



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Summary of Proceedings 2020 Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Date: **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**
Time: **6:00 PM – 9:05PM**
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

BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

1. Commission Convened

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Rios (Excused)

CHAIR MORRIS MENTIONED THAT AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3 ARE INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

2. 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.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc.

3. 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.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc. Please review the existing the "[suggest outreach](#)" list; and, if the organization is not already listed, submit public contact information for the organization using the outreach [form](#). Questions, suggestions, or other information can be emailed to redistricting@countyofsb.org.

4. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2021.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 AYES 1 ABSENT

5. 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.

CHAIR MORRIS ANNOUNCED THE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AFTER THE DEADLINE, WAS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE, AND WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

CHARLES BELL, HEARD REGARDING PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED WRITTEN COMMENT.

LATA MURTI, HEARD AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE COMMISSION ADDRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE SUGGESTED OUTREACH LIST AND FORM AND ACCESSIBILITY.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

CHARLES BELL ON BEHALF OF THE CALIFORNIA HISPANIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, WROTE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF COMMISSIONER HUDLEY AND UNDERREPRESENTATION OF HISPANICS.

SADIE STERN, WROTE REQUESTING THE LAND TITLED TO THE FIRST NATION OF COASTAL CENTRAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BE DESIGNATED FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND RECOGNIZED AS ITS OWN DISTRICT.

ROBERT MERCADO, WROTE REGARDING COMMISSIONER HUDLEY'S REPLACEMENT, UNDERREPRESENTATION OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY, AND RECOMMENDED AN APPOINTMENT BE MADE FROM DISTRICT 3.

WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMITTED PAST THE DEADLINE:

ROBIN SERRITSLEY, WROTE REGARDING HOPE THAT DISTRICT 3 BOUNDARIES ARE CHANGED SO EVERYONE HAS A VOICE AND A VOTE. REFERENCED LAW FIRM PARTISANSHIP AND COMMISSION SELECTION.

ROBERT MERCADO, WROTE REGARDING COMMISSIONER HUDLEY'S REPLACEMENT, UNDERREPRESENTATION OF THE LATINO COMMUNITY, AND RECOMMENDED AN APPOINTMENT BE MADE FROM DISTRICT 3.

6. Training 6: Voting Rights – Presentations by Asian Americans Advancing Justice – LA

and Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Guest Speakers: Sara Rohani, AAAJ-LA Staff Attorney; Julia Marks AAAJ-Asian Law Caucus Program Manager & Staff Attorney; and Steve Ochoa, MALDEF National Redistricting Coordinator

The mission of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.

Founded in 1968, MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. MALDEF's commitment is to protect and defend the rights of all Latinos living in the United States and the constitutional rights of all Americans.

MS. MARKS GAVE AN OVERVIEW AND PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACTS.

MR. OCHOA PRESENTED INFORMATION ON REDISTRICTING FUNDAMENTALS AND CRITERIA:

- CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE: ONE PERSON, ONCE VOTE
- FEDERAL LEGAL MANDATE: THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- CONTIGUITY
- MAINTAINING NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST (COI)
- PRESERVE CITIES OR CENSUS DESIGNATED PLACES
- FOLLOW NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL BOUNDARIES
- COMPACTNESS

MS. ROHANI PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND BEST PRACTICES FOR REACHING AAPI COMMUNITIES IN REDISTRICTING.

OUTREACH

- SHARE REDISTRICTING INFO WITH MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS
- CREATE MATERIALS AND DISTRIBUTE THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS
- HOST WORKSHOPS AND GATHER COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST TESTIMONY
- PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS
- NON-DIGITAL (MAILERS)
- GATHER INPUT OUTSIDE OF HEARINGS
- ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS, ISSUE SURVEYS AND PUBLISH ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

HEARINGS

- HOLD IN THE EVENING OUTSIDE OF NORMAL WORKING HOURS AND IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE COUNTY (IF IN PERSON), AND DEDICATE HEARINGS TO SPECIFIC REGIONS (IF VIRTUAL)

- PROVIDE MORE NOTICE THAN LEGAL MINIMUM
- LIVESTREAM AND/OR RECORD ALL HEARINGS AND POST ON REDISTRICTING WEBPAGE
- LIVE TRANSLATIONS OF HEARINGS (FOR APPLICABLE LANGUAGES UNDER SECTION 203 AND VOTING RIGHTS ACT)
- ACCEPT WRITTEN AND VERBAL COMMENT

LANGUAGE ACCESS

- ENSURE MATERIALS ARE DISTRIBUTED IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES
- TRANSLATED MATERIALS SHOULD BE SHARED WITH CIVIL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, POSTED ONLINE, AND SENT TO ETHNIC NEWS MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING PRINT, WEB AND RADIO OUTLETS.

