MINUTES
FOR THE 2010 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011

SAN DIEGO CONCOURSE – SILVER ROOM
202 C STREET, SAN DIEGO CA 92101

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 10:10 a.m. 23 persons were observed to be in attendance. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Dalal at 2:48 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of the Redistricting Commission on Saturday, July 9th, 2011 at San Diego Concourse in the Silver Room.

ATTENDANCE DURING THE MEETING:
(C) Chair Anisha Dalal
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow*
(M) Frederick Kosmo
(M) Arthur Nishioka
(M) David Potter
(M) Theresa Quiroz

*Commissioner Mdivani-Morrow was present prior to the beginning of the meeting, but was not present at time of roll call and for the duration of the meeting. Commissioner Morrow requested the minutes state her absence was due to the lack of handicap accommodations previously requested.

ROLL CALL:
Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal - present
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez - present
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow – not present
(M) Frederick Kosmo - present
(M) Arthur Nishioka - present
(M) David Potter - present
(M) Theresa Quiroz - present

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:
This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Redistricting Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
Comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker. Submit requests to speak to the Midori Wong, Redistricting Commission Chief of Staff, before the item is called. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, no discussion or action, other than a referral, shall be taken by the Redistricting Commission on any issue brought forth under Non-Agenda Comment.

Comment 1 – Barrett Tetlow spoke on the Voting Rights Act regarding influenced districts, and provided a hand-out to the Commissioners.

COMMISSION COMMENT:

Chair Dalal noted that Item 1 on the Special Meeting agenda had been pulled and would not be discussed.

CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY STAFF ASSIGNED TO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION COMMENT:

Deputy City Attorney Sharon Spivak spoke in response to the public request at the previous Commission meeting that public speakers be required to disclose affiliation to any groups when speaking at Commission meetings. The request was referred to the Bylaws Subcommittee and City Attorney’s Office. Ms. Spivak reported that the bylaws would not be amended to require disclosure because such disclosure would violate the Brown Act, particularly Government Code Section 54953.3.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2011 AND JUNE 16, 2011, REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Potter: To approve the Minutes for June 14, 2011, and June 16, 2011. Second by Commissioner Nishioka.

Commissioner Quiroz asked that the June 16th meeting minutes document her request that any map submitted by EMPOWER San Diego be brought to the attention of the Commission.

Motion to approve the Minutes for June 14, 2011, and June 16, 2011 with Commissioner Quiroz’s changes, passed unanimously 6-0. Commissioner Morrow is not present.

ITEM 2: DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN

Comment 1 – Loretta Spano spoke in favor of keeping the University City Community Planning Area together and united with La Jolla in one council district. She supports the Coast and Canyons map and asked the Commission to reject any plans dividing University City.
Comment 2 – Brian Pollard reemphasized the process used in creating his District 4 proposal and the Unity Community map. He urged the Commission to use his map as the foundation for creating the citywide and District 4 map.

Comment 3 – Chris Cate on behalf of the San Diego Taxpayers Association presented more options developed after meeting with community members.

Comment 4 – Kirk Starr spoke regarding a link between Bay Park, Bay Ho and the beach communities. He presented a print out of Bay Ho rentals from Craigslist, all indicating their beach and bay views.

Comment 5 – Max Chou, a student at UCSD, highlighted the cultural diversity of City Heights via a picture slideshow.

Comment 6 – Michael Costello advocated for the Coast and Canyons plan. He stated that population variances should come secondary to keeping communities together.

Comment 7 – Deborah Knight with Friends of Rose Canyon called to the attention of the Commission an error in population in the APAC map, stating that the area in question can remain in University City without as much deviation as the APAC map suggests. She spoke against the revisions to the Taxpayers map, stating that I-5 is not a natural boundary but the backbone of the University City community plan and the UCSD campus.

Comment 8 – Dr. Allen Chan spoke in favor of APAC’s proposed District 9, referencing shared transit stations, transportation routes, and Asian population percentages.

Comment 9 – Barbara Scheidker spoke in strong favor of the Coast and Canyons plan, and keeping University City together and united with La Jolla in one council district.

Comment 10 – Joe LaCava asked the Commission to adopt the Coast and Canyons plan for District 1, to keep communities together, respect communities of interest, and consider population deviation last.

Comment 11 – Bari Vaz asked that Mira Mesa Community Planning Area, as well as other CPAs, be kept together. She submitted a letter and proposed map on behalf of the Mira Mesa Town Council to the Commission.

