

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL DISTRICTS MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015

6:30 P.M.
Western High School, Cafeteria

Committee Members Present: Hon. James Jackman, Ret.; Hon. Nancy Wieben Stock, Ret.; Hon. Stephen Sundvold, Ret.; Hon. Thomas Thrasher, Ret.; Hon. Edward Wallin, Ret.

Staff Present: City Clerk Linda Andal, Outside Counsel Ben De Mayo, Consultant Justin Levitt.

Chairman Wallin called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. He explained the Committee hoped to narrow the number of proposals under consideration, working towards recommending one map to the City Council. He suggested those who submitted maps also look at other maps for potential changes that would be satisfactory. He requested comments address alternatives for boundaries of the western districts and posed a question to the Committee and attendees of how to handle the Latino areas of the city with the options of creating two Latino-majority districts or one majority-Latino district with other Latino-plurality districts. He further expressed his view that the Resort District should remain in one district.

With no objections, the Committee agreed to hold public comments following the presentation of Item 1 by demographer, Justin Levitt.

1. Discussion and presentation of draft City Council district boundaries and narrow the number of Proposals under consideration, and any related actions.

Justin Levitt announced the Committee narrowed the options to five draft maps at their last meeting. He presented the maps as follows: Chuchua 4; Consultant Draft 3, which kept the central area together, adding concern regarding the northern area and wrap-around southern district; Consultant 4, which divided the Resort district; Gagne 1, which created the most north/south districts; and Reyes 2, which received public support at the previous meeting. Mr. Levitt explained the revisions he made were prepared at Committee direction, to include two majority Latino districts by Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in the Chuchua 4 and Reyes 2 maps. Mr. Levitt advised that the Committee could accept or reject the revisions, on their own merits or in comparison with the original proposals. He reviewed the changes made to Chuchua 4 and Reyes 2. In Chuchua 4, the revision resulted in a higher deviation (3.8%) and in Reyes 2, the Ponderosa neighborhood was divided. Chairman Wallin expressed his preference for Reyes 2, prior to the adjustments. Mr. Levitt also presented changes to Consultant Draft 3, where Euclid Avenue was used as a boundary and elongated in the northern part of the city was limited.

Mr. Levitt reviewed three options for the western portion boundary line between District 1 and District 2. All options used Euclid Avenue as a boundary between central portions of the city, adding that the Euclid boundary could be used within other maps. Option 1 kept the County Island surrounded by one district and included both the Western Anaheim Youth Center and the

Brookhurst Community Center in one district. Option 2 (Gagne 1) was the most compact, kept surrounding neighborhoods in the same district as the Brookhurst Community Center and Dad Miller Golf Course, and had the largest population deviation between the two districts. Option 3 created lower population deviations and brought District 1 further north. Both Options 2 and 3 separated the West Anaheim Youth Center and Brookhurst Community Center into different districts. Mr. Levitt encouraged the public to review the website, provide comments, and participate in the upcoming meetings.

Public Comments (Five minutes for map submitters, three minutes for general comments):

Oscar Reyes supported his original plan (Reyes 2) with no adjustments, explaining that having one Section 2 district and two crossover districts would provide greater influence to the Latino community. He added the districts, as drawn, addressed major landmarks and communities of interest through compact districts and cohesive communities. In response to Judge Thrasher, Mr. Reyes rejected the revisions made to his original map. Judge Jackman questioned whether the three Latino seats were possible with the 2010 Census figures or had demographics changed since then with Mr. Levitt clarifying that the CVAP data was released in January 2015 and covered the years 2009-2013. Overall, Mr. Levitt shared that the Latino population had increased 2%. Judge Sundvold asked Mr. Reyes which option for western Anaheim, other than his own, he preferred. Mr. Reyes indicated he would need to review the data and speak with other residents prior to answering the question.

Chairman Wallin read the posters held by members of the audience as follows: "Reyes Map 2 Voter Registration 49% in District 4 and 47% in District 5" (three maps), and "We want 3 of 6 districts" (six maps). Chairman Wallin confirmed that the sign-holders all supported Reyes 2.

Rida Hamida, Council on American-Islamic Relations and Arab-American Chamber of Commerce, supported Reyes 2. In response to Judge Jackman, Ms. Hamida described Little Arabia and requested certain boundaries around Brookhurst Street be adjusted to address refugee communities near the Brookhurst Community Center and park. Judge Sundvold questioned whether the west side of the County Island needed to be in District 2, with Ms. Hamida affirming that point by describing churches, schools, mosques, and markets that residents frequent.

