



County of Santa Barbara
Citizens Independent
Redistricting Commission

Commissioner Cheryl Trosky, First District
Commissioner Karen Twibell, First District
Commissioner William McClintock, Second District
Commissioner Megan Turley, Second District, Vice Chair
Commissioner Norman "Doug" Bradley, Third District
Commissioner Kevin Kaseff, Third District
Commissioner James Bray, Fourth District
Commissioner Amanda Ochoa, Fourth District
Commissioner Glenn Morris, Fifth District, Chair
Commissioner Michael Hartman, Fifth District
Commissioner Jannet Rios, Member-At-Large

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**

November 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96627818457> or call (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799 **ID:** 966 2781 8457

Submit written comment by 5 p.m. one day prior to the meeting to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

Language interpretation and requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or devices, may be arranged by emailing a request to redistricting@countyofsb.org at least 24 hours prior to the Commission meeting.

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Call to Order – Roll Call

Public Comments

Public comment will be allowed on items on this agenda at the time each item is considered. At the end of the agenda under General Public Comments the public may speak on items not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Commission, provided that no action may be taken on off agenda items except as authorized by law. Speakers are limited to no more than three minutes.

Informational Items (Items 1-2)

1. Commissioner disclosure of [ex parte communications](#) pursuant to County Ordinance Code Sec. 2-10.9A(5)(h) are posted on the commission website at www.DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org.
2. Community-Based Organizations for Outreach Information.

To submit the name of a community-based organization that the Commission should consider contacting with outreach information, visit www.DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org. Please review the existing "[suggest outreach](#)" list; and, if the organization is not already listed, submit public contact information for the

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organization using the outreach [form](#). Questions, suggestions, or other information can be emailed to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

Consent Calendar (Item 3)

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an item is removed by a Commissioner for separate consideration.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2021, and October 14, 2021.

Discussion Items (Items 4-7)

4. Authorization to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act as allowed by AB 361.

Recommended Action: (1) Consider the circumstances of the state of emergency or measures to promote social distancing; and (2) Approve findings that, under existing circumstances, local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, and it is in the public best interest to continue teleconferencing without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code 54953.

5. Discussion and action regarding process for adjustments to draft maps submitted by the public, and new deadline for submission of draft maps.
6. Presentation and discussion of draft maps submitted by the public and draft maps prepared by NDC.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items, including adding an additional meeting to consider draft maps.

General Public Comments

The General Public Comment period is reserved for comments on items not on this 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.

Reports from Legal Counsel, Demographer and Communications Consultant

Commissioner Comments

Adjournment

Attachments

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Item 3 Minutes of October 6, 2021, and October 14, 2021
Item 4 Health Officials Social Distancing Recommendation



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Commissioner James Bray, Fourth District
Commissioner Amanda Ochoa, Fourth District
Commissioner Glenn Morris, Fifth District, Chair
Commissioner Michael Hartman, Fifth District
(Vacant), Member-At-Large

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: October 6, 2021, 6 p.m.

Place: Betteravia Hearing Room, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria, CA

Call to Order – Roll Call

Commission Convened at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Bray, Hartman, Kaseff, Morris, Ochoa, Trosky, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: McClintock

Chair Morris announced with heavy heart the sudden passing of Commissioner Kate Adams, and observed a moment of silence in honor of her memory.

Informational Items (Items 1–2)

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Consent Calendar (Items 3–4)

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an item is removed by a Commissioner for separate consideration.

3. Approval of Minutes of August 4, 2021, and August 12, 2021.
4. Approval of the Second Amended and Restated Bylaws to allow for travel reimbursement.

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Attorney Ordin clarified the difference between “Will” and “Shall”, and stated the law supports “Shall” as mandatory, and “Will” can be acted on as mandatory.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar items 3–4

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

Discussion Items (Items 5-8)

5. Update on the 2020 Official California Prisoner-Adjusted Census Data and review of existing supervisorial district boundaries for population balance.

Mrs. Tilton presented information received from the Census. Maps will be in PDF format and listed on the website.

Commissioner Comment:

- Are there any pending developments that may have an impact on population numbers?

Staff can check with the Planning Department. The option to offset future growth can be considered after meeting County, State and Federal ordinance requirements, but Census numbers can't be adjusted.