Chair Dalal thanked the public for attending. She introduced Mr. Douglas Johnson from National Demographics Corporation. She also stated that as Chair of both the Commission and Mapping Subcommittee, she wished to extend additional thanks to the City Purchasing & Contracting Department for their assistance. In particular, she recognized Mr. Hildred Pepper and Ms. Pam Glover, noting that staff took on Commission requests in addition to their regular workloads and without additional compensation, and expressed appreciation for their time, support, and responsiveness.
Mr. Johnson laid out the first steps of the process, indicating that the first step would be to walk through the communities of interest. He presented a map illustrating all San Diego neighborhood areas, overlaid with the Community Planning Areas. He noted that there are differences between Census blocks and neighborhood lines.

Commissioner Quiroz asked the public to submit input as to what they consider their neighborhood lines to be if they vary from boundaries shown by the City Planning department maps.

Commissioner Marquez asked that the Commission first hear Mr. Johnson’s interpretation of the community input prior to beginning Commissioner discussion.

Commissioner Kosmo presented a map he developed for discussion purposes, along with supporting material provided at the meeting.

Commissioner Potter also presented a map for purpose of discussion and testing.

Commissioner Nishioka thanked Commissioners Potter and Kosmo for taking the initiative.

Commissioner Kosmo echoed his sentiments, as thanked Commissioner Potter.

Commissioner Quiroz also thanked Commissioners Potter and Kosmo, but stated that it seemed to her that there was “packing and cracking” going on with the Latino Vote. She would have liked the City Attorney present to address Voting Rights Act issues up front. She’d like the Commission comes to an understanding about what they agree on, first.

Commissioner Marquez asked about the Municipal Code that Mr. Potter mentioned as rationale for keeping Bay Park out of the beach community district.

Ms. Spivak stated that the Municipal Code can be altered by the City Council; amendments to the Charter require a vote of the people. She also responded to Commissioner Quiroz’s comment, stating that it is the intent of the City Attorney’s Office to provide a Voting Rights Act primer at the beginning of the next meeting on July 9th before Commission delving into creating maps.

Commissioner Quiroz began commenting on the maps. She stated that the Ridgeview neighborhood is not part of the Webster neighborhood, although in the maps the Police maps received they have been grouped. Webster has asked to be in District 4 and Ridgeview has asked to be in the City Heights district. She requests lines be drawn to identify Ridgeview as separate from Webster. There are only 450 homes in Ridgeview and splitting it into three council districts seems excessive to her. She suggested using the District 4 map on the City website as guidance, since it has Ridgeview and Webster shown separately.

Commissioner Potter stated that he used the boundaries used in the Community Plan and the City’s website only when community neighborhoods were undefined. Commissioner Kosmo said he did the same.
Commissioner Quiroz suggested that the Commission is at a point where they could use the areas in which they agree as guidelines for the beginning of a map.

She believes the Coast and Canyons map should be adopted as District 1 because community members from all areas affected by the plan were in agreement and in favor of the plan, including all the CPAs. She suggested directing NDC to incorporate the Coast and Canyons map.

She mentioned that the beach communities might also be an area of agreement, with room for debate regarding incorporating Bay Ho and Bay Park areas. She thinks grouping all the beaches and bays into one council is something the Commission can agree on.

She also stated that the Commission could agree that all of South Bay needs to remain united in one district.

She suggested motioning on points of agreement.

Commission Potter stated that each Commissioner expressing their position would work to reach a consensus. He also agreed that he would like to see the Coast and Canyons map as presented go forward as District 1. He supports a plan that is based on the beaches and the bay, and he supports keeping all of South Bay in one district.

Chair Dalal also agrees on those three points.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees that the Coast and Canyons is a good plan, although his map varies slightly from that. He also supports tying the beach communities together, as well as keeping the Southbay together. He prefers stating his opinion, as opposed to motioning.

Commissioner Marquez also strongly supports the Coast and Canyons map. He has concerns about including Downtown with District 3, but he is in support of uniting Bay Ho and Bay Park with the beach communities. He suggested adding Downtown and Bay Ho/Bay Park to District 2.

Chair Dalal asked that Mr. Johnson come back with a map next meeting, incorporating these ideas.

Mr. Johnson stated that he plans to have the interactive ability to add and detract areas to proposed districts at the next meeting, for discussion and comparison.

