

2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting

County of Los Angeles

April 26, 2011 Whittier Community Resource Center

First and Fourth District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

- **Mr. Martin Zimmerman, Chief Executive Office (CEO), welcomed all in attendance which included members of the community, Boundary Review Members, staff from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Executive Office.**
- **Commissioner and Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, Curt Pedersen, representing the Fourth District, welcomed all in attendance, provided a brief overview of the “One Person, One Vote” objective of redistricting, and encouraged input from community members in the redistricting process.**
- **Commissioner Alma Martinez, representing the First District, welcomed all in attendance and encouraged community members to address the Committee on specific boundary issues they believe important for the County to consider to better serve their community.**
- **Commissioner Steve Reyes, representing the First District, thanked the community members in attendance and added the boundary review of the supervisorial districts is done once every 10 years and emphasized the importance of community member input.**

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. Zimmerman reported the following statistics:

- **At the latest Census count, the County of Los Angeles has 9.8 million people with 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 reported under the “Total Population Comparison: 2000 to 2010”

- **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%.**

Commissioner Martinez added the Census Bureau made a solid effort to include everyone in the Census, and had Census takers knocking on doors, to include those that did not want to get counted. She emphasized Federal funds provided are often based on the population. She further noted that it is important to try and equalize the population so there could be equal access to County funds.

A member of the public commented that the First District has a -3.60% population deviation. He was not sure if this was accurate, given his personal observation that there seems to be more people than there is space for in the First District.

b. What are the Legal Aspects of Redistricting?

Ms. Nancy Takade, County Counsel reported the legal aspects of redistricting.

- “One Person, One Vote” under the 14th 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.**

Benjamin Martinez, a member of the public, questioned the 2/3 agreement on changes for the State Boundary lines. Ms. Takade distinguished the State Redistricting Commission as separate from that of the County or local government. The State Redistricting Commission operates statewide for the State, for Congressional Districts, and for the State Board of Equalization. For the County however, it does require indeed require a 2/3 agreement by the Board of Supervisors to change the supervisorial district lines.

Mr. Zimmerman, referenced the handout report indicating the population of all the cities and unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles.

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

Mr. Zimmerman provided an overview of the redistricting process approved by the Board of Supervisors, including a Public Access Plan to ensure wide participation and dissemination of information materials and to solicit public input. The Public Access Plan includes the appointment of the Boundary Review Committee which will oversee the public input process and recommend a final Redistricting Plan to the Board of Supervisors based on public input and submittal of proposed redistricting plans. This Committee is made up of two members and two alternates from each District.

Another element of the Public Access Plan and outreach is the ever-growing Boundary Review Committee mailing list for notifications of their activities, meetings, deliberations, et Interested persons can provide their information to staff, email the Boundary Review Committee, or go directly to the website (<http://redistricting.lacounty.gov>) to be added to the list. Individual names are kept confidential.

Mr. Zimmerman highlighted key dates that the public should keep in mind.

- The Boundary Review Committee must submit a recommended Plan to the Board of Supervisors by July 31, 2011.**
- The Board of Supervisors must adopt a final Redistricting Plan before November 1, 2011.**

5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Zimmerman reported the following:

- Individuals and/or community groups are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process. Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes will be updated on a regular basis on the redistricting website and will be publicized in media press releases. You do not have to submit a plan in order to provide input.**

- Members of the public are encouraged to attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings as well as the Community Outreach meetings. Information regarding meeting schedules is located on the County's Redistricting website: www.redistricting.lacounty.gov. Public Hearings will also be held before the Board of Supervisors.
- 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. 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
- The County will be providing four webinar training sessions to train the public how to use the redistricting mapping software to create and submit a redistricting plan. The webinar sessions are scheduled for the following dates and times:
 - Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm
 - Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 7 pm to 9 pm
 - Thursday, April, 28, 2011, 9 am to 11 am
 - Saturday, April 30, 2011, 3 pm to 5 pm

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

Other important dates for Community input are as follows:

- Community Meetings
Check Community meeting Schedule
- BRC Meetings
May 4, 2011
May 18, 2011
June 1, 2011
Additional meetings in June TBD based on need
July 13, 2011
- Public Hearings Held by Board of Supervisors

Two Public hearings are anticipated in August 2011
Dates TBD

Before members of the public were asked to address the Committee, Commissioner Ollague referred to handouts available for members of the Community to use as reference:

- Map on Basic Demographics for the First and Fourth Districts
- Demographic Report by Race/Ethnicity Population

6. Public Comment

Commissioner Reyes announced each member of the community who wished to speak under public comment.