Public Comment:

- Lupe Alvarez, District 3: Commented about new home development and sales in Guadalupe, and condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Communities of Interest.

- a. Report from staff on input received through public hearings and public outreach.

Jennifer Fitzgerald Cowan, Tripepi Smith, provided an update on public outreach activities.

Public Comment:

- Spencer Brandt: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, workshops are valuable, frustration with the lack of engagement of Isla Vista in the process, how valuable the workshops are and dissatisfied they were in-person only and no virtual access, and the newspaper article containing comments from Dr. Johnson about Isla Vista.
- Francis Romero, District 3: Hispanic representation on the Commission.
- Denise, Solvang Resident: Lack of diversity on the commission, and outreach has been last minute and not equitable in minority communities.

- b. Report from commissioners on input received from the community.

Mrs. Tilton read a list of public comments and input received.

Public Comment:

- Lupe Alvarez, District 3: Guadalupe students attend schools in Orcutt, and Guadalupe and Orcutt should be a community of interest.
- Frances Romero, Guadalupe: District 3 is too big, diverse and doesn't reflect communities of interest, North County communities need a bigger voice, Guadalupe should not be moved around every 10 years and should be in District 4.
- April Sargeant, Orcutt: Orcutt has several long-term projects (Orcutt Creek Trail, etc.) and should be kept together and not split into 2 districts.
- Steve S, Orcutt business owner: Orcutt should be kept in one district and not divided into 2.
- Denise: Commented about gerrymandering.
- Carol Greggor, Orcutt: Guadalupe and Orcutt should be together, and Orcutt should remain together and not be split.
- Laura Price, Cuyama Valley: Cuyama Valley is currently in District 1 (166 is the main highway) and should be in District 5.
- Thomas Widroe, Buelton-District 3: Isla Vista belongs in South County, District 2, Orcutt should remain together, Guadalupe and Orcutt should be in District 4, and District 5 should be North County (Santa Maria focus).
- Lee Heller, District 2: Keep communities of interest together and not create districts with a single community of interest, and each supervisorial district will have multiple communities of interest.
- Spencer Brandt, District 3: Concerns about maps submitted that split Isla Vista and UCSB into different districts, and mentioned he submitted a map keeping Isla Vista and UCSB together.
- Robert Mercado, Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, in support of Tom Martinez to fill the vacancy, and show fairness to everyone in how the lines are drawn.
- Anna Marie, Guadalupe: Guadalupe has nothing in common with District 3, and should be in District 4.

c. Commission guidance to staff on communities of interest and other mapping goals.

The Commissioners received the following input from written comments and attending public meetings and workshops:

Commissioner Bray:

- Public comment and testimony received mostly from North County, Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Santa Ynez Valley. Not much feedback from Santa Barbara or Isla Vista regarding communities of interest.

Commissioner Twibell:

- Housing shortage in Isla Vista, Goleta and Isla Vista should be together, and District 3 should be the main focus.

Commissioner Hartman:

- Each district should have coastline access, and there's a clear agricultural theme in North County.

Commissioner Trosky:

- North County has cohesive communities, is looking for greater voice and a representative who understands the lifestyle. Keep towns and communities together, and use highway 101 as a boundary line for Goleta. Group Isla Vista and UCSB with Guadalupe, Santa Ynez and Lompoc in District 3, and don't split Lompoc.

Commissioner Kaseff:

- Specific ideas about forming communities of interest in District 3; How to equalize populations pursuant to requirements; Does there have to be 5 districts? Can the number of supervisors

be changed? Urged the public to make their ideas known and publish them.

Commissioner Ochoa:

- Doesn't make sense to divide Lompoc and Vandenburg AFB, and separate Lompoc from primary beach access points at Surf Beach (where there's a train), and Jalama. Agriculture in Lompoc currently split in District 3 and 4, and District 3 is too big.

Commissioner Bradley:

- Consolidation of Latinx communities of interest in general area of Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Cuyama Valley, and recognize the connection with Guadalupe and Orcutt. Complaints regarding past conclusions about Isla Vista and large student population in District 3. Maps submitted should show what is in the community, instead of what shouldn't be there. Encouraged the public to complete and submit a draft map that makes the numbers work.

Vice Chair Turley:

- The combined population of Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Orcutt is about 150,000 total, and how this can be fairly divided to achieve the 89,300 population criteria.