Commissioner Nishioka stated that in his mind the 56 freeway does not constitute a natural boundary and he would not like to see Rancho Peñasquitos dividing by it. The 56 freeway was completed in 2004. He referenced the Poway Unified School District map which unites Rancho Peñasquitos. He stated that Kearny Mesa and Mira Mesa are natural communities of interest for the Asian community. He stated that Coast and Canyons plan has merit; that keeping the Historic Barrio District united in District 8 is important; and keeping Downtown united in one district. He supports Commissioner Quiroz’s suggestion that a vote be taken on specific areas of disagreements, so that majority wins and the process move forward.
Chair Dalal called a break, to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Levitt facilitated a discussion of regions of the City to obtain direction on to create a draft map, focusing on communities of interest. The following is a consolidated summary of these directions.

**South Bay**

Commissioners agreed and directed Mr. Johnson to keep the entire Southbay region united in one district.

**Southwestern**

Commissioners agreed and directed Mr. Johnson to keep the Historic Barrio neighborhoods together in District 8, without Downtown, and all were in consensus that Shelltown could stay in District 8 or be moved into another district. Commissioner Quiroz stated that this is a Latino district and it should not be fragmented.

Commissioner Kosmo supported the 94 being a boundary for District 8 and keeping all of Golden Hill with Balboa Park. Commissioners Dalal and Quiroz agreed with the sentiment, but also stated that Golden Hill could remain or be moved if needed for population reasons.

**Southeastern**

Chair Dalal supports keeping Webster in District 4. Commissioner Quiroz supports moving Ridgeview into the City Heights district, but depending on population needs, is flexible. She suggests moving Mountain View, Mount Hope, Oceanview Park and Gateway Plaza out of District 4 to meet population criteria.

Commissioner Potter is against separating Mountain View and Mount Hope from District 4 because it would further fragment the Southeastern Planning Area. Commissioner Kosmo concurs.

Commissioner Kosmo would like to further define the Ridgeview community.

Commissioner Quiroz commented that the Chollas Creek is where Ridgeview and Webster meet. She also mentioned that she’d like to adhere as much as possible to the community testimony regarding District 4, stating their organization in the redistricting process testifies to their status as a community of interest.

**Coastal**

Chair Dalal supports keeping all the beaches and Point Loma together with the airport. Commissioner Kosmo concurs. He suggested that this district could flow into downtown or east into the Bay Ho/Bay Park areas.
Commissioner Potter would like to include the Pacific Highway corridor in this district, so that I-5 becomes the boundary line.

Commissioner Quiroz disagrees, stating that the beach communities had been clear that they did not want to be in the same district as Downtown, as some are now, because their needs are overshadowed by those of Downtown. She would like to see Mission, Ocean, Pacific Beaches with Point Loma and Bay Ho/Bay Park, although the numbers are not quite there.

Chair Dalal directed Mr. Johnson to develop maps of the different scenarios, including and excluding Downtown and Bay Ho/Bay Park from the beach district.

Commissioner Marquez asked that the Commission remain flexible on where to place Downtown, since Clairemont Mesa residents also expressed a connection with Bay Ho/Bay Park and a desire to remain united with these communities.

Chair Dalal supports using the La Jolla/Pacific Beach boundary as the division boundary of the districts.

Commissioner Kosmo prefers using Mount Soledad as a divider between Pacific Beach and La Jolla.

Commission Potter stated that keeping the current division of Mission Bay Park gives people on both sides of the park stewardship over the Park.

Commissioner Quiroz feels Mission Bay Park is flexible because of not much public testimony was heard about it.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees with Commissioner Potter that Bay Park communities have a joint interest with Mission Bay. So if Bay Park and the beaches end up in one district, keep Mission Bay with that district. If they end up divided, Mission Bay should be split amongst those two districts.

**North Central**

The Commissioner agreed to use the CPA boundary to divide University City and Mira Mesa, as opposed to the I-805.

Chair Dalal convened the Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m., and noted this item would continue following the Special Meeting.
SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting was called to order by Chair Dalal at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Anisha Dalal called the roll:

(C) Chair Anisha Dalal - present  
(VC) Vice Chair Carlos Marquez – present  
(M) Ani Mdivani-Morrow – not present  
(M) Frederick Kosmo - present  
(M) Arthur Nishioka - present  
(M) David Potter - present  
(M) Theresa Quiroz - present

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 1: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF REMCHO, JOHANSEN & PURCELL TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING REDISTRICTING AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT NOT TO EXCEED $50,000.00.