Carlos Alvarado – Community member of 25 years, requested the Supervisor assigned to District 1 to understand and address the needs of his community and the fact that they are Latino does not mean they should not be heard.

Victor Diaz – Lived in the area for 32 years, immigrant from Ensenada, Mexico, children have gone to the local schools and attend church at Our Lady of Perpetual Health in Los Nietos, would like his representation to hear from and speak to them, would like to keep the community together (Mayberry Park – 1st District) and to have more funds and programs for the children to keep them off the streets.

Cristina Alonzo – Lived in the area for 10 years, works at Food for Less, have children that attend California School and attend Santa Maria Church. She requested the community to stay united given her community has fought together to resolve many of the problems that have come up in the community. She would like the Committee to consider their Language when making its review. She has worked with members of community, writing letters, attending community meetings, and meeting with representatives of the office of Gloria Molina. She lives in the 1st District, her community is South Whittier, and she is happy with the way the District is now and would like it to stay that way.

John Guzman – Born and raised in Los Nietos and Chairman of the Los Nietos Batch Organization. He is very thankful for all the programs, services and developments within Los Nietos, and discussed the accomplishments of Supervisor Gloria Molina in the community. He requested that the community of Los Nietos remain the same.

Benjamin Martinez – He lives in Los Nietos, would like for his community to remain intact in the 1st district, he does not agree with the census count, would like to see the community of Sunshine Acres included in the 1st District. He also commented that he believes the City of Los Angeles is forcing people out of the city, and into his community.

Shirley Streeter – Resident of South Whittier for 46 years. She requests the boundary be kept safe and together. She does not want the school boundaries to change either. She lives on Hastings in South Whittier in the 1st District and request more services for seniors.

Rosalia Contreras – Resident of South Whittier for 41 years and Captain of the Neighborhood Watch for 15 years. She would like attention to the needs of the community including that of the children and seniors , and that language be considered as one aspect of the review, and that they have a supervisor who is watching and is a protector for the community.

Jorge Robles – Pastor of the United Methodist Church located in the 1st District. If there is to be a new representative for this District, he requests that they remain aware of the necessities and needs of the community. Many proposals of this nature have already been ironed-out before they come to the community; it is the nature of politics that the community does not find out about the decision until later. He urged the BRC to not make it's decision before considering them. He requests those doing this review, to get out of their offices and walk in our community so they can truly see the needs of our community and define true balance in distribution of funding for all communities.

Commissioner Reyes addressed the community, noting that they may attend any and all upcoming community meetings and BRC meetings to share more of their comments.

Commissioner Sean Andrade responded to the comments made by Mr. Robles, stating this meeting and all community meetings are held to inform the community about what “redistricting” is, the process, and to solicit comments and input from the communities. He stressed that the Boundary Review Committee has in no way made any kind of decision yet.

Denise Estrada – Lives in Shoemaker (1st District), speaking on behalf of the South Whittier community. As a case worker for SPA 3 and 7, she requests the Boundary Review Committee look at culture and language when doing their review and look at the County funds provided for this area so that there are adequate resources and funds to keep the programs running. She wants to keep the district as is and their community together.

Rene Garcia – Lived in the First District and requests the committee look at having one supervisorial district represent the community instead of splitting it in two to give the community more of a unified voice. She does not want to have South Whittier split into two districts.

Chair Pedersen, informed persons that they can call (213) 974-1431 if there are additional questions, visit the redistricting website or send written correspondence to staff.

List of Attendees from the County

1st District – Commissioner Steve Reyes, Commissioner Alma Martinez, Commissioner Louisa Ollague, Commissioner Sean Andrade, Deputy Angie Castro, Deputy Raul Alvarez

4th District – Commissioner Curt Pedersen

5th District – Commissioner Brian Mejia

Chief Executive Office – Martin Zimmerman, Frank Cheng, Geraldo Ramirez, Rosie Fabian

County Counsel – Nancy Takade, Truc Moore

Executive Office – Martha Arana, Emma De Jesus, Narek Artonian

Community and Senior Services – Rosendo Garcia