

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

IN RE:

DISTRICT LINES IN ESCONDIDO FOR THE CITY'S ELECTIONS

OCTOBER 10, 2013

ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA

REPORTED BY KRISTY A. MONTALBAN, CSR NO. 13551

1 Transcript of Public Hearing taken at the request of  
2 Diane Halverson, CMC, commencing at the hour of  
3 6:07 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 3003 Bear  
4 Valley Parkway, Escondido, California, before  
5 Kristy A. Montalban, Certified Shorthand Reporter  
6 No. 13551, in and for the State of California.

7  
8  
9

10 APPEARANCES:

11

12 For the City of Escondido:

13 CITY OF ESCONDIDO  
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1           DANA NUESCA: We are going to call this meeting  
2 to order. We are going to follow the agenda. The first  
3 thing that we have on the agenda is roll call. I'm  
4 going to go ahead and go through the roll call and call  
5 out commissioners.

6           Well, at first we were going to have limited  
7 mic use, but we now have mics, but I'm going to go ahead  
8 and stick to the plan.

9           I am Dana Nuesca. I'm the chair for the  
10 redistricting commission.

11           At my left is John Valdez, Jack Anderson.  
12 Andrew Carey is not present. I'm sure he's probably on  
13 his way. Doris Cruz, Bill Flores and Roberto Ramirez.  
14 And so we are all here.

15           I do want to give you guys just a little  
16 overview on the hearing and how it's going to work so  
17 that you're -- if you haven't actually been to a public  
18 hearing before, you will understand.

19           We are going to start -- you have an agenda.  
20 You picked up an agenda at the beginning.

21           First thing, if you do want to speak, make sure  
22 that you fill out a speaker form so that during the  
23 public hearing you can speak and, you know, that's why  
24 we are here. We do hope that you are going to be  
25 willing to get up there and speak.

1           And just some -- just a couple things.  
2 Restrooms are outside the door here and make a right and  
3 they're, I believe, outside at the far end of the  
4 building or somewhere right there outside.

5           One other thing. After the workshop, after the  
6 Q2 workshop, she's going to kind of go over what  
7 redistricting or what districting, for that matter, is.  
8 And then we are going to take about a 20-minute break  
9 from the actual meeting and allow you to go around and  
10 look at the maps after she's given her workshop.

11           If you decide to draw on the map, we have -- we  
12 will take pictures of it, but we need your idea of a  
13 district to be actually in writing or speaking here at  
14 the microphone. So you have the two options. If you  
15 are terrified to speak, we do have a form that you can  
16 fill out for your community of interest and you can let  
17 us know how you want that to be drawn or you can come to  
18 the microphone.

19           So please, if you write on the map, I just want  
20 to reiterate that, make sure that you do fill out a  
21 piece of paper or actually come and speak at the mic.

22           The other thing is the commissioners will be  
23 walking around and we will be talking to you. If you  
24 give us an idea, you still need to do what I just said.  
25 Fill out a piece of paper or come to the microphone,

1 because at that point we need to have it -- we need to  
2 have it on public record, okay? I hope that makes  
3 sense. If you guys have any questions, please feel free  
4 to see any of the commissioners.

5 FEMALE: I have a map.

6 DANA NUESCA: Perfect.

7 FEMALE: So I don't need to draw one or --

8 DANA NUESCA: If you already have a map, you  
9 can feel free to turn that in tonight. And then also if  
10 you would like to speak at the public -- you know,  
11 during the public hearing portion, you can do that too.

12 FEMALE: Do I give that to you?

13 DANA NUESCA: Yes. You can give that to Diane  
14 Halverson, city clerk. When you take a break, you can  
15 do that. That's fine.

16 FEMALE: Okay.

17 DANA NUESCA: All right. So we are going to --  
18 they are rebooting a computer. Unfortunately, when you  
19 have meetings, things go awry. And technology, although  
20 we all love it, it tends to let us down in the most  
21 important moments. And so they had to go and get a new  
22 computer because the computer somehow on the transit  
23 here decided that it didn't want to work.

24 So we do have Q2 here. That's the consultant,  
25 the expert consultant. They are from the Bay area. And

1 Anna Henderson is the one that will be conducting this  
2 portion of the meeting.

3 EXPERT CONSULTANT: Hi. How are you guys  
4 doing? I sound so loud.

5 Okay. So Nicole is working on the computer  
6 right now. In the meantime, these packets that you saw  
7 when you came in, they actually have printed the  
8 PowerPoint presentation I'm going to give, so I'll go  
9 ahead and start with the paper. If you guys have a  
10 copy, if you need a copy, they will give you one. Just  
11 so it won't be you guys sitting there watching us doing  
12 the computer. It's not that interesting.