Chair Dalal again noted that this item had been pulled from consideration.

ITEM 2: DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING SCHEDULING OF POST-MAP HEARINGS

Chief of Staff Midori Wong presented an update on the proposed meeting schedule and asked for direction regarding timing of post-map hearings.

Commissioner Nishioka stated that bringing the meetings down to five instead of nine would give time to the public to provide feedback and for the Commissioners to incorporate it.

Commissioner Marquez is in favor of consolidating the meetings. He’d like to adhere to the August 25th deadline.

Chair Dalal is also in favor of consolidating meetings to give time to reflect between meetings.

Commissioner Quiroz is concerned about time for the legal review; between August 21st and 26th is not enough time for the attorneys to review the legalities. She prefers holding meetings in all eight districts. However, she asks that if the meetings are consolidated the Chair make a comment at each meeting and that the Chief of Staff send out a notice to the email distribution list about the short time frame between adoption of the preliminary plan and the beginning of post-map hearings so that
the public can prepare. She asked that the meetings requiring translation not be cut from the schedule. She also suggested that meetings cut should be in districts where there are fewer conflicts.

Commissioner Potter largely agrees with Commissioner Quiroz; he prefers holding in hearings in all eight meetings, but he understands the arguments for consolidating. Commissioner Potter would also like to see enough time for legal review. He wouldn’t like to go beyond August 25th. He asked if the Commission could take public comment on the suggested schedule.

Chair Dalal agreed and called for any public comment.

Comment 1: Joe LaCava suggested clarifying the intention for the post-map meetings. He is in favor of having all nine meetings.

Comment 2: Linda Perine agreed with Commissioner Quiroz. She is in favor of having a post-map in each district, stating that truncating the opportunities to comment on a prepared map would look bad to the public. She inquired as to why there was such a large gap of time between this meeting and the next.

Commissioner Nishioka asked if City TV could have meetings up the same or next day; that would help with communicating information. That would influence his vote towards condensing or keeping all nine meetings.

Ms. Wong stated that City Council has priority with City TV at all meetings. If the meeting or hearing is being held offsite (not in Council Chambers or the Committee Room), those meetings will not be broadcast in real-time and may take an additional day to upload to the web site.

Ms. Spivak responded to a written comment submitted by a member of the public. She stated that this is a special meeting and as such has different noticing requirements under the Brown Act, all of which were all met.

Commissioner Marquez stated that from a PR perspective, eight meetings is best. He asked if during the post map meetings, maps would be revised in real-time before the public.

Ms. Wong stated that the intent is to present the adopted preliminary plan and filing statement, and to hear public comment on those two items. The map should not be revised at each public hearing because different information would be presented to different communities. However, Commissioners will be asked to provide direction to the mapping consultant team based on testimony received at each post-map hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Nishioka: To consolidate the post-map hearings from nine meetings to five meetings. Seconded by Commissioner Marquez.
Commissioner Marquez would like to take into account Commissioners Potter and Quiroz’s concerns and not cut hearings that require translation services and host the hearings in areas with the least consensus.

Ms. Wong requested that she be allowed to work with the Outreach Subcommittee and outreach team to finalize locations.

The motion to consolidate the post-map hearings from nine meetings to five meetings passed 4–2, with Commissioners Dalal, Marquez, Potter, Nishioka in favor and Commissioners Kosmo and Quiroz opposed. Commissioner Morrow is not present.

Commissioner Dalal adjourned the Special Meeting and 1:24 p.m. and called the regular meeting back to order.

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 2: DEVELOPMENT OF PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN (continued)

North Central (continued)

Commissioner Quiroz is in favor of keeping La Jolla whole, but would like to know why La Jolla was separated by the previous Redistricting Commission.

Commissioner Kosmo is in favor of keeping north and south University City together. However, he stated that Sorrento Mesa and northern University City share similar economics, so he doesn’t think it’s unreasonable to consider uniting these two.

Commissioner Potter stated that Sorrento Mesa has more in common with Mira Mesa and is in their Community Plan, therefore does not suggest uniting it with University City.

Commissioner Quiroz is also in favor of keeping University City united, referencing the medical/educational community of interest.

