

**Region V, VI, IX Wrap-Up – Draft Executive Summary**  
**Merced, CA, 4/16/11**

**I. Individual Hearings - Summary of Testimony**

**Redding – April 9, 2011**

Geographic proposals:

- Draw northern CA districts from West (coast) to East (Nevada border)  
  
COI underlying:
  - shared economic interests: rural, agricultural needs, recreation/tourism; different from more populated areas at southern end of districts which are more urban, have different needs which currently dominate politics
  - shared social interests: similar rural culture, use each other's recreation opportunities; not much in common with urban populated areas, near Sacramento, southern end of current districts
  
- Keep North to South orientation of districts  
COI underlying:
  - shared economic interests: transportation along North/South highways (101, 5, 99), water issues, different crops between coast, valley, mountain
  - shared social interests: because of transportation corridors and similar crops, different cultures between coast, valley, mountain; coast is more liberal than inland
  - Diverse social and economic interests: better to put diverse interests into district for less divisive politics in Sacramento and more representatives with a stake in both rural north and southern urban parts of northern districts.
  
- Keep Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino together and separate from inland counties  
COI underlying:
  - shared economic interests: fishing, recreation/tourism, lumber, wine grapes, transportation/dependence on highway 101
  - shared social interests: coastal environmental issues, living in more isolated areas (such as Del Norte) and traveling over mountains inland is difficult.
  
- Proposal about Yolo County: Keep Yolo County whole because of shared water issues, land between two rivers (Cache and Putah): unique water community is COI, and currently split up into 2-3 of each (AD, SD, CD) so have to fight for help on water issues
  
- Neighborhoods: No testimony on individual neighborhoods

## **Marysville – April 10, 2011**

### Geographic proposals

- Keep Yuba County and Sutter County together
  - Keep Butte, Yuba, and Sutter together
  - Keep Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Yuba and Sutter together
  - More generally keep North/South districts in Valley part of North state vs. West/East districts proposed at Redding hearing; Valley area is very different from coast and also from mountains and even foothills in Nevada County
  - Highways 5, 99, 70 corridors bind counties

#### COI underlying these groupings:

- Share social interests: includes educational system, chamber of commerce, county agencies/services, non profit agencies, clubs and social organizations, health care services; share flood hazard with river between, air quality issues; Marysville metro area includes Yuba City and has shared transportation, water shed; Latino, Hmong, and Sikh populations are important part of two cities/counties community, culture
- Share economic interests: share agricultural issues such as water needs, grow peaches, almonds, rice (unlike coast which grows wine grapes); share highways

#### Differences between Sutter County (Yuba City) and Yuba county (Marysville) – not supporting keeping counties together:

- Sutter is flat rural farming, and Yuba has foothills, several more urban areas
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- Proposals about Yolo County:
    - Put Davis with Sacramento - has more in common with urban areas than with agricultural areas of Yolo.
    - Keep Yolo County together which shares air and transportation corridor with Solano County
  
  - Neighborhoods: No testimony on individual neighborhoods

## **San Luis Obispo – April 13, 2011**

- Geographic proposals: County boundaries are important because the county is the key administrative subdivision: social services, social safety net (assisting most vulnerable populations), justice system, elections, county also directs art programs in schools
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- Keep San Luis Obispo County whole

- COI underlying these groupings:
  - Share social interests: higher education; broad range of political viewpoints, compared to Santa Barbara and Ventura (if have to divide the county, divide north and south along Mountain range - Cuesta Grade); small and special, not affluent; college students - share socially, recreationally, academically; wine industry is really unique
  - **Shared economic interest:** higher education in addition to agriculture; economic downturn affecting county - need adequate representation and need everyone in county to work together to deal with economic issues; uniqueness of county: highest % of veterans of any county, very patriotic, and 50's- like; agricultural: labor force is farm, service in hotels/restaurants, government; small county without a big tax base; look at economic vitality of counties when drawing districts
- Keep Santa Barbara County whole
    - COI underlying these groupings:
    - Share social interests: higher education; college students - share socially, recreationally, academically share - face same struggles
    - Share economic interest: higher education in addition to agriculture
- Keep Ventura County whole
    - COI underlying these groupings:
    - Shared social interest: natural beauty, social events, mutual interests; college students - share socially, recreationally, academically face same struggles; environmental justice - Superfund site; youth violence prevention; faith - churches connected across Ventura
    - Shared economic interest: Tourism
- Keep SLO and Santa Barbara Counties together
    - COI underlying these groupings:
    - Shared social interest: mostly undeveloped , not a metropolis; county administrative structure is important; 32% Latino, rest primarily white, environmentally friendly and socially conscious, keep out Walmart and maintain green belts
    - Shared economic interest: #1 sector of economy is agriculture - very specific products, \$5Bill industry which grows different types of produce than other counties and areas; area of higher education

