furthermore, a 2/3 vote by the Board of Supervisors is required to change the Supervisorial District lines.
- Achieving a perfect balance among the five districts may not be possible in reality due the numerous factors involved with redistricting, such as; geography, compactness, respect for political consideration and ethnic backgrounds, city lines, etc...
- At the end of the process there will be two public hearings to consider the recommendation of the Boundary Review Committee. This is another opportunity for the public to provide input.

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

**Mr. Cheng reported the following:**

- **Board of Supervisors established the Boundary Review Committee in November 2010 to solicit public input and recommend a redistricting plan to the Board. The Committee is made up of two members and two alternates nominated by each Supervisor.**
- **The 2011 redistricting timeline was provided in a handout given to the public.**

5. How Can You Get Involved?

**Mr. Cheng reported the following:**

- **The Public Access Plan is designed to promote public participation in the redistricting process and ensure the widest practicable participation and dissemination of pertinent redistricting information.**
- **Individuals and/or community groups are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process. Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes are updated on a regular basis on the redistricting website and publicized in media press releases and to those who wish to be added to the mailing list.**
- **Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings, the community outreach meetings, as well as the public hearings to be held by the Board of Supervisors. Information regarding meeting schedules is located on the County's Redistricting website: [www.redistricting.lacounty.gov](http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov).**

**The following dates are the scheduled Boundary Review Committee meetings.**

- **Wednesday, May 18, 2011**
  - **TBD**
- **Wednesday, June 1, 2011**
  - **Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00**
- **Meetings in June TBD based on need**
- **Wednesday, July 13, 2011**
  - **Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00**
- **Please note that the Boundary Review Committee may revise its scheduled meetings as needed. The updated Boundary Review**

**Committee meeting schedule can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: <http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov/>.**

- **All meetings are held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.**

Commissioner Pederson added that it was not required that a member of the public submit a full blown plan for all five supervisorial districts. The public can simply submit comments specific to their communities of interest or are of interest to them for their district.

- **The County of Los Angeles is providing free web-based redistricting software to allow the public to develop and submit redistricting plans for consideration by the Boundary Review Committee, or simply use the software to look up data. The software went live on April 22, 2011. The redistricting mapping application can be found at the County's Redistricting Website: [www.redistricting.lacounty.gov](http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov)**
- **The County arranged four webinar training sessions in April to train the public on how to use the redistricting mapping software to create and submit a redistricting plan. One webinar training session was recorded and a video is available for viewing on the County's redistricting website at [www.redistricting.lacounty.gov](http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov).**

**Please note: The last day to submit a proposed redistricting plan is Thursday June 2, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.**

## **6. Public Comment**

**Prior to the Public Comment portion, Commissioner Hatanaka provided attendees with a map of the Rowland Heights community provided by Supervisor Knabe's staff. Rowland Heights is an ethnically diverse community with about 49,000 residents. Rowland Heights is one of the communities that are split between the First District and Fourth District.**

**Chair Pedersen stated that there is a similar split in the Hacienda Heights community. Chair Pedersen also introduced Louisa Ollague, Boundary Review Committee member representing the First District.**

**Commissioner Ollague indicated that the small portion of Hacienda Heights that is in the First District had a population of 10 residents in 2000, but based on the 2010 Census, no one currently resides in that area. It's important to take into account the demographics and social-economic data of the residents, especially in areas that are shared.**

**During the review of the Rowland Heights map, members of the public posed questions to the Boundary Review Committee members.**

- **Member of the public:**

According to the handout that was provided, the Fourth District would need to gain approximately 40,000 individuals to balance the population. If the Fourth District picked up the portion of Rowland Heights that is represented by the First District, approximately 5,700 residents, the Fourth District would still need about 35,000 more individuals.

Chair Pedersen indicated that the Fourth District primarily borders the First and Second Districts. Any changes to the boundaries of the Fourth District will subsequently affect the boundaries of the First and Second Districts. In addition, Chair Pedersen stated that the Boundary Review Committee will try to keep communities of interest together, such as cities and communities. The exception is the City of Los Angeles, because it is so large.

Commissioner Ollague added that the Fifth District gained residents in the last ten years. The question for her is which Supervisorial District will pick up this increase in residents from the Fifth District?

Mr. Cheng reiterated that, while the objective is to balance the population as much as possible, there are difficulties with doing this given the number of factors that go into redistricting, and the deviation between the ideal population and the actual population does not have to be zero once the boundaries are adjusted.

- **Member of the Public:**

Is all of the City of Industry in the First District?

Commissioner Ollague stated that yes, the entire City of Industry is located within the First District and its population is less than 100 residents.

Mr. Cheng reminded members of the community that the 2010 Census population data for each city and unincorporated community by Supervisorial district is included in the handouts.

- **Member of the Public:**

What district is Walnut in and what is its current population?

Commissioner Ollague stated that Walnut is in the First District and its current population according to the US Census is approximately 29,172. Walnut became part of the First District during the 2001 redistricting process.