Commissioner Quiroz recalls hearing testimony from Del Mar Mesa, Torrey Hills and Pacific Highlands Ranch residents saying they wanted to be together, as well as Carmel Valley residents stating they wanted to be with San Dieguito Valley, Villa de La Valle, and Fairbanks Ranch.

Commissioner Potter says they should all be combined although some only stated wanting to be joined with one or the other. He would like to see all of Del Mar Mesa in that same district.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees with Commissioner Potter’s statements.

Chair Dalal also agrees; she recalls hearing public testimony asking that Del Mar Mesa, Torrey Hills, Carmel Valley, and Pacific Highlands Ranch stay together.
Northeastern
Mr. Levitt referenced comments from Carmel Mountain Ranch and Sabre Springs about their shared community of interest, as well as Black Mountain Ranch and Torrey Highlands. He noted that Carmel Valley Ranch and Sabre Springs expressed their shared community of interest with Rancho Bernardo.

Chair Dalal is in favor of uniting the communities in the Poway Unified School District.

Commissioner Potter is also in favor of uniting communities in PUSD. He noted that PUSD includes Rancho Peñasquitos, Rancho Bernardo, Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Sabre Springs and Miramar Ranch North. Neither Mira Mesa nor Scripps Miramar Ranch is included in PUSD.

Commissioner Quiroz is in favor of reuniting Rancho Encantada with Scripps Miramar Ranch and Miramar Ranch.

Chair Dalal agrees with Commissioner Quiroz.

Commissioner Quiroz asked for NDC’s guidance about exactly where the Asian communities of interest are.

Mr. Levitt noted that because to link Black Mountain ranch with Rancho Bernardo you have to go through Rancho Peñasquitos, uniting those two neighborhoods into one district would have to include at least a part of Rancho Peñasquitos.

Chair Dalal feels that the southern part of Rancho Peñasquitos can go either way.

NDC will develop options showing different mapping scenarios for Rancho Peñasquitos.

Commissioner Potter stated that if it were to split, he’d like to see it split along the 56.

Commissioner Quiroz feel strongly about united the fire hazard communities in one district.

Commissioner Marquez is more in favor of keeping Black Mountain and Rancho Peñasquitos connected and keeping Rancho Peñasquitos united, than connecting Black Mountain with Rancho Bernardo, using the northern half of Peñasquitos.

Commissioner Nishioka is in favor of keeping Rancho Peñasquitos united and not splitting along 56. He is concerned about accommodating the Asian communities’ requests, but is not sure how best to do that.

NDC will provide options for review.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Areas
Chair Dalal is in favor of keeping Mira Mesa whole. She could see it joined with Miramar and Sorrento Mesa.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees that Mira Mesa and Sorrento Mesa should be united, along with Miramar and Kearny Mesa, as well as Tierrasanta and North Clairemont because of the MCAS Miramar.

Commissioner Potter feels that if Scripps Miramar Ranch is brought into this district, so should Rancho Encantada.

Chair Dalal is also in favor of Rancho Encantada remaining united with Scripps Miramar Ranch.

Commissioner Quiroz is in favor of keeping Mira Mesa united. She includes the Miramar Air Station with the fire hazard communities and doesn’t see it as connected to Mira Mesa.

Commissioner Marquez is also in favor of keeping Mira Mesa whole. He is not convinced it should be united with Tierrasanta. If we group it with Kearny Mesa, it would cause conflict with the Tierrasanta residents who wanted that CPA united.

Commissioner Potter recalls hearing more testimony for keeping Kearny Mesa with Mira Mesa, especially from the Asian community.

Mr. Levitt asked for direction on splitting MCAS Miramar base. He noted that there are only six residents in Miramar East.

Commissioner Potter is fine splitting or uniting it; he believes it will depend on how the other areas north and west of it are divided.

Mr. Levitt mentioned the Navajo CPA and testimony to keep it together, as well as testimony from residents of Grantville and Allied Gardens regarding the I-8 corridor and development that affects their communities, connecting them to Mission Valley.

Commissioner Potter is flexible in including them in either, as long as Allied gardens and Grantville remain united.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees with Potter. He wants the Commission to take into account Mission Trails Regional Park, the I-8 corridor, and to consider moving the Navajo area with the College area.

Chair Dalal and Commissioner Quiroz also agree with Commissioner Kosmo. Commissioner Quiroz is also in favor of keeping the river areas together.