- Keep Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties together
  - don't exclude people of color like now in 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Ventura, Santa Barbara and Oxnard suffer threat of loss of senior health care
  - If do not keep Ventura county whole, it makes sense to bifurcate it and keep west with Santa Barbara county (80% Latino, low income, farmworkers)
  - COI underlying these groupings:
  - Shared social interest: low-income communities, and people of color; reservoirs in Santa Clara Valley watershed, many historical sites
  - Shared economic interest: river is a geographical connection, important to economy/agricultural interests, many farmworkers, most born in Mexico and earning less than \$15K/year
  
- Keep West Ventura County with Santa Barbara County and not LA County
  - COI underlying these groupings:
  - Shared social interest: clubs, schools; concern regarding jobs and affordable housing
  - Shared economic interest: Vandenburg air force base, 15% unemployment; socially low economic status

City/area level testimony:

- Port Huememe and Oxnard, El Rio, Camarillo, should be kept together: high Latino pop, 1st language is Spanish, concern with public transport (buses all over both cities) and environmental justice (toxic sites, almond beach)
  - Wetlands - need to be preserved.; elementary schools and HS very connected between two towns
  - largest exporter of strawberries, large middle class pop - employed at naval base
- Four subareas of San Luis Obispo County - Cuesta Grade is best divider: big retired community - right in between SF and LA; tourism has surpassed wine - but connected
  - Keep Atascadero & San Luis Obispo together: if you have to divide use Cuesta Grade - people consider themselves north SLO and south SLO based on this
- Keep Atascadero separate from San Luis Obispo because Atascadero has mostly retired people
- Don't use Cuesta Grande as a boundary and don't divide San Luis Obispo city
- South Monterey County and North San Luis Obispo County should be kept together because they share school districts and shopping areas

- Santa Clara valley - Fillmore, Santa Paula should be kept together with El Rio and Oxnard, not with Lancaster/Antelope Valley: migrant farmworker camps connects these areas as well as news, shopping, and health care

## **Bakersfield – April 14, 2011**

### Geographic proposals

- Keep farmworker communities &/or underrepresented/disadvantaged communities together
  - Weedpatch, Arvin and Lamont in Kern County (southeast of Bakersfield)
  - Weedpatch, Arvin, Lamont and East Bakersfield in Kern County
  - Delano, Wasco, Shafter, Oildale in northern Kern County (northwest of Bakerfield)
  - Kern County farmworker communities with farmworker communities in Tulare County - highway 99 connection

### COI underlying groupings

#### Shared social and economic interests:

- Towns where farmworkers live have a lot in common in terms of poor infrastructure: polluted water and air, rundown buildings, rough or no streets, no sidewalks, no street lighting, lack public transportation, no food or other shopping, no movie theatres, no pharmacy, no health care (one clinic only), high utility bills, prevalent illnesses (valley fever, cancer, pesticide-driven illnesses), high teen pregnancy, high dropout rate, not enough schools (only high school for Weedpatch, Lamont is in Arvin);
  - Have cultural activities, family-oriented events in common, celebration of religious holidays
  - ethnicity in common – mostly Latino; 75% don't speak English at home
  - hard hit by recession, no permanent or stable jobs, very low income, mostly farm/ranch work & packing plants; poverty still like in Depression;
  - Towns where farmworkers live are stark contrast to affluent areas of county
  - East Bakersfield has a lot in common with farmworker communities south east of it in terms of population & culture (East Bakerfield more in common with three towns than rest of Bakersfield) but infrastructure is better in East Bakersfield. East Bakersfield schools too tied with West Bakersfield schools so get 'fog days' when no fog in east part of city.
  - In general Bakersfield area has great job loss, only ag, oil, and prisons; many turn to crime, drug trade; mixed-used zoning leads to polluted neighborhoods
- Put east Kern County (Ridgecrest, China Lake, Edwards AFB) with northern LA County (Antelope Valley – Lancaster/Palmdale)

#### COI underlying groupings:

- Military bases/employees more similar to Antelope Valley

- Do not lump Tulare County with San Bernardino County as is now, as have nothing in common
- Keep Kern County whole  
COI underlying groupings:
  - Shared social interests: people are ‘from San Joaquin Valley’ not from East or West Kern and ‘from Kern’ not ‘mountain people’
  - Southern Kern County residents do not feel part of Ventura or LA Counties
- Split Kern County east and west using highway 14, Kern River, Tehachapi mountains  
COI underlying groupings:
  - distinct community in Tehachapi-Kern Valley
  - Kern County has been divided culturally for a long time, so does a disservice to east and west communities to lump together into one district
- Keep Bakersfield whole
  - Keep greater Bakersfield together including Rosedale and Oildale – us High School district map
- COI underlying groupings
  - LGBT community in Bakersfield needs voice
  - Significant homeless community in Kern Co need voice
  - Greater Bakersfield area shares economic and social interests, water resources, diverse religious view points (5 major world religions)
- Keep districts same as currently drawn:  
COI underlying groupings:
  - Good to have military communities together in current CD
  - Some believe well represented in CD 20 (as opposed to other who do not)
- Neighborhoods:
  - SE Bakersfield – similar income level to farmworker communities nearby
  - SW Bakersfield (as opposed north central and east Bakersfield)– more affluent, educated, ethnically diverse, younger people with families