13 Okay. So on the first page here, you have  
14 districting in Escondido, how it works and how to  
15 participate. And our first questions people ask  
16 sometimes is what is districting.

17 Let me move a little bit. One moment.

18 Okay. We're good. I'm going through the paper  
19 a little bit longer because now the computer is frozen.  
20 We need to adjust it, not a replacement.

21 Okay. So in a district-based electoral system,  
22 representatives are elected from districts. Currently,  
23 up until now, and it's Escondido, everyone -- the city  
24 council members are elected by everyone in the whole  
25 city. What the commission will be doing is dividing the

1 city up into four districts and people that want to be a  
2 city council member will run for each of those  
3 districts.

4 So the districting process is the process of  
5 dividing up that population into the different  
6 districts. Here we will have four.

7 Okay. On the next page, the first one is  
8 saying the names of our lovely commissioners here and  
9 then asking some questions about what the commission  
10 will actually be doing. As it was, I think you probably  
11 all know the commission has been -- was put together  
12 after a lawsuit, and there are certain things that the  
13 commission needs to do.

14 First I need to uphold six public input  
15 hearings, and those will all be held during the month of  
16 October. After these are concluded, they will be having  
17 two line drawing meetings in October as well. And  
18 that's when they'll be taking all the testimony that  
19 they hear from you guys during the hearings and using  
20 that to make district map, a district plan.

21 We'll be collecting data through community  
22 input, and that's hearings like tonight but also other  
23 ways of getting input, either by sending a letter to the  
24 city clerk's office, giving written testimony in an  
25 e-mail, different ways to get your voice heard.



1           Next there will be constructing and approving a  
2 preliminary districting plan, and that will be done  
3 after the line drawing meeting that will be held on  
4 October 29th.

5           After that they will be holding three feedback  
6 meetings on the preliminary plan, and that will be an  
7 opportunity for people to come in and say, I like what  
8 you did, I don't like what you did, I would change this,  
9 I would change that, thumbs up, thumbs down, things like  
10 that.

11           And then next also approve a recommended  
12 districting plan and submit that to the city council.

13           There's different types of meetings that the  
14 commission is holding. Up until now, the commission has  
15 been holding public meetings or business meetings. They  
16 are scheduling -- it all included -- but the next one  
17 will be on October 27th. And then also the public input  
18 hearings. And this is just some of the dates, times and  
19 locations of the upcoming hearings.

20           And then, again, the line drawing meetings that  
21 I mentioned on October 27th and October 29th. Please  
22 note that the one on October 27th will be held  
23 immediately after the public input hearings, so if you  
24 want to do an all-day districting marathon, you can go  
25 to both.

1           And then the preliminary plan hearings are so  
2 scheduled for November 21st, November 23rd and  
3 November 24th. And the preliminary hearing will be held  
4 on November 24th. So that will be after the first  
5 preliminary plan meeting.

6           Other meetings may need to be scheduled. There  
7 is a website here, [escondido.org](http://escondido.org), where you can look at  
8 and see if there's anything else going on. Also a lot  
9 of the information that I will be talking about tonight  
10 is also online, so if you know people who weren't able  
11 to be here tonight, you can share that information with  
12 them. There is a lot of information in there.

13           Okay. So we know what the commission is going  
14 to be doing, all the things they'll be having, but the  
15 big question is how are they going to draw district  
16 lines.

17           In the consent decree with the litigation with  
18 the City of Escondido, it has criteria that the  
19 commission needs to use to draw districts. So they  
20 don't just get to go in and say, I think we should draw  
21 districts like this. There's really specific rules that  
22 they need to follow for this.

23           And the criteria appear in ranked order. So  
24 the Number 1 criteria is the most important one.  
25 Number 2 criteria is the second most important and so

1 on.

2           So the first criteria is that districts shall  
3 comply with the constitution, including reasonably equal  
4 population, and I'll talk a little bit more about that,  
5 but I just want to go through the list first.

6           The second is that district shall comply with  
7 the Federal Voting Rights Act.

8           The second [sic] is that the district shall be  
9 contiguous and drawn to encourage compactness.

10           The fourth is that district shall respect the  
11 geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of  
12 interest.

