



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

## CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### Summary of Proceedings 2020 Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Date: **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**  
Time: **6:30 PM – 8:35 PM**  
Place: **Remote Virtual Participation Only**

Recordings of the Commission Meetings, Agendas, Supplemental Materials and Minutes of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission are available on the internet at:  
[www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc)

#### BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

#### 1. Commission Convened

##### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Bray, Hudley, McClintock, Morris, Ochoa, Olmedo, Rios, Trosky, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: None

#### 2. Public Comment

The Public Comment period is reserved for comments on items not on the Agenda and for matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission may adopt reasonable regulations, including time limits, on public comments. The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the public comment section, except to decide whether to place a matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

LINDSEY BAKER, SANTA BARBARA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, HEARD REGARDING FAIRNESS, IMPARTIALITY, UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES, HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS BEFORE CENSUS DATA RELEASE, SUGGESTED USE OF ONLINE MAPPING TOOLS, AND OFFERED THE LEAGUE'S COOPERATION IN PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.

LEE HELLER, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF MS. BAKER'S COMMENTS, COMMENTED ON MELINDA BURNS' ARTICLE ABOUT PARTISAN WRANGLING, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE HARD WORK AHEAD FOR THE COMMISSIONERS.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

DENNIS PAWLOWSKI, WROTE REGARDING DESALINATED WATER (FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS).

COPY OF MARK MEUSER LETTER REGARDING COLAB DEMAND LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, CLAIMING HIRING STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER VIOLATES THE ORDINANCE.

VIJAYA JAMMALAMADAKA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SANTA BARBARA PRESIDENT, WROTE REQUESTING ALL REQUIRED HEARINGS BE HELD AFTER CENSUS DATA IS RELEASED AND ENHANCED OUTREACH (3/2/2021).

VIJAYA JAMMALAMADAKA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SANTA BARBARA PRESIDENT, WROTE NOT TO DELAY OUTREACH BECAUSE THE CENSUS DATA IS DELAYED (3/3/2021).

SUSAN MOORE, WROTE SUPPORTING VIJAYA JAMMALAMADAKA'S EMAIL OF 3/3/2021.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2021.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED: 11 AYES

4. Disclosure of ex parte communications.

NO COMMUNICATIONS TO REPORT.

5. Training Topic #1: What is redistricting?

DR. JOHNSON GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REDISTRICTING, PRESENTED INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAPPORTIONMENT, AND REDISTRICTING, AND THE LEVELS OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT REDISTRICT.

KATHAY FENG, COMMON CAUSE NATIONAL REDISTRICTING DIRECTOR, PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY AND CHALLENGES OF REDISTRICTING. SHE MENTIONED THE COMMISSION SHOULD EXPECT LARGE PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE, RECOMMENDED MAKING PARTICIPATION ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, PROMOTING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COMMENTS, CREATING A TRANSPARENT AND INCLUSIVE PROCESS, AND ALLOW TIME FOR PUBLIC INTERACTION AND COMMENTS ON DRAFT MAPS. BEFORE THE CENSUS DATA IS RELEASED, SHE SUGGESTED THE COMMISSION START TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO ENCOURAGE COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITIES OF INTERESTS, MAP VISUALIZATION, AND BEGIN ANALYSIS ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR VOTING RIGHTS ACT COMPLIANCE. THERE WILL BE ABOUT 1½ MONTHS FROM THE STATE ADJUSTED DATA RELEASE AND VOTE ON THE FINAL MAPS.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO INQUIRED ABOUT BEST PRACTICES FOR REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST. MS. FENG HAS MATERIALS AND WILL SHARE THE LINK, SUGGESTED COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND USING FREE MAPPING SOFTWARE.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY ASKED HOW TO FIND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES. MS. FENG SUGGESTED TO START WITH COMMUNITIES NOT OFTEN AT THE TABLE, ASK THOSE LEADERS TO HOST AN EDUCATION WORKSHOP, AND COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION THAT CAN BE USED IN FUTURE HEARINGS. REACH OUT TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT DID OUTREACH AROUND THE CENSUS, AND UTILIZE HIGH SCHOOL AND LOCAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AS A RESOURCE.

COMMISSIONER RIOS ASKED ABOUT OUTREACH STRATEGIES DURING COVID. MS. FENG COMMENTED HER ORGANIZATION DEVELOPED A CURRICULUM ON HOW TO EDUCATE/STIMULATE CONVERSATION USING ZOOM AND CAN SHARE THIS WITH THE COMMISSION. SHE ALSO RECOMMENDED REACHING OUT TO COLLEGE TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS WHO MAY HAVE MORE TECH SAVVY AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS.