**Hanford – April 15, 2011**

Geographic Proposals:

- Keep Kings County whole; we (Kings) know we are small, so add us to Fresno over Kern, and Kern over SLO; we have most in common with Fresno.  
COI underlying: dairy workers who have miserable working condition
- Separate Tulare County from northern San Bernardino County; we (Tulare) have nothing in common with San Bernardino County.

COI of Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Kern (especially northern Kern): shared interest in getting access to water

- Keep San Joaquin County whole because currently split up into AD, SD, CD; we (San Joaquin) only have a few cities, keep them whole, and possibly add towns like Gault in south Sacramento County rather than going up to Yolo County.
- Keep Fresno County whole  
COI underlying: all different ethnicities make up farming communities of Fresno County
- Divide Fresno County
  - West of 99 and East of 99

COI underlying division:

- Divided economic interest: Water issues different between west county agriculture (get water from Delta Canal) and east county agriculture (get water from Sierra snow melt)
- Keep neighborhoods in Fresno City whole
  - Southeast Fresno with diverse community
  - Draw majority-minority district in Southeast Fresno with Latino and Southeast Asian (mostly Hmong)  
COI underlying this: many details on shared economic and social interests in this area in terms of cultural events, diversity, poverty, limited English proficiency, low education, homelessness

## **II. Key Decisions About Regions**

The following section is not intended to show every decision the Commission will have to reach in each region. It also does not reflect every potential tradeoff or scenario. It is also not intended to reflect a comprehensive summary of public testimony. Rather, it reflects key points where the Commission can provide early guidance to the technical consultants. This direction will be used to identify additional decision points for which the Commission needs to provide direction after the completion of the first round of input hearings.

Does the Commission have any preferences, priorities or directions on the following:

### **Region IX**

Whether districts in northern California should ideally be drawn north-to-south or east-to-west?

Whether districts in northern California should ideally stay on one side of the coastal mountain range or cross it? Or does the Commission wish to wait to provide direction until it receives testimony from Region VIII for this issue?

Whether districts in northern California should ideally be drawn to avoid putting counties closer to the Oregon border into the same districts with counties closer to Sacramento or to follow major freeways like I-5 and HWY-99?

Whether Sutter County and Yuba County should ideally be put in the same district or different districts?

Whether Butte County should ideally be placed in the same district as Sutter County and Yuba County or a different district?

### **Region V**

Whether San Luis Obispo County should ideally be kept whole or split to separate northern/southern communities (dividing line being Cuesta Grade) or coastal/eastern communities?

Whether San Luis Obispo County is ideally oriented south towards Santa Barbara, east to Kern or north to Monterey? Or should different communities ideally oriented in different directions? Or does the Commission wish to wait to provide direction until it receives testimony from Region VII?

Whether Santa Barbara County is ideally oriented east towards Ventura or north towards San Luis Obispo County? Or are different portions ideally oriented in different directions?

Whether the Conejo Grade should be used as a dividing line between communities of interest in Ventura County?

Whether eastern Ventura County is ideally oriented towards western Ventura County or western Los Angeles County? Or does the Commission on this point wish to wait to provide direction until it receives testimony from Region IV?

### **Region VI**

Whether Fresno County should ideally be kept whole or split to separate western portions from eastern portions?

Whether Fresno City should ideally be kept whole or split to separate southern portions from northern portions?

Whether Tulare County should ideally be kept whole or split to separate eastern portions from western portions?

Whether Kern County should ideally be kept whole or split to separate northwestern portions or San Joaquin Valley portions from other portions?

Whether Bakersfield should ideally be kept whole or split to separate eastern portions from other portions?

To bridge the gap between northern and southern California, which is an unavoidable task due to California's geography, decisions will need to be made about how to connect the two areas. Here are some options about how the Central Valley may be connected to portions of Southern California:

- Should Western Kern County be combined with San Luis Obispo County,
- Should Southern/Eastern Kern County be combined with northern Los Angeles County,
- Should Eastern Kern County be combined with northern San Bernardino County,
- Should Eastern Tulare County be combined with northern San Bernardino County,
- Should Eastern Fresno County be combined with northern San Bernardino County
- Should the Central Valley be bypassed and should the foothill counties be combined with Southern California; or,
  - Does the Commission wish to wait to provide direction on this issue until it receives testimony from Regions II and IV?