13           And the fifth is that incumbents or candidates,  
14 people that want to run for city council, their places  
15 of residence will not be taken into account when drawing  
16 districts and the districts are not supposed to be drawn  
17 so that they discriminate against or favor any political  
18 party, incumbent or candidate for city council.

19           Okay. So turning to the first criterion, U.S.  
20 Constitution and equal population. There's too many  
21 parts of the U.S. Constitution that pertain to  
22 districting. The 14th Amendment, the main part of that  
23 being worried about equal protection. It's been  
24 interpreted to require reasonably equal district  
25 populations. You may have heard the term one person,

1 one vote or one man, one vote. And that basically means  
2 that districts should have about the same population.

3           It also -- it also prohibits intentional  
4 discrimination because of race, so that's another item.  
5 And the 15th Amendment to the Constitution also bans  
6 racial discrimination in voting.

7           And then if you are following along, on Page 5,  
8 this one cell -- I know that it's not so much fun to  
9 look at paper, but this one is actually really  
10 important. So Number 9. So it's the first cell on this  
11 page.

12           Because one of the questions is what should the  
13 population of each district have. So one of the things  
14 that we talk about, redistricting is kind of jargoning.  
15 There's words that you don't use every day. One of them  
16 is called ideal population. And the ideal population is  
17 if you were able to divide the population completely  
18 equally, that's the ideal population.

19           So you have the total population of the city  
20 divided by the number of districts equals the ideal  
21 population. So the -- and the data that we use for that  
22 is the census data for 2010. So the total number of  
23 people that was in the census in 2010 in Escondido  
24 divided by four, which is the number of districts we are  
25 looking at.

1           So the census population was 1004 -- 143,911.  
2 I'm not very good at reading numbers. Sorry. As you  
3 will notice, you can't divide one person into four, so  
4 that's why you say that's as equal as possible because  
5 we can't be coming back to split people up.

6           So we -- you would divide that by four. You  
7 are looking at about 35,000 people per district.

8           But then another question comes up is how equal  
9 is equal. Do you have to have absolute equality or a  
10 little bit less? And it really depends on which type of  
11 jurisdiction you are looking at. If you are looking at  
12 Congressional districts for the U.S. House of  
13 Representatives, the courts have said that you have to  
14 have absolute equality, and that means to be within one  
15 person. And those districts are really big. So drawing  
16 those districts to be within one person of each other is  
17 pretty hard.

18           In local jurisdictions like Escondido, there is  
19 a little bit more wiggle room, and so the courts say  
20 that it doesn't have to be absolutely equal like the  
21 Congressional districts, but you should try to be as  
22 equal as you can or reasonably equal. So some deviation  
23 above or below that ideal population of about 35,977 is  
24 allowed.

25           And in the context of the Voting Rights Act

1 compliance, usually about 5 percent over and 5 percent  
2 under is okay. But you want to keep it as equal as you  
3 can.

4           Okay. Our computer is very unhappy.

5           Okay. So Section 2 of the Voting Right Act.  
6 The Voting Rights Act is a federal law. You guys may  
7 have heard that the lawsuit that was involved in  
8 Escondido was under the California Voting Rights Act. A  
9 little different law.

10           The Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act involved  
11 here prohibits the denial or abridgement of voting  
12 rights on the basis of race or language minority status.  
13 And it has to have a very specific definition of  
14 language minority status in the law itself. And any  
15 Asian, Native American, Alaskan Native or Spanish  
16 heritage language. So it doesn't apply to other  
17 language groups like Burmish, for example.

18           It prohibits practices that have the purpose or  
19 effect of discrimination -- discriminating on the basis  
20 of race or language, minority status. And that applies  
21 nationwide to all jurisdictions.

22           In the context of districting or drawing  
23 districts, it comes into play because the way that  
24 elections are conducted can be discriminatory even if  
25 it's not on purpose. So -- but that is called vote

1 dilution. Electoral systems can limit the ability to  
2 elect candidate choice by protecting a class of voters  
3 because it makes it impossible.

4           So one way that makes it impossible is by  
5 at-large election systems that used to exist in  
6 Escondido. It can make it impossible even for a large  
7 minority group to elect a candidate of their choice if  
8 the majority group doesn't go along with their  
9 interests.