OUTREACH SUGGESTIONS

- USE OF WECHAT AND WHATSAPP SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
- UTILITY BILL INSERTS/MAILERS
- USE A VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON HYBRID MEETING/HEARING MODEL (DUE TO COVID)
- BEGIN COLLECTING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST TESTIMONY BEFORE DATA IS AVAILABLE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT THE INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE ABLE TO DRAW MAPS AND RECOMMENDED PROCEEDING QUICKLY.

LATA MURTI, HEARD REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION INTO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ON THE WEBSITE NOW BEFORE THE DATA IS RELEASED.

RENEE O'NEILL, HEARD IN AGREEMENT WITH ANDY CALDWELL REGARDING TRAINING FOR THE PUBLIC.

7. Outreach: Update on work on marketing materials.

MS. NENTWIG, TRIPEPI SMITH, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING UPDATE:

NEW DEDICATED WEBSITE:

- DrawSantaBarbaraCounty.org IN PROGRESS
- PLANNING TO SHARE WITH OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE ON MAY 12

SOCIAL MEDIA

- WORKING ON COMMISSION ACCOUNTS FOR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

- WORKING THROUGH SET UP PROCESS WITH OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE COUNTY
- TRIPEPI SMITH WILL DEVELOP WEEKLY CONTENT FOR OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW/APPROVAL (FOR SHARING ON THE COMMISSION AND POTENTIALLY COUNTY ACCOUNTS)

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO

- ANIMATED INFORMATIONAL VIDEO CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT
- RECEIVED INPUT/GUIDANCE FROM OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE ON APRIL 28
- INTENDED USE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITE, KICK OFF PRESENTATIONS, ETC.
- CAPTIONING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES
- PLANNING TO SHARE DRAFT VIDEO WITH OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE ON MAY 12

PRESENTATION FOR COMMISSIONERS' USE

- FINALIZING PRESENTATION BASED ON FEEDBACK AND EXAMPLES FROM THE COMMISSION AND OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE.
- SHARED DRAFT WITH OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING TO FINALIZE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION (CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO MULTIPLE LANGUAGES)

MS. NENTWIG STATED THAT ONCE THE WEBSITE IS UP, ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE EXISTING WEBSITE WILL BE MOVED. THE WEBSITE WILL HAVE A PLACE TO REQUEST A SPEAKER FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

MRS. TILTON STATED NDC IS FINALIZING THE CALENDAR WITH THE 7 PRE-MAP AND 7 POST-MAP HEARINGS, CENSUS DATA DEADLINES, POSTING REQUIREMENTS, AND MEETING DATE/TIME MANDATES.

CHAIR MORRIS MENTIONED THAT THE MAY 19 COMMISSION MEETING WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT MAPPING TOOLS.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF WORKING WITH CITIES DIVIDED BY DISTRICT GOING THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS, AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON WHAT THE COUNTY IS AND DOES, AND HOW IT INTERRELATES WITH THE CITIES.

DR. JOHNSON STATED THAT INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED, AND SUGGESTS NOT COMBINING HEARINGS, AS THEY TEND NOT TO WORK OUT WELL.

SPENCER BRANDT, HEARD REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION, AND ENCOURAGED LOOKING AT THE CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE STRATEGIES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.

LATA MURTI, HEARD REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF THE OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE.

CHAIR MORRIS BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSISTS OF VICE CHAIR TURLEY, COMMISSIONER BRAY AND RIOS.

8. Discussion and direction to reassign Commissioner Olmeda from the At-Large position to the vacant Third District position, and to establish the process for appointing a candidate from the applicant pool to fill the At-Large position.

NDC REACHED OUT TO 13 CANDIDATES AND 6 ARE INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWING.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CHARLES BELL, HEARD REGARDING THE LETTER SUBMITTED IN APRIL ABOUT FILLING THE DISTRICT 3 VACANCY, AND DISAGREES WITH THE COMMISSION'S CHOICE OF FAVORING PARTY PREFERENCE OVER LATINO UNDERREPRESENTATION.