CHAIR MORRIS ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEM 5 AND 6 WILL BE HEARD AFTER ITEM 6.

6. Training Topic #2: The roles of commissioners, staff, and the public.

MRS. TILTON PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONERS, STAFF, AND THE PUBLIC, ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION. SHE COMMENTED ABOUT COMMON CAUSE AND MENTIONED THE COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY FOLLOWING SEVERAL OF THEIR GUIDELINES. THE COMMISSION IS:

- OFFERING 14 PUBLIC HEARINGS (THE LEGAL MINIMUM IS 5)
- OFFERING HEARINGS ON DIVERSE DAYS/TIMES
- CREATING STAND ALONE REDISTRICTING HEARINGS
- PROVIDING LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF HEARINGS, AND POSTING ON A DEDICATED WEB PAGE
- INTENT ON HOLDING NUMEROUS WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, AND OFFER TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO RESIDENTS

MRS. TILTON PRESENTED INFORMATION ABOUT PARTICIPATION, PROCESS IMPACT, DEFINING NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST, COMMUNITY RELEVANCE, DRAWING MAPS AND SHARING OPINIONS, AND TALKING TO NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

MRS. TILTON INTRODUCED ANGELO ANCHETA AND STEVE LYNN.

MR. ANCHETA COMMENTED ABOUT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST, THE PROCESS, AND MANAGING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND PRIORITIES.

MR. LYNN COMMENTED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE COMMISSIONERS WILL SPEND TOGETHER THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. HE RECOMMENDED COMMISSIONERS REFRAIN FROM DRAWING MAPS, AS THERE WILL BE TREMENDOUS INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC, AND COMMENTED ABOUT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST. HE MENTIONED ALTHOUGH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR MAP APPROVAL IS A 7 – 4 VOTE, THE COMMISSIONERS SHOULD TRY TO GET AS CLOSE TO AN 11 – 0 VOTE, AS POSSIBLE.

VICE CHAIR TURLEY ASKED WHAT WERE SOME OF THE UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES AND WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME. MR. ANCHETA STATED A LOT OF DATA WAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED, AND THEY DIDN'T ALLOCATE THEIR TIME PROPERLY. THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT ANALYSIS WASN'T COMPLETED, AND THEY RUSHED THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION INFORMATION, RESULTING IN A "NOT SO GOOD" DRAFT MAP. HE STATED THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE INFORMATION IN VARIOUS FORMS (HAND DRAWN, COMPUTER GENERATED, ETC.), AND RECOMMENDED MAPPING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST. MR. LYNN COMMENTED THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THE COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST CONCEPT, BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DISTINCT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST WITHIN THE COUNTY, AND BE COGNIZANT OF WHERE THINGS SHOULD GO AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE SEPARATED.

COMMISSIONER TROSKY COMMENTED ABOUT DEADLINES THAT STRADDLE SEVERAL HOLIDAYS, AND ASKED ABOUT DRAWING LINES, AND HOW TO ESTABLISH THE LINES. MR. LYNN COMMENTED THE COMMISSION CAN DIRECT THE CONSULTANT TO DRAW A MAP TO MEET A SPECIFIC CRITERIA. DR. JOHNSON MENTIONED THERE ARE SEVERAL MAPPING TOOLS AVAILABLE, AND THE RESIDENTS WILL ALSO USE THE MAPPING TOOLS AND PROVIDE INPUT. MR. ANCHETA COMMENTED ABOUT OUTREACH STRATEGY, AND GETTING NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INFORMATION BEFORE THE CENSUS DATA RELEASE.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY COMMENTED ABOUT DEFINING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST, ENFORCING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, AND ENSURING MINORITIES ARE

NOT MARGINALIZED, DIVIDED OR DISEMPOWERED. HE ASKED ABOUT DEFINING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST, AND IF THERE IS ANY THREAT OR DANGER OF EXCLUDING INTERESTS OF OTHER GROUPS OR DISTRICTS. MR. LYNN STATED THERE ARE TWO (2) WAYS TO PURPOSELY DEAL WITH MINORITIES IN A NEGATIVE WAY: 1) CRACKING (TAKE A HEAVILY MINORITY DISTRICT, AND DIVIDE IT IN A WAY THAT THE IMPACT IS NOT INFLUENTIAL); AND 2) PACKING (TAKE A MINORITY COMMUNITY OF INTEREST, AND CONCENTRATE IT ONLY IN ONE DISTRICT WITH NO INFLUENCE OF MINORITY VOTING), AND BOTH ARE UNACCEPTABLE. MR. LYNN COMMENTED ABOUT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT ENFORCEMENT, AND THE CHALLENGES. MS. FENG COMMENTED ABOUT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND DIFFERENT VERSIONS THAT MAY EMERGE, AND TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS TOGETHER. MR. ANCHETA CAUTIONED THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE NEGATIVE.