Commissioner Potter is in favor of keeping Del Cerro and San Carlos tied with the College area because of planned developments.
Mr. Levitt asked for direction on where to place Tierrasanta, with Scripps Miramar Ranch, Navajo, or communities to the west.

Commissioner Marquez is more inclined to unite Tierrasanta with communities to the north, instead of west.

Chair Dalal said there are arguments for both and there was consensus that it depends on what is done with Kearny Mesa.

Commissioner Nishioka is in favor of going north or east with Navajo.

Commissioner Potter wants Tierrasanta included with Kearny Mesa and tying it with the north as well.

Mr. Levitt asked for direction on splitting Kearny Mesa from Serra Mesa either via I-805 or Aero Drive.

Chair Dalal agrees that south of Aero is Kearny Mesa, a very suburban area with military housing.

Commissioner Potter also agrees with keeping everything south of Aero Drive with Serra Mesa.

Commissioner Quiroz would like to keep this CPA united.

Mr. Levitt asked for direction regarding Mission Valley. Some testimony indicated a desire for Mission Valley to be united, while others suggested that communities around it would like to be united to parts of it, but not the whole.

Commissioner Potter agrees with splitting Mission Valley as long as it remains tied to the neighborhoods to the north because topography, schools, and access.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees with Commissioner Potter’s comments.

Commissioner Quiroz would like to determine where the high-density areas in Mission Valley are and to keep them together.

Mr. Levitt asked for direction on Linda Vista, Morena and Clairemont. He mentioned that Clairemont Town Council asked that their CPA be kept whole; however residents of Bay Ho and Bay Park would prefer to be with coastal areas. Linda Vista has also testified that it has a strong Latino component and is different than the rest of the Clairemont area.

Commissioner Potter agrees that the population component is different in Linda Vista but recalls testimony that they’d like to be tied to Clairemont. He’d like to use Tecolote Canyon as a unifying factor, instead of a divide.
Commissioner Kosmo would like to consider Tecolote Canyon as a divider, especially when considering adding Bay Ho and Bay Park to the beach district. He also stated that districts sharing stewardship over a natural resource can be beneficial.

Commissioner Quiroz asked about a public comment stating that Linda Vista was actually two neighborhoods.

Mr. Levitt recalled that the comment distinguished between USD and the northern areas of Linda Vista. NDC will provide a rough approximation of that division in a future map.

Central San Diego

Mr. Levitt asked for direction regarding Balboa Park. In their public testimony, some members of the LGBT community asked for a community of interest centered around Balboa Park.

Chair Dalal is in favor of keeping Balboa Park area intact as much as possible.

Commissioner Potter also heard of expanding that district further west.

Mr. Levitt mentioned that if City Heights becomes the center of a Latino district, it would not be part of District 3.

Commissioner Marquez is in favor of keeping the core part of District 3 surrounding Balboa Park intact.

Commissioner Nishioka feels that the core should be kept intact and the district should move to the west.

Commissioner Quiroz feels that LGBT community has proven to be a community of interest by their voting behavior and wants to respect that community of interest.

Commissioner Kosmo also would like to keep the District 3 core together, and move it westward.

NDC will provide different variations of District 3 that goes to different extents westward.

Chair Dalal would like to include Mission Hills, Park West, Golden Hill, Little Italy, Cortez Hill, Mid-town, Old Town, and Banker’s Hill in those westward variations.

Commissioner Marquez also mentioned Banker’s Hill and Downtown. He feels there is not yet a consensus about moving it westward.

Mr. Levitt asked about a defined core.

Commissioner Marquez suggested North Park, Normal Heights, and westward as the core.
Commissioner Potter believes the core should include the Golden Hill area, and areas surrounding Balboa Park.

Commissioner Quiroz suggested the core be the LGBT community, wherever they have proposed it to be.

Mr. Levitt does not suggest using the Prop 8 map to define the LGBT community because of such a close vote. He suggested using the old Prop 22 map because it was much more polarized and highlighted LGBT core communities, however that was in 2000 so they’d need direction as to where it’s expanded.

Commissioner Quiroz would prefer using something more current, possibly in conjunction with the Prop 8 map.

Mr. Johnson will look into other resources.

Commissioner Marquez referenced the LGBT Task Force’s submission, which included many tools to identify the LGBT community, as well as the census data for same sex couples.

**Mid-City**

Commissioner Potter agrees that Normal Heights ties in well with communities to the west, while Kensington and Talmadge tie in with the College areas.