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT LATINO UNDERREPRESENTATION, OPPOSES SELECTING PARTY OVER MINORITY, AND REFERENCED ROBERT MERCADO'S RECENT OP ED.

LEE HELLER, HEARD AND COMMENTED THAT THE SELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY MUST BE MADE FROM THE EXISTING POOL OF 45 CANDIDATES.

SPENCER BRANDT, HEARD REGARDING THE CANDIDATE POOL AND VACANCY.

KYRA SOLIS, HEARD REGARDING LATINX AND PARTY REPRESENTATION.

RENEE O'NEILL, HEARD REGARDING COMMISSIONERS KNOWING THEIR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SUPPORTS A DIVERSE COMMISSION.

LATA MURTI, HEARD REGARDING THE GOOD FAITH EFFORT SHOWN IN SELECTING THE COMMISSIONERS, AND IN SUPPORT OF MOVING COMMISSIONER OLMEDO TO DISTRICT 3.

MS. ORDIN REVIEWED THE ORDINANCE REGARDING FILLING A VACANCY.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

- SAFEGUARD AGAINST ETHNICITY/RACE, AND SELECT THE MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.
- COMMISSIONER OLMEDO MAY SERVE BEST IN THE AT-LARGE POSITION AND ABLE TO WORK WITHIN ALL DISTRICTS THROUGH OUT THE COUNTY.
- MOVING COMMISSIONER OLMEDO TO DISTRICT 3 WILL EXPAND THE CANDIDATE POOL SELECTION FOR THE AT-LARGE POSITION.
- FILLING THE DISTRICT 3 VACANCY FROM THE EXISTING POOL MAY DECREASE THE CANDIDATE SELECTION.
- CONCERNS ABOUT THE LACK OF LATINO REPRESENTATION.
- EXPAND CANDIDATE POOL TO INTERVIEW KEVIN KASEFF, LUPE ALVAREZ, AND INCLUDE PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED CANDIDATE KEVIN ILAC.
- POSSIBLE VACANCIES MAY OCCUR IN THE FUTURE AND CONSIDERATION TO INTERVIEW DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ALSO.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO COMMENTED HE WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND SERVE BEST IN THE AT-LARGE POSITION, AND IS WILLING TO SERVE WHEREVER NEEDED.

MRS. TILTON STATED THE EXISTING POOL CONSISTS OF 2 LATINO REPUBLICANS, AND 6 DEMOCRATS (NON-LATINO).

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO, STATED IT MAKES MORE SENSE FOR HIM TO MOVE TO DISTRICT 3, IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE CANDIDATE POOL FOR THE AT-LARGE SEAT.

DR. JOHNSON, COMMENTED THAT KEVIN ILAC IS THE ONLY REMAINING ASIAN CANDIDATE.

MOTION TO INTERVIEW THE 6 REMAINING DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, 2 LATINO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES, AND KEVIN ILAC.

MOTION AMENDED TO INTERVIEW THE 6 REMAINING DEMOCRATIC AND 2 LATINO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES, AND CONSIDER KEVIN ILAC (NO INTERVIEW – USE DECEMBER 9, 2020 INTERVIEW) FOR THE AT-LARGE POSITION WITH COMMISSIONER OLMEDO BEING REASSIGNED AS THE DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE.

MOTION CARRIED: 9 YES 1 ABSENT

9. Discussion and possible action regarding future training sessions and other future agenda items.
 - COMMISSIONER INTERVIEWS (MAY 12 AT 7PM)
 - SPANISH TRANSLATION OF AGENDA
 - MAPPING TOOLS, OUTREACH SCHEDULE, FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE (MAY 19)

CLOSED SESSION

10. Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation
Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
Name of case: The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business of Santa Barbara County v. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors; County of Santa Barbara Citizens’ Independent Redistricting Commission, Frederic D. Woocher; Strumwasser & Woocher, LLP; Case No. 21CV01642

MS. ORDIN ANNOUNCED THERE WILL BE A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE LISTED LITIGATION INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE OF THE CLOSED SESSION ITEM, AND MS. ORDIN PROVIDED AN EXPLANATION.

RECESSED FOR CLOSED SESSION AT 8:34PM.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 9:04PM.

11. Announcement of reportable items from closed session.

MS. ORDIN ANNOUNCED DIRECTION WAS GIVEN TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF THE COMPLAINT.

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Agenda Packet Items:

Item 04 Minutes of April 21, 2021

Item 09 Proposed Future Agenda Items

Item 10 Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business v. Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, et al.