

2011 Decennial Supervisorial Redistricting
County of Los Angeles
May 17, 2011 Castaic Sport Complex
Fifth District Community Outreach Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Martin Zimmerman, Chief Executive Office (CEO), welcomed all in attendance and introduced Boundary Review Committee Members, staff from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Executive Office.**

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, 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.

Mr. Zimmerman 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.”
- He 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?

Truc Moore, County Counsel reported the following:

- “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.**

4. How Will the Process Unfold?

Mr. Zimmerman 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.**
- **The 2011 redistricting timeline was provided in a handout given to the public.**

5. How Can You Get Involved?

Mr. Zimmerman 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.

The following dates are the scheduled Boundary Review Committee meetings.

- Wednesday, May 18, 2011
 - Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381B, 3:00 to 6:00
- 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. Zimmerman 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
- 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.

Please note: The last day to submit a proposed redistricting plan is Thursday June 2, 2011 at 11:59 p.m. All public input will be considered through June and at the hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

6. Public Comment

During the presentation, members of the public posed questions.

- Member of the public

How do you expect all sectors of the Community to respond and submit plans by June 2nd if you have not given everyone the same amount of time to respond?

Mr. Zimmerman stated that these meetings have been going on for some time and the plan submission deadline has been consistently referenced; he noted that this meeting was held towards the end and closer to the due date. He added that the deadline applies equally to all members of the public.

- Member of the public

Why was this meeting not held in a centrally located area where other communities would be more eager to join in? For example: Newhall or Santa Clarita, whose residents may want to submit suggestions or plans before the June 2nd due date?

Commissioner Ollague informed members of the public that Commissioner Reyes would be submitting a motion requesting the deadline be extended based on constituents requests.

- Member of the public

I requested information regarding this topic and it took quite some time to receive it and I'm concerned that the community meetings for the Fifth District began in Covina, where not everyone will be able to drive to. It's hard to believe that there have been no community meetings held in Santa Clarita, the fastest growing city.

- Member of the public

Is it because Santa Clarita is not part of the County?

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that, although the County cannot conduct meetings in every City and unincorporated area in the County given the enormous size of the County, we have tried our best to select areas that are as centrally located as possible. The City of Santa Clarita is an incorporated city within the County and is reasonably adjacent to the Castaic community.

Commissioner Mejia thanked the public for their input and stated that the information provided by the public enables the County to do a better job; he urged attendees to help the County in reaching out to the various communities on the importance of this effort.

- **Member of the public**

Can you contact us directly next time? You are more likely to get a better turnout at the Castaic Chamber of Commerce Meeting than you would at a meeting here in Castaic. Residents of Castaic are more likely to attend a meeting in Stevenson Rancho or Newhall than for other residents to come to Castaic.

- **Member of the public**

You not only have City Hall but there are other modern facilities like the city college that would have been appropriate for the occasion. If we had known about this with advance notice we would have been better prepared to and I'm concerned that we are not being well represented.

Angie Johnson, Chief of Commission Services suggested visiting the website that contains all of the information regarding the Committee and its meetings.

- **Member of the public**

I am personally interested in redistricting and was surprised walking in to find that we were the only ones here. We can provide this information to others and inform them of your deadlines to submit plans and recommendations.

- **Member of the public**

Do you see the Santa Clarita Valley remaining in the Fifth District?

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he could not predict the outcome or comment specifically, and noted that, while the City has historically been in one district, someone could submit a plan to propose a change. Generally, there is a priority placed on keeping communities of interest together. The County needs residents to tell us what district they identify with and where they would like to remain or move to.

- **Member of the public**

From your presentation and based on the numbers given, are you saying that you will be taking some of this population away?

Mr. Zimmerman stated that it is possible that proposed plans will downsize the Fifth District and these plans may move some cities or communities from the Fifth District to other districts to equalize populations.

- **Member of the public**

I would like to remain with Supervisor Antonovich.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that this was the kind of public input that was needed. He also added that there are many other areas in the 5th District; for example, the San Gabriel Valley, that is close to other districts.

Commissioner Ollague stated that ten years ago the First District needed to increase their population and the City of Walnut was moved to the First District from the Fifth District.

- **Member of the public**

So when you talk about moving cities and if race or religions have nothing to do with it, how do you come up with the district numbers?

Mr. Zimmerman stated that Ms. Moore didn't suggest that race or religion or language don't come into play in redistricting. Those can often be described as communities of interest but race cannot be the primary controlling factor.

Ms. Moore reiterated that race cannot be the sole factor in redistricting.

- **Member of the public**

Although it may not be what Antonovich wants to see, it would require a charter amendment to add a sixth district according to what's been said.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he never mentioned the creation of a sixth district, he said someone may submit a plan to split a city within two districts however the plans submitted can only be divided among the five districts.

- **Member of the public**

To keep a district contiguous, how would you do that unless you get to the bottom of the city, we are more likely than not to be split.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the public's perspective is the type of input that the Board of Supervisors and the BRC need to hear. They need to know if the community identifies with its neighbors and its current representation and if they want the lines to stay the same and do not want them change if that is what they prefer.

- **Member of the public**

I understand how frustrating this process is for everyone and I know that if more people knew about this process you would get more input. For example Palmdale and Lancaster are constantly bickering and it's important to include everyone's input and I thank you for today.

Commissioner Ollague thanked the public for their comments and stated that Mr. Zimmerman and CEO staff have done a tremendous job with the task of community outreach and getting residents excited about redistricting.

- **Member of the public**

We also attend the Canyon Country Advisory Committee and we discuss water quality, freeways and streets and engage in great discussions and they are a very assertive group and would be interested in this topic. We also attend meetings in Stevenson Ranch and I'm surprised they are not here. We are pleased that we are hearing this and will be able to share this information with others.

Mr. Zimmerman thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the next BRC Meeting will take place tomorrow, May 18, 2011 and in June meetings will take place on a more frequent basis to start deliberating on plans that have been submitted. By July 13th, the BRC is targeted to have a plan to recommend to the Board of Supervisors. Meetings are held in Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown, which is centrally located for all County residents.

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

Mr. Zimmerman asked members of the public if they had any additional comments. No additional comments were given by members of the public.

List of Attendees from the County

1st District – Commissioner Louisa Ollague

5th District – Commissioner Brian Mejia

Chief Executive Office – Martin Zimmerman and Gerardo Ramirez

County Counsel – Truc Moore

Executive Office – Lupe Duron, Emma de Jesus, Angie Johnson

Members of the Public – Minerva Hoover, Todd Hoover and Jim Soliz