

**2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting**  
**County of Los Angeles**  
**May 12, 2011 Hawthorne Memorial Center**  
**Second District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Gerardo Ramirez, 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, Board Offices and the Executive Office. He encouraged input from community members on the redistricting process.

**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. Ramirez 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 the 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. Ramirez 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. Ramirez reported the following:**

- **The 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 and approved by the full Board.**
- **A Public Access Plan was established to ensure wide participation by the public for this process.**
- **The 2011 redistricting timeline was provided in a handout.**

## 5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Ramirez reported the following:

- The Board of Supervisors approved a Public Access Plan 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
  - Location 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
- Mr. Ramirez noted 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.
- 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](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).

## 6. Public Comment

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

- Joe Turner stated that he believed the boundaries should stay as they are and questioned why this meeting was taking place with only a handful of people present. He added that the five Supervisors would ultimately have the final decision on any Redistricting Plan.
- Jean Boatright, resident of Compton, stated she has read about the redistricting process and would like to know how it affects the receipt of funding in the City of Compton. She questioned how the decrease of population in the District would affect the funding in her area.

Commissioner Vincent Harris and a Second District Deputy, responded by stating that in many cases governmental entities allocate money based on formula derived from population figures, independent of Supervisorial boundaries. Mr. Harris stated that redistricting is the process whereby the elective districts' boundaries are redrawn to equalize population among the districts. Each voter is assigned to a specific district and then has the opportunity to elect a Supervisor to represent the area in Sacramento and Washington D.C. to advocate for funding. Mr. Harris added that funding for a community is two-fold: one is based on funding formulas based on population within a municipality, and the second is based on holding your elected officials accountable for securing additional funding.

- Sandra Mendoza, resident of Pico-Union, stated her community would like to see Pico-Union reflected as a "community" on the data sheet and is concerned in having a say in which district they end up in.

Commissioner Ollague and Commissioner Harris recommended Ms. Mendoza and her community specify the Pico-Union boundaries and indicate which district they would like to be in. Ms. Mendoza stated the community would be happy to submit those plans.

- **Pauline Tatum stated she didn't know for many years she was in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Ms. Tatum is concerned with the influx of people coming into the community and the building of apartment houses. She wanted to know what it meant to be unincorporated. Ms. Tatum lives on 120<sup>th</sup> Street near Watts and Compton and wanted to know how redistricting impacts her. She said she votes for Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, but when she needs services she is told she needs to contact the County because she lives in an unincorporated area.**

**Commissioner Harris asked Ms. Harris to personally let him know if anyone from the Second District Office was incorrectly telling her that she did not live in the unincorporated area. Mr. Harris informed her that even if she did live in the City of Los Angeles that her municipal services would not be impacted by redistricting. This process only impacts County representation and she would be represented by one of the Supervisors. Commissioner Harris added that the Second District is comprised of 60% of City of Los Angeles, with the rest consisting of cities like Hawthorne and unincorporated areas. For unincorporated areas, the County provides municipal services. Mr. Harris emphasized that the purpose of redistricting is to equalize supervisorial representation and not change municipal services.**

- **Seneta Fraley, resident of Rancho Dominguez, stated that the data presented during the presentation indicated that the Second District population had increased and was concerned that the Second District would be losing some area.**

**Mr. Ramirez informed her that the Second District increase discussed in the presentation was in comparison to ten years ago, and that the Second District's population deviation was not greatly over the ideal population.**

- **Pauline Tatum stated she was concerned with Florence–Firestone and the two Supervisors that represent these districts. Ms. Tatum indicated she is at the end of the Second District and supports remaining in the Second District.**
- **Inez Simmons stated she lives in Florence–Firestone and is in favor of remaining in Mark Ridley-Thomas' District because she believes in diversity. Ms. Simmons stated that she has stood up for diversity since she was 16 years old and feels comfortable with Mark Ridley-Thomas because his staff reflects diversity unlike Supervisor Molina's**

staff. Ms. Simmons stated that Supervisor Molina's staff consists of only Hispanic, Asian and white and would like to have a Supervisor who would hire someone like her. She would like Mark Ridley-Thomas to retain what he has and for Supervisor Molina to keep what she has.

- Mayor Guidi, City of Hawthorne, stated that new streets and two new Costco stores were a result of the work of local elected officials and that the County has no control over how the City is developed. He added that all cities have fiscal problems and asked that it not be an issue. Mayor Guidi stated that Hawthorne is better now than it used to be 20 years ago and that is due to the City Council.
- Mayor Pro Tem Vargas, City of Hawthorne, said he has received resident feedback that they are desirous to be in the same district as beaches communities, such as the South bay cities and the Peninsula.

Commissioner Reyes asked if the City had an official position on this matter, and Mayor responded that the City did not. He said that Mr. Vargas and him were here as individuals, and not speaking collectively for the City.

- Lani Emmich, resident of Hawthorne, pointed out that on a handout indicating population changes by district, the City of Hawthorne is shown as sharing a portion with the Fourth District.

Mr. Ramirez confirmed that a small portion of Hawthorne does fall into the Fourth District, but stated that the Census shows no population in that area.

#### **List of Attendees from the County**

**1<sup>st</sup> District – Commissioners Louisa Ollague and Steve Reyes**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Commissioners Jesus Escandon and Vincent Harris**

**Chief Executive Office – Gerardo Ramirez and Rosie Fabian**

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

**Executive Office – Lupe Duron, Nyla Jefferson and Twila P. Kerr**