
REDISTRICTING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 10, 2011
2 p.m.

County Executive Office
4080 Lemon Street, 4th Floor
Conference Room C

Members Present:

Larry Ward
Jay Orr
Michelle DeArmond
John Field
Robin Hastings
Verne Lauritzen
Dave Stahovich

Chair, Assessor-Clerk Recorder
Co-Chair, Executive Office
4th District
2nd District
5th District
3rd District
1st District

Staff and Guests Present:

Jeremy Clark
Dave Downey
Tina Grande
Grace Guerriero
Nathan Guerriero
David Huff
George Johnson
JiHong McDermott
Tom Mullen II
Cindie Perry
Tori Richardson
Donna Katchadoorian

TLMA
The Californian
Executive Office
Resident
Resident
County Counsel
TLMA
TLMA
TLMA
City of Riverside
Registrar of Voters
Executive Office

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Redistricting Steering Committee Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. The roll call was conducted by Donna Katchadoorian.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE "SPECIAL" MEETING ON APRIL 18, 2011:

MOTION: Robin Hastings moved to approve the April 18, 2011 minutes as stated.

Seconded by: John Field

Motion approved unanimously

3. PUBLIC FORUM UPDATE:

Chairman Larry Ward discussed the three recent public forums. The public was given an opportunity to see the maps, ask questions, and meet one-on-one with the committee members. Larry thanked the committee members and staff who attended each forum. He also thanked EDA for their technical expertise and for the refreshments.

Chairman Larry Ward mentioned attending the California Citizens Redistricting Commission with Supervisor Buster last Thursday at the Norco City Hall. The Commission was created by California voters to draw state Congressional, Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization Districts. Next month their first redistricting map will be released. The final lines will be drawn by August 15.

Michelle DeArmond added that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission will be meeting next Thursday in Palm Springs at 6 p.m., at the Palm Springs City Hall. Supervisor Benoit will be attending this meeting.

4. ACTIVITY: MAPPING OF DISTRICT ALTERNATIVES:

Chairman Larry Ward noted there are undecided areas that need to be addressed. Larry asked for the committee to express their ideas and/or comments.

A couple of maps were displayed on the table for the committee to voice their comments.

John Field mentioned his meeting with Tom Mullen. John indicated that he has not met with Dave Stahovich. John suggested that Highgrove be moved into the 2nd District, which consists of portions of the City of Riverside, on the east side of the 91 Freeway, from Arlington north to Highgrove. A portion of Box Springs Mountain would remain in the 5th District. Highgrove would no longer be included in the 5th District. John agreed to meet with Dave Stahovich to review the changes.

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Jay Orr asked Tom Mullen if the two maps were available for the committee members to review? Jay noted the importance of keeping the committee on track.

Tom Mullen advised Jay and the committee that he did not have the maps loaded into the system. Tom asked his staff to load the electronic file into the system.

Tom Mullen mentioned that if Homeland is included in the 5th District, the population in the 5th District would go to 451,000. If Homeland is included in the 3rd District, the population in the 5th District would then be 439,000.

Michelle DeArmond explained that they worked hard trying to keep all the cities whole. She suggested the small area of Temecula west of I-15 in question should go into the 3rd District.

Jay Orr requested that TLMA redraw the map to add the small area of Temecula in the 3rd District, and include the 57 people in the 3rd District. Jay also noted that Canyon Lake should be included in the 1st District.

Dave Stahovich joined the meeting.

Jay Orr summarized for Dave that a portion of Temecula and an unincorporated area of Temecula were moved into the 3rd District. The committee felt that Temecula, as a city, should be included in the same district. In addition, Canyon Lake would be included in District 1, and Homeland should be included in District 3.

Dave Stahovich expressed concern whether this would preclude them from ever doing future annexations.

Verne Lauritzen stated that it doesn't preclude them from any future annexations. However, it would take the present boundaries and spheres, and would put them in the same supervisorial district.

Dave Stahovich pointed out that he would not support that.