Martin Lopez, resident and UNITE HERE organizer, found the Gagne, Chuchua, and Consultant Draft 3 maps unacceptable due to keeping major economic landmarks within one district. He expressed his opinion that the Platinum Triangle, Honda Center and Stadium area should be separate from the Resort, explaining that if all of south Anaheim was placed in one district it would concentrate too much power and workload on one Council member. Regarding Consultant Draft 4, he felt it created a non-compact District 5 which would be difficult to canvass. He supported the original Reyes 2, which created one Latino-majority district and two Latino-plurality districts.

Isela Lopez, West Anaheim resident, supported Reyes 2 due to its compact districts, indicating a desire for three districts.

Gil Caughman presented his map explaining it was somewhat similar to Reyes 2, but with lower deviation between each of the districts (less than 1%). He explained that his map included three majority-Latino districts and focused on communities of interest. In response to Chairman Wallin, Mr. Caughman stated his map was preferable as it was not focused on race, but focused on what was going on in the community.

Marisol Ramirez, West Anaheim resident, supported Reyes 2 with the opportunity for Latino representation in three districts based on CVAP and voter registration numbers.

Aida Briceno, OCCORD interim Executive Director, noted the turnout at the August 19th and August 26th committee meetings in support of Reyes 2, as it was the most unifying map in her opinion, and expressed her hope that the Committee would forward Reyes 2 to the City Council.

Art Montez, Centralia School District Trustee, offered comments on the process of map review and selection by the Committee and expressed a preference for the LULAC. Judge Sunvold expressed concern that the LULAC maps divided the Colony with Mr. Montez indicating that no community could be completely included and that the LULAC maps were based on a three-mile radius and the ability to elect candidates in those areas. He suggested the Committee submit more than one map to the City Council for consideration and acknowledged litigation and legal requirements. Chairman Wallin clarified there had been no suggestion for boundaries based on specific candidates. In response to Judge Jackman, Mr. Montez stated each map had its qualities and faults and that qualities could be pulled from different maps to not pit communities against each other.

Zeke Hernandez, Santa Ana LULAC president, submitted documents related to his absence from the previous meeting and provided comments on the Committee's task and process of narrowing down the maps. He indicated a need for at least two Latino-majority districts. In response to Judge Thrasher, Mr. Hernandez preferred LULAC 1. Chairman Wallin encouraged the public to work with Mr. Levitt on any tweaks to maps that could accomplish certain criteria. Mr. DeMayo explained the City Council wanted a preferred plan from the Committee, but all plans would be part of the record and forwarded to City Council.

Claudio Gallegos supported Reyes 2 as originally submitted with one Latino-majority CVAP seat and two plurality crossover seats, sharing his belief that the revision was not viable.

Jason Mills, noting his submitted map was not currently under consideration, supported Reyes 2 as-is and encouraged the Committee to move it forward. He liked how Reyes 2 kept working class neighborhoods together, kept the Colony whole, separated landmarks, and kept the Resort together. In response to Judge Thrasher's request for his second choice, Mr. Mills indicated he would need to review the maps but emphasized Reyes 2 kept the spirit of his initially-submitted map with crossover seats.

Deborah Phares, downtown resident, expressed concern with Consultant Maps 3 and 4 which created a district where the Colony was isolated from city borders, which she believed limited collaboration on regional issues, such as homelessness; with Consultant Map 4, it separated part of the La Palma area which identified with the Colony due to historic issues. She supported Reyes 2.

Yuval Miller, OCCORD, supported Reyes Map 2, indicating a possibility that District 4 was already majority-Latino by CVAP. He discussed the Latino community desire for three of six districts in Anaheim and provided court case references related to plurality districts. He announced a desire for communities of interests to be maintained and for crossover districts to provide the best chance for equal representation of Latinos.

Aida Tamayo discussed issues with Consultant Maps 3 and 4 as they created a district that did not border a neighboring city as well as the separation of the Palms historic community from the Colony. She expressed her support for Reyes 2.

Alexa Hernandez supported Reyes 2 as beneficial for the Latino community.

Arturo Ferreras worked with the Ponderosa community to draft their own map, which they withdrew to support Reyes 2 with a possible revision to increase the Latino percentage. Upon review of the revision, Mr. Ferreras encouraged the committee to only consider the original Reyes 2 map.

Greg Diamond addressed his comments on the revision to the Chuchua Map 4. He stated he did not like how District 3 (gold shaded area) reflected 55% Latino majority and felt it was a waste of Latino votes, which he stated would not allow for three districts to have Latino pluralities. He spoke in favor of the original Chuchua map, which was designed to win a court case because it was as compact as possible and the numbers were as low as possible. He requested Chuchua Map 4 be among those recommended to the City Council. Mr. Diamond stated the Reyes map lacked compactness and suggested swapping out areas in District 4 (green shaded area) and District 5 (purple shaded area). He requested the Committee use Euclid as a border of west Anaheim and only recommend maps containing the Euclid border to the City Council. Chairman Wallin asked Justin Levitt about switching areas in District 4 (green shaded area) and District 5 (purple shaded area). Justin Levitt responded stating that the area between State College and I-5 south of Ball had very little population with 1,000 people; conversely, the area to the north was heavily populated with over 3,000 people. He stated that population-wise, it would not be an equal trade. Greg Diamond responded by stating the Reyes Map could be fixed so that it would not be vulnerable in court by moving District 4 (green shaded area) along Euclid into District 3 and toward the east under the I-5 (gold shaded area).