Commissioner Quiroz would like to consider Adams Ave. – she’d like it be kept together. She thinks it could go either way, united to with communities to the east or west. She thinks Talmadge and Kensington are most similar to communities to the north, but if given the option of east or west, she would unite it with the College area to the east.

Chair Dalal and Commissioner Marquez are also in favor of keeping Talmadge and Kensington with College.

Mr. Levitt asked for direction regarding Rolando and Oak Park.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees that Rolando and El Cerrito are impacted by the College area. He’d like to see variations with Webster in District 4.

Commission Potter feels that Oak Park could go either south or north.

Commissioner Quiroz sides with public testimony that Oak Park stay in District 4. She needs to review the testimony regarding Ridgeview. She is flexible on where to place El Cerrito and Rolando.

Chair Dalal agrees with Commissioner Quiroz’s position on Oak Park.
Commissioner Marquez agrees with Commissioner Kosmo’s comments on Oak Park and Webster. He sides with public testimony that Oak Park stay in District 4.

Commissioner Potter recalls public testimony regarding redevelopment areas in El Cerrito and other eastern areas.

NCD will look into that comment.

**City Heights**

Mr. Levitt recounted conflicting testimony regarding unifying the City Heights Planning Area, as well as keeping the City Heights areas currently in District 3 as is.

Chair Dalal mentioned all the conflicting testimony and stated that this is a hard decision. Ultimately, she is in favor of keeping City Heights in three different districts, but is open to other Commissioner input.

Commissioner Kosmo agrees with Chair Dalai’s comments, but leans towards uniting City Heights; however, he is open to input.

Commissioner Quiroz is strongly in favor of keeping City Heights united, but would like to define what is and isn’t City Heights. She noted that Ridgeview is part of City Heights; Webster isn’t. She sites public testimony as her reason for voting to unite City Heights. She understands the Azalea Park residents’ concerns, but in order to unify the immigrant and large Latino populations, Azalea Park cannot be split off.

Commissioner Marquez also cited the conflicting testimony but feels that the majority of testimony was in favor of uniting City Heights. He is in favor of creating a 2nd Latino district to honor Latino’s growing population, now 1/3 of the population of San Diego. He stated that City Heights needs to be united in order to create the 2nd Latino district.

Commissioner Nishioka also recalls the conflicting testimony; however he feels that uniting City Heights has more merit.

Mr. Levitt opened up the conversation to Commissioners.

Commissioner Potter stated that he’d like to be able to use different colors in the neighborhood maps, as NDC’s has. NDC said it can be made available.

Mr. Levitt used the neighborhood boundaries found on the City website.

Commissioner Quiroz stated that because of the large amount of testimony and collaboration between coalitions, the maps for Districts 4, District 8, the City Heights area, and District 3 should be adopted as presented.
NDC will provide maps showing why some tradeoffs will need to occur.

Commissioner Marquez asked if NDC could somehow give approximate numbers about how many people wanted what options.

Mr. Johnson stated that he doesn’t recommend giving counts because groups will start flooding the Commission to tilt the counts.

Chair Dalal agreed with Mr. Johnson, stating the Commission could review the transcripts and correspondence to measure for themselves.

Commissioner Potter agreed with Mr. Johnson as well.

Commissioner Quiroz asked that NDC provide with each map not only the populations for each district, but the breakdown by race/ethnicities so that we can ensure that they abide by the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Johnson stated that by the 9th there will be more data available, including citizen voting age population data, voter registration by surnames, and more. The goal is to get all the maps and data requested up with the agenda on the 5th to allow maximum time for public review.

Mr. Johnson suggested lettering instead of numbering their plans. All Commissioners concurred.

Ms. Spivak stated that there is language in the Charter that will be affected by the numbering of the districts. If the lettering will change the numbers, it will need to be discussed with the City Attorney.

Chair Dalal is in favor of using letters, for internal uses with the cautions Ms. Spivak alluded to.

Mr. Johnson talked about what to expect of the maps presented on July 9th. He fielded questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Quiroz asked that NDC first provide a map including to the extent possible all the direction provided for informational purposes. NDC will comply with the request.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Levitt and Mr. Johnson for their facilitation.

ITEM 3: STAFF REPORT

Ms. Wong recapped the public software training, and discussed the fiscal yearend budget report and the next scheduled Commission meeting. She fielded questions from the Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Dalal adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.