- **Member of the Public:**

**Is the US Census population data mentioned earlier available on the County's redistricting website?**

**Mr. Cheng confirmed that all of the information provided today is available on the County's redistricting website: [www.redistricting.lacounty.gov](http://www.redistricting.lacounty.gov).**

- **Member of the Public:**

**How does redistricting affect us financially?**

**Mr. Cheng indicated that the question is difficult to answer. Redistricting may or may not directly affect anyone financially; however it may affect how the County or the Supervisorial District delivers services to the community you reside in.**

**Commissioner Ollague asked members of the community if they recall a utility user tax measure a few years ago. The tax revenue generated from that measure is used in the unincorporated areas. The formula used to calculate how much money each community receives uses several factors which include population of the unincorporated area. For example, in the First District, which currently has a large number of unincorporated communities, receives approximately 27.9 percent of the utility tax revenue. The money may be used to enhance the communities in a variety of ways, such as for parks, libraries, and increased Sheriff patrols.**

**Chair Pedersen added that the Fourth District has a significant number of unincorporated areas as well, but if you look at the Third District, which is largely composed of the City of Los Angeles, it receives a much smaller amount of the utility tax revenue. Additionally, sales tax revenue must also be taken into account.**

- **Member of the Public:**

**It is disappointing to see only two communities meetings scheduled for the Fourth District and one of them has already occurred. It would have been nice to know about it in advance. Additionally, if more information about the redistricting process was made available, community members would have been better prepared to ask questions and submit ideas.**

**Mr. Cheng apologized if members of the public were not notified of the community meetings. However, a great emphasis was placed on informing the public through various mediums. Mr. Cheng also reminded community members that they can attend other community meetings or attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings as well.**

Chair Pedersen also reminded community members that comments, letters and any input you may have can be e-mailed or mailed to the Boundary Review Committee members. In addition, Supervisor Knabe's office went to great lengths to inform as many people as possible about these meetings.

Commissioner Hatanaka stated that the Boundary Review Committee members are interested in any kind of public input. The input will be shared and used with the members when they consider submitted redistricting plans.

- **Member of the Public:**

There are only about twenty community members here at this meeting and there are 9 million residents in Los Angeles County, how will the rest of the people be informed about this process?

Mr. Cheng stated that these community meetings are only one of the ways that people can voice their opinions, concerns and recommendations to the Boundary Review Committee.

Chair Pedersen also added that information about redistricting has been on Supervisor Knabe's website for quite some time. The Fourth District is a big district, and you are encouraged to visit Supervisor Knabe's website at [www.knabe.com](http://www.knabe.com).

- **Member of the Public:**

What about people who do not have computers?

Chair Pedersen stated that libraries offer internet service and are located available throughout the County.

Mr. Cheng added that between now and July, attendees should inform their friends, family members and neighbors about the redistricting process. All contact information is included in the handout provided; all were encouraged to submit their input.

- **Member of the Public:**

Is there a likelihood of picking up an entire city to balance the Fourth District?

Commissioner Ollague stated that there is likelihood of picking up an entire city. However, in her opinion, the issue is that the Fifth District must give up some of its population, however, which cities or communities will be redistricted has not yet been determined.



**Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.**

- **Mr. Gary Peterson, resident of Rowland Heights stated that the boundaries of the Fourth District stretch from the coast all the way inland and the interests of the residents on opposite sides of the district may differ greatly. In addition, the inland residents make up a larger portion of the Fourth District than the residents in Long Beach. Will Supervisor Knabe put one community's interests over another's? We should not be looking to change one or two cities; we need get rid of the current boundaries and start from scratch.**
- **Mr. David Malkin stated that the Fourth District needs to pick up approximately 40,000 individuals. Looking at Rowland Heights, Mr. Malkin indicated that he would take the little sliver of the First District and place it into the Fourth District.**
- **Ms. Teri Malkin stated that Walnut would be a good addition to the Fourth District because its population roughly matches what is needed to balance the Fourth District. However, since the First District would be losing residents, they would need to gain residents from the Fifth District. Additionally, Rowland Heights has a lot in common with Walnut. Ms. Malkin also noted that she would like to see the Rowland Heights area remain within the Fourth District.**
- **Ms. Lynne Ebenkamp stated that she would like Rowland Heights to remain intact within the Fourth District. In addition, Ms. Ebenkamp was initially unhappy about the level of public notice given regarding this meeting. However, after conducting a little research, she soon discovered that all of the Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Councils were aware of this meeting. It was also included in the newspaper and was on the Rowland Heights website.**
- **Mr. John Eckman stated that he is in favor of incorporating this section of Rowland Heights, Walnut and the eastern half of the City of Industry into the Fourth District. This would bring the Walnut Water District, which serves the eastern half of Rowland Heights, all of Diamond Bar, the City of Industry and all of Walnut into the Fourth District.**

**In response to Chair Pedersen's inquiry about changing the school district line, Mr. Eckman stated that the school district is very large and does not follow the Supervisorial boundaries.**

**In addition, Mr. Eckman stated if the Fourth District brings in Walnut, it may appear as gerrymandering. Also, he requested the Committee to consider moving Covina and West Covina into the First District.**

**Chair Pedersen, Commissioners, Hatanaka, Mejia and Ollague thanked the community members for attending and providing their input.**

**List of Attendees from the County**

**1<sup>st</sup> District – Commissioner Louisa Ollague**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Chair Curt Pedersen and Commissioner Herb Hatanaka**

**5<sup>th</sup> District – Commissioner Brian Mejia**

**Chief Executive Office – Frank Cheng and Rosie Fabian**

**County Counsel – Nancy Takade and Truc Moore**

**Executive Office – Narek Artonian, Martha Arana and Rhonda Rangel**