MR. LYNN GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF SEPARATING TWO GROUP, AND CONFIRMED THAT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION IS A PART OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

REBECA GARCIA, POLICY ADVOCATE, CENTRAL COAST ALLIANCE UNITED FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY (CAUSE), HEARD REGARDING COLLABORATING AND WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION.

DR. JOHNSON PRESENTED A MAP OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST.

7. Presentation and discussion regarding the online form for suggesting community organizations the commission should attempt to engage in the redistricting process.

DR. JOHNSON PRESENTED THE ONLINE FORM FOR SUGGESTING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND MENTIONED NDC IS WORKING WITH THE COUNTY ON THE OUTREACH LIST.

COMMISSIONER TROSKY ASKED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO VIEW THE LIST. DR. JOHNSON STATED THEY ARE WORKING ON MAKING THE LIST EASIER TO ACCESS.

VICE CHAIR TURLEY ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE LARGER CALIFORNIA STATE REDISTRICTING LINES WILL AFFECT THE COUNTY'S REDISTRICTING LINES. DR. JOHNSON STATED THAT IT WON'T DIRECTLY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE STATES DEADLINE IS TWO MONTHS AFTER THE COUNTY'S.

COMMISSIONER OCHOA, COMMENTED THE FORM WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THE FORM WOULD POPULATE BEHIND THE SCENE, SO EDITING OTHERS ENTRIES IS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT MAKE IT VIEWABLE. NDC WILL WORK ON THE CHANGES.

8. Presentation and discussion regarding the online form for reporting ex-parte communications.

DR. JOHNSON PRESENTED THE FORM THAT WILL BE EMAILED TO COMMISSIONERS. THE GOOGLE SHEET HAS TABS THAT CONTAIN FIELDS, DATE, TIME, FORMAT, INDIVIDUAL GROUP/PUBLIC EVENT, OUTSIDE PARTY, DESCRIPTION, AND IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEW.

CHAIR MORRIS ASKED ABOUT THE REPORTING THRESHOLD. MR. CHURCHWELL STATED THERE IS NO STATE LAW REQUIREMENT. THE ORDINANCE STATES "AT EACH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, EACH COMMISSION MEMBER SHALL CLEARLY DISCLOSE THE SOURCES AND SUMMARIES OF ANY EX PARTE COMMUNICATION THEY HAVE HAD CONCERNING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, AND PRESENTED INFORMATION FROM THE SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES (2015). CHAIR MORRIS COMMENTED ABOUT PROCEDURAL AND AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE. MR. CHURCHWELL URGED THE COMMISSIONERS TO USE GOOD JUDGEMENT. DR. JOHNSON STATED THAT COMMISSIONERS DON'T HAVE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION DISCUSSED WITH STAFF OR LEGAL COUNSEL.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.

COMMISSIONER BRAY ASKED IF IS ANYONE GOING TO REPRESENT THE COMMISSION AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ON TUESDAY FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT AGENDA ITEM. CHAIR MORRIS STATED HE WILL BE THERE FOR QUESTIONS, AND COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE AVAILABLE ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. THE MEETING IS TUESDAY, MARCH 9 AT 9 AM. MS. ANDERSON WILL TRY TO GET A SPECIFIC TIME THE ITEM WILL BE HEARD, AND ONCE CONFIRMED, THE INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO COMMISSIONERS.

CHAIR MORRIS INQUIRED ABOUT OUTREACH IN LOW VOTER PARTICIPATION COMMUNITIES. DR. JOHNSON STATED THAT SOME CENSUS DATA INFORMATION, AND INTERACTIVE MAPS WILL BE COVERED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

COMMISSIONER OCHOA ASKED WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD THE COMMISSION GET OUT TO THE PUBLIC, SUGGESTED USING SOMETHING WITH LESS OF A BARRIER, AND TO CONSIDER USING INSTAGRAM AS A PLACE TO DIRECT PEOPLE OTHER THAN THE COUNTY WEBSITE.

COMMISSIONER RIOS SUGGESTED USING FACEBOOK TO SHARE INFORMATION AND BOOST COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling future meetings.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

- MARCH 17, 2021, AT 6 PM

CHAIR MORRIS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND COMMENDED MR. CHURCHWELL FOR HIS GUIDANCE AND SERVICE AS THE COMMISSION'S LEGAL COUNSEL.

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 6 p.m.

Agenda Packet Items:

Item 03 Minutes of February 22, 2021

Item 09 Proposed Future Agenda Items