Rudy Gaona thanked the Committee for their service and stated he was in support of Reyes Map 2. He highlighted that District 3 in the Reyes Map reflected a 56% Latino Majority, District 4 a 49%, and District 5 a 47%. He further highlighted that every district had a park, District 4 with Disneyland, District 5 included the Platinum Triangle, and District 3 kept the Colony while which made each district unique.

Genoveva Garcia, resident, stated the community supported Reyes Map 2 and urged the Committee to take Reyes Map 2 into consideration.

Benita Gagne addressed her comments to the 3 western Anaheim options. She stated that after hearing the comments from Rida Hamida, she supported the map that kept the Arabic community together as part of District 2, explaining her map was the closest to accomplishing this. She stated the map she proposed reflected one majority White, two majority Hispanic, two plurality White and one nearly equal.

Mark Daniels, west Anaheim resident, stated he liked any of the west Anaheim options. He stated he lived his entire life west of Beach Blvd and could live in any of the three scenarios. He encouraged residents to register and vote. Mr. Daniels added his support for all three maps, Gagne map, Chuchua map, and the Reyes map, and suggested all three get together and work out a compromise.

Betsy Martinez Radueiz, 30 year Anaheim resident, expressed her support of the Reyes map because it represented the Hispanic community and urged the Committee to consider this map.

With no further comments offered, Chairman Wallin closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Chairman Wallin announced the next two meetings: September 8th at 6:30 pm at Loara High School and September 16th at the Anaheim City Council Chambers. He reported the Committee would be making their final decision on what maps to recommend to the City Council during their last meeting.

Judge Stock stated the committee was met with the concept of Latino pluralities during the August 19th meeting that could serve a purpose in connection with the configuration of other districts. She felt those same concepts were solidified during this evening's meeting. She advised that the Committee was pairing down maps as they worked towards recommending one map for Council consideration, adding that the next couple of meetings would be critical and appreciated the contribution of the residents.

Judge Jackman requested time be set aside for the Committee to have an open public discussion amongst Members.

Judge Thrasher recognized the overwhelming support for Reyes Map 2 and stated the Committee would take such support into consideration when selecting maps for Council consideration.

Judge Sundvold stated he felt the Committee was making progress in the right direction and acknowledged the support for Reyes Map 2. He added the next couple of meetings were important and highlighted the next meeting would be on a Tuesday, not the usual Wednesday night.

Chairman Wallin suggested the Committee narrow the maps down to three (3). The following three (3) maps were identified: Reyes Map 2, Chuchua Map 4 and the Gagne Map 1.

Motion by Chairman Wallin to narrow down to three (3) maps (Reyes Map 2, Chuchua Map 4, Gagne Map 1) providing direction to Mr. Levitt to adjust, as necessary. Second by Judge Sundvold. Vote: 4-0-1 (Ayes: Committee Chair Wallin and Committee Member Stock, Sundvold and Thrasher; Abstention: Committee Member Jackman) [Judge Jackman noted his abstention due to his desire to discuss the maps further between Members]

2. Amend Committee meeting calendar, as necessary.

With no amendments to the Committee meeting calendar required, Chairman Wallin announced the next ACED meeting would be held at Loara High School at 6:30pm on Tuesday, September 8th. Ms. Andal announced the meeting may be moved to the auditorium of Loara HS, and if so, appropriate signage would be placed around the previously noticed Room 203.

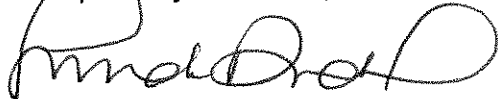
3. Committee Comments / Staff comments

Mr. DeMayo requested the Committee direct Mr. Levitt to finalize the boundary between Districts 5 and 6. Judge Stock indicated the District 2 boundary line would be more than a minor tweak.

Mr. Levitt demonstrated changes to the boundary between District 1 and District 2, using Reyes Map 2 map, based on the earlier comments by Ms. Hamida regarding the Brookhurst Community Center area. He noted that the populations remained even. Chairman Wallin pointed out the narrowness of District 1 in one area. Mr. Levitt announced he would put the option online for residents to review.

With no further business to conduct, by unanimous vote, Chairman Wallin adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Andal, CMC
City Clerk