Chair Morris:

- Santa Barbara county has 450,000 residents to be divided into 5 districts, of approximately 89,000 per district, District 3 needs attention, and examine the need to preserve a Hispanic majority opportunity in the County. When there is no other choice, minimize as much as possible, the need to divide cities in large unincorporated communities (example: Santa Maria population is 109k and has to be divided). Encouraged the community, especially District 1 and 2, City of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria communities to go to the website, share where to draw the lines and how the communities should look, and submit a draft map.

Map consideration will begin at the meeting on November 3, 2021. Commissioners will NOT submit any maps and will only consider the maps the community submits by the October 18, 2021 deadline.

Recessed the meeting at 7:52 p.m., and reconvened at 8 p.m.

7. Direction on filling vacancy of the at-large position.

Attorney Ordin extended condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, and reviewed the criteria and available options to fill a vacancy.

Public Comment:

- Gerardo Gonzalez (via translation): Condolences to the family of Kate Adams, disillusioned that Latinos are not represented on the commission, the need to appoint someone who can relate and understands their community, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Lupe Alvarez: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Juan Garcia: There should be more Latinos on the commission, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Gerardo Banuelos, District 1: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Lee Heller: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Lata Murti: In support of Jannet Rios, and condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams.

Mrs. Tilton clarified that due to personal circumstances, former Commissioner Jannet Rios, who had previously resigned, had remained a resident of the County. Attorney Ordin reviewed the criteria and stated that Ms. Rios is an eligible candidate.

- Maria Aldecoa (via translation): In support of Tom Martinez.

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- Alison Llamas: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, the need for Latin representation, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Kyra Solis: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Joe Pierre: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, and in support of Jannet Rios.
- Gail Teton-Landis: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, and in support of Jannet Rios.
- Cliff Solomon, District 4: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, and in support of Jannet Rios.
- Lawanda Lyons Pruitt, NAACP: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, and in support of Jannet Rios.
- Denise E.: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Nelda Martin, Los Alamos-District 3: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Rebecca, District 5: In support of Tom Martinez, and against appointing a candidate who resigned.
- Jim Byrne, District 4: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, in support of Tom Martinez, and concerns about appointing a candidate who resigned.
- Jesus Velasco: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, concerns about appointing a candidate who resigned, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Tom Martinez: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, looking forward to the opportunity to be of service to the community, and appreciates the support he's received.
- Jannet Rios: Condolences to the family of Commissioner Adams, the change of circumstances that resulted in her remaining in the County, and looking forward to the opportunity to continue and finish the work she started on the Commission.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioners discussed the short time frame and the need to make a selection. Available options include leaving the position vacant, or hold a special meeting to fill the vacancy, which requires public noticing 24 hours in advance. Following discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold a regular meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be virtual only, and the agenda posted at least 72 hours in advance.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.

Upcoming Meetings/Public Hearings:

- Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 6 p.m., Betteravia Hearing Room, 511 E. Lakeside Pkwy., Santa Maria (In-person and Zoom)
 - Voting Rights Act Compliance (Legal Team Advice)
 - Presentation of Draft Maps
 - Identify 3-5 Focus Maps (Round 1)
 - Provide direction on any map modifications
 - Business Meeting
 - Public Input
- Friday, November 12, 2021, 3 p.m., Planning Commission Room, 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara (In-person and Zoom)
 - Public Input on Focus Maps (Round 1)

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- Business Meeting
- Monday, November 15, 2021, 6 p.m., Betteravia Hearing Room, 511 E. Lakeside Pkwy., Santa Maria (In-person and Zoom)
 - Public Input on Focus Maps (Round 1)
 - Business Meeting
- Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12 p.m., Virtual only (Zoom)
 - Public Input on Focus Maps (Round 1)
 - Business Meeting

Vice Chair Turley suggested putting some of the marketing funds toward obtaining “sandwich boards” to put throughout the community as a reminder to draw and submit a map.

General Public Comments

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General Public Comments

- Lee Heller: Written comments submitted expressing concern about observations made by Dr. Johnson in a news press article.