Chairman Larry Ward emphasized that the purpose of this committee is to put together a map that balances the One Person One Vote Rule; and, which balances as equally as possible the population.

David Huff explained the statutory law, which is the elections code. Basically, the Board shall adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so the districts will be nearly equal in population. David noted that the local districts, at the county level, is where the U.S. Supreme Court established the under 10 percent maximum deviation limitation. Thus, 9.9 percent is the upper maximum that is used in terms of district deviation.

Dave Stahovich stated that there was no problem coming within the self-imposed range. Dave provided the committee with a copy of his map. If the issue is the 57 people then there is no problem. If there are 10 or 15 other changes, then cumulative there is a

problem. Based on the comments at each of the public hearings, the Eastside, Casa Blanca and Arlanza communities should stay in the same district. All are currently in the 1st District. Canyon Lake liked being in the 3rd District, because they are closely associated with issues in Lake Elsinore. According to the comments, the 1st District would pick up Canyon Lake, Meadowbrook and Good Hope. Dave mentioned areas west of the City of Perris and the 215 Freeway, pieces of University City and the unincorporated area between the City of Moreno Valley and Riverside. This would straighten out a connection from the existing boundary of the 2nd District in Highgrove. This would straighten out an original area that was in dispute in the 2nd District. He further stated that this would also straighten out Arlington Avenue to the Norte Vista area. With this scenario, the 1st District population would be 432,596 or 1.2 percent from the target. The 2nd District would come in at 429,896 or 1.8 percent from the target. The 1st District would then include Canyon Lake.

Dave Stahovich further pointed out keeping Victoria Woods and the Eastside in the same area. Testimony from the public requested keeping the two together for purposes of an ethnic balance in the Casa Blanca and Arlanza areas. These two groups are currently in the 1st District. With these changes, the total changes are one-quarter of the district. It makes sense to follow the freeway down to the existing boundaries.

John Field provided the committee with an additional map. The main difference between John's map and Dave's map is the shift within the City of Riverside. It takes into account property that has historically been in the Tavaglione family for many years. It also covers Chicago Avenue and a small piece of the University of California to Highgrove. The numbers would shift to 441,771 or 9/10 of one percent, which is less than one percent off target.

Robin Hastings pointed out that there appears to be some questions on the large map. The areas that have commonality should be added to the map and then the committee could discuss the areas that have variances.

Dave Stahovich indicated that this is why Meadowbrook and the Good Hope areas are included in the 5th District. Dave noted that he was trying to balance out the comments that he heard at all the hearings. Dave expressed concern that the 1st District would end up with more of the unincorporated areas. Dave mentioned the growth potential in the Highgrove area. The city limits are somewhat fixed. If the development is all in the cities, then the county has a limited role in city services, such as fire, sheriff, and the county hospital. Dave was trying to use the freeways and existing boundaries to follow all the city limits and still provide a small amount of unincorporated areas and growth potential at the northeast corner.

Tina Grande suggested that Tom Mullen prepare a revised map and she will distribute the map to the committee before the next meeting.

Robin Hastings suggested using different colors for each district.

Tom Mullen clarified for the committee that he would provide at the next meeting a single map overlay of the 1st and 2nd Districts with various colors.

Tina Grande emphasized that May 26 should be the last day to submit public comments.

Chairman Larry Ward pointed out that two additional meetings have been scheduled for May 17 and May 26. On June 1, the maps and all the data should be completed and ready to go to the Board of Supervisors on June 14.

Chairman Larry Ward reminded the committee that the goal is to lay out the issues and come back next week with solutions to those issues.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed at this time.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Nathan Guerriero, a resident, thanked the committee for their hard work. He questioned when the county would be working on the general plan?

George Johnson mentioned that they are currently working on the general plan and would send him an invitation to the next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

A "Special" Redistricting Steering Committee Meeting is set for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 2 p.m., in the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, 4th Floor, Executive Office, Conference Room C. With no further discussion, the Redistricting Steering Committee Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.