Written Public Comment:

- Maricela Morales, Executive Director, CAUSE: Representation of immigrant farmworker neighborhoods of Santa Maria and Guadalupe.
- Ron Rogers: Join Santa Ynez Valley and Vandenberg Village.
- Reese Ellestad: Including Isla Vista in District 3 would be gerrymandering.
- Michael Schaumburg: Isla Vista and UC population is irrelevant to Solvang, Buelton and other northern towns, skews the third district county vote and needs to be changed.
- Denice Adan: Commissioner appointment should reflect county demographic composition, Isla Vista and UCSB should be in District 2 with SBCC for student/renter representation, and resident voters in unincorporated South County areas reassigned to District 1 and 3 for homeowner and family’s representation.
- Barbara Batastini, District 1: Correct the disproportionate size of District 3, and add Isla Vista and UCSB to District 2.
- Shelley Trost: Santa Barbara voters overrun by non-resident UCSB students, who should vote in their home town.
- Jannet Rios: Interest in reinstatement on the Redistricting Commission.

Reports from Legal Counsel and Demographer

None.

Commissioner Comments

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m., and will be virtual only.



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(Vacant), Member-At-Large

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

Date: October 14, 2021, 5:30 p.m.
Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order – Roll Call

Commission Convened at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Bray, Hartman, Kaseff, McClintock, Morris, Ochoa, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: Trosky (Excused)

Informational Items (Items 1-2)

1. Commissioner disclosure of [ex parte communications](#) pursuant to County Ordinance Code Sec. 2-10.9A(5)(h) are posted on the commission website at www.DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org.
2. Community-Based Organizations for Outreach Information.

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Item 3 was pulled from the consent calendar and heard as a regular item.

Consent Calendar (Item 3)

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an item is removed by a Commissioner for separate consideration.

3. Authorization to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act as allowed by AB 361.

Recommended Action: 1) Consider the circumstances of the state of emergency or measures to promote social distancing; and 2) Approve findings that, under existing circumstances, local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, and it is in the public best

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interest to continue teleconferencing without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code 54953.

Commissioners discussed whether a state of emergency still exists and considered the necessity to continue to hold teleconferencing meetings. Attorney Ordin and Nancy Anderson explained the State of California requires this item be on the agenda for all Brown Act meetings, and that the Body vote every 30 days to continue with the virtual process based on the recommendation of the Public Health Officer.

Motion to accept the recommended action.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

Discussion Items (Items 4-5)

4. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding the commissioner appointment for the At-Large Position and administer oath of office.

Public Comments (Limited to two minutes)

- Lee Heller: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Krya Solis: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Hazel Davalos: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Frances Romero: The need for Latino/Hispanic representation, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Gail Teton-Landis: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Antonio Ramirez: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Sarah Hewit: Importance of the redistricting process, and in support of Tom Martinez, and Lupe Alvarez.
- Nadia Lee Abushanab: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Ian Baucke: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Rebecca Isabel Garcia: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Jovany: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Debi Cloud, District 5: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Jim Byrne: Importance of impartiality, concerns about appointing a candidate who resigned, and in support of Tom Martinez.
- Nelda Martin, Los Alamos-District 3: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Connie Alexander, Lompoc: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Alice Patino: In support of Tom Martinez.
- Rebecca Gowing: Concerns about appointing a candidate who resigned, and in support of Tom Martinez.

Motion to appoint Jannet Rios to the At-Large Position.

Motion Carried: 9 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

Ms. Alexander administered the Oath of Office to Jannet Rios.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.
 - Consideration of a second map submission deadline (November 3)

General Public Comments

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General Public Comments (Limited to two minutes)

- Spencer Brandt: Frustration with NDC receiving updated data.
- Lee Heller: Inquired about adjusting maps, and submitting an accompanying narrative to explain a map.

Mrs. Tilton stated the best way to include a narrative is to use the send feedback option on the website and indicate the map number to identify your map.

- Hazel Davalos: Concerns about receiving updated data, and requested extending the map submission deadline.
- Lindsey Baker: Concerns about the map deadline and informing the community of the delay in receiving Census data.
- Gail Teton-Landis: Inquired about submitting a narrative with the map.

Written Public Comments

- Joshua Moran: Hope Ranch and More Mesa should be included in the Santa Barbara city limits, and developers and special interests would destroy Santa Barbara.
- Lee Heller: In support of reappointing Jannet Rios.
- Irene Cooke: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Michal Lynch: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Pamela Bury: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Pamela Wilkinson: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Julie Sullwold: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Ann Shaw: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Jackie Le Guellec Dearth: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Catherine Gautier-Downes: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Maureen Ellenberger: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Jane Fehrenbacher: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Marilyn Kandus: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Jana Zimmer and Richard Solomon: In support of Jannet Rios.

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- Sharon Broberg: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Cliff Solomon: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Phil Seymour: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Jonathan Abboud: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Daisy Basulto: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Hazel Davalos: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Lata Murti: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Sara Macdonald: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Janet Blevins: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Erica Reyes: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Mary Ellen Brooks: 1) Keep Vandenberg Village, Mesa Oaks, and Mission Hills together as they share the same water aquifer; and 2) District 3 should include Isla Vista, UCSB, Gaviota (and other coastal zones), agricultural properties (including Hollister Ranch), Harris Grade Road (South side of the crest), and the area of LOGP.
- Spencer Brandt: Concerns about the release of Census data, mapping tools update, and request the map submission deadline be extended.
- Kathy Sharum: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Audrie Krause: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Charles Bell, on behalf of The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce: Hispanic representation and in support of Jannet Rios.
- David Dennis: In support of Jannet Rios.
- Vijaya Jammalamadaka, League of Women Voters: Concerns about the release of Census data, mapping tools update, and request the map submission deadline be extended.
- Jaime Flores: Flores Map submission.
- Daniel Gonzalez: In support of Jannet Rios.

The Report from Legal Counsel, Demographer and Communications Consultant, and Commissioner Comments were heard out of order after Item 5.

Reports from Legal Counsel, Demographer and Communications Consultant

Attorney Ordin stated although Commissioner may meet one-on-one with members of the public as well as with groups outside of public hearings. However, it is recommended that discussion of specific proposed maps be part of public meetings and accessible to everyone.

Mrs. Tilton stated on September 21, 2021, the State released Official Prisoner Adjusted data, however, NDC discovered flaws, and notified the State. The State corrected and released the revised information on September 27. District R will be updated with the corrected data by October 20, and Maptitude by October 27. The initial submission date is still October 18, however, maps will be accepted after October 20. The maps will be accepted and the numbers can be adjusted after the official data is released to ensure legal compliance. Paper maps are available at County offices, and will be available at the meeting on November 3 in Santa Maria.

Commissioner Comments

- Add the dates to the website that the Official data is expected.
- Under the paper map option on the website, include address of all locations to obtain a free paper map (i.e., Library).
- Update website to clearly state where to send feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 6 p.m., at the Betteravia Hearing Room, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.



Public Health Administration

300 North San Antonio Road ♦ Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316
805/681-5100 ♦ FAX 805/681-5191

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD *Director*
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA *Chief Financial Officer*
Paige Batson, MA, PHN, RN *Deputy Director*
Darrin Eisenbarth *Deputy Director*
Dana Gamble, LCSW *Interim Deputy Director*
Polly Baldwin, MD, MPH *Medical Director*
Henning Ansorg, MD *Health Officer*

HEALTH OFFICIALS AB 361 SOCIAL DISTANCE RECOMMENDATION

Issued: September 28, 2021

COVID-19 disease prevention measures, endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include vaccinations, facial coverings, increased indoor ventilation, handwashing, and physical distancing (particularly indoors).

Since March 2020, local legislative bodies-such as commissions, committees, boards, and councils- have successfully held public meetings with teleconferencing as authorized by Executive Orders issued by the Governor. Using technology to allow for virtual participation in public meetings is a social distancing measure that may help control transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Public meetings bring together many individuals (both vaccinated and potentially unvaccinated), from multiple households, in a single indoor space for an extended time. For those at increased risk for infection, or subject to an isolation or quarantine order, teleconferencing allows for full participation in public meetings, while protecting themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus.

Utilizing teleconferencing options for public meetings is an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate participation in public affairs and encourage participants to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 disease. This recommendation is further intended to satisfy the requirement of the Brown Act (specifically Gov't Code Section 54953(e)(1)(A)), which allows local legislative bodies in the County of Santa Barbara to use certain available teleconferencing options set forth in the Brown Act.

Henning Ansorg, MD
Public Health Officer
County of Santa Barbara

Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Public Health Director
County of Santa Barbara