10           And then single-member districts can also be --  
11 can also cause dilution if they split a population up,  
12 so say it was possible to draw a district that was  
13 65 percent Asian American, for example, but if that  
14 population was split into two districts where the Asian  
15 population is 25 percent each, then that would be the  
16 minority voting strength would be limiting their  
17 abilities to elect candidate choice. So systems like  
18 this -- minority voting strength are being diluted.

19           The rule of thumb for this is called the  
20 Gingles test. It's named after a Supreme Court case.  
21 And if you want to look at just preliminarily to see if  
22 it's possible to draw a district that's in California  
23 50 percent or more citizen voting age population of a  
24 particular minority group.

25           Then there also must be evidence of racially

1 polarized voting. And what does that mean? That means  
2 that the minority group tends to vote cohesively or  
3 together on the same candidate. And so the majority  
4 group tends to vote against the minority voting  
5 preferences.

6           Okay. That's a lot of talking.

7           And I will also answer questions at the end,  
8 so --

9           The third criterion that we are going to be  
10 looking at is contiguity, which is not a word you see  
11 every day. And it basically means that all parts of the  
12 district are connected in some way. You can go from one  
13 part of the district to another part of the district  
14 without going into another district. I always say that  
15 my son can skateboard from, like, one side to the other  
16 side without going through another district and then  
17 it's contiguous.

18           In Escondido we have an interesting situation  
19 because there is parts of the city that aren't actually  
20 connected to any other parts of the city, so there will  
21 be some districts that are not contiguous, but you have  
22 to do it that way, because we can't just draw part of  
23 the land that's not part of the Escondido district.

24           Okay. Now, we have pictures. Pictures, look  
25 it. So on Page 9 here, here is some examples of



1 contiguity. On the top one here, you guys have been to  
2 San Francisco. This is San Francisco. You have the  
3 city here with all the little piers sticking out. And  
4 then Treasure Island that's out in the middle there.  
5 And it's connected by a bridge. So this is called  
6 bridge contiguity.

7           And then down in the bottom, we have a little  
8 picture of Escondido noncontiguous area. So if you look  
9 here over in the top right-hand corner, there is a  
10 little black dot, and that's a little piece of Escondido  
11 that's not connected to the rest of Escondido.

12           The other thing that you will see here is there  
13 are some orange dots inside the large black area, and  
14 those are parts of the county that are actually not part  
15 of Escondido but are kind of those little pieces of  
16 county inside of Escondido.

17           Okay. And the second part of the third  
18 criterion is compactness, and that addresses the  
19 geography of the districts. In particular, the consent  
20 decree says the district should be drawn to encourage  
21 geographical compactness. There is many, many ways to  
22 measure compactness. There is, like, a whole subfield  
23 of political science that tries to think of different  
24 ways to measure how compact a district is or isn't.

25           But in the course often it seems to be

1 something like an eyeball approach that appearances do  
2 matter, and that comes from Shaw v Reno, a Supreme Court  
3 case and a bunch of other cases that went after it.

4           The idea about compactness is that it assumes  
5 to guard against all types of gerrymandering, because  
6 drastic departures from compactness are a signal that  
7 something may be amiss.

8           What's important to keep in mind, though, is  
9 that appearance is not everything. So sometimes there  
10 might be a district that doesn't look particularly  
11 pretty, but there is a reason why it looks like that.  
12 It might not necessarily be gerrymandering or something  
13 bad. So you need to take kind of everything into  
14 account and not base too much -- don't put too much  
15 weight on how things look.

16           The fourth criterion is the criterion that the  
17 commission most needs to hear from you guys back, it is  
18 neighborhoods and communities of interest. The criteria  
19 for that district should not divide neighborhoods or  
20 communities of interest.

21           So what is community of interest? Basically,  
22 it's a group of people with a specific common interest  
23 or an actual shared interest that can be geographically  
24 defined. So you actually have to be someplace on the  
25 map together and have an interest.

1           We also need to keep in mind that in Escondido  
2 we know what communities of interest are not. The  
3 consent decree specifically states that they shall not  
4 include relationships with political parties or  
5 incumbents or political candidates.

6           So even though you and all your neighbors maybe  
7 love a certain candidate or a certain incumbent, that  
8 can't be the basis of your community of interest. The  
9 commission will not consider it.

10           Oh, my gosh. The computer is working. Okay.  
11 I'm going to keep on going.

12           So -- so community of interest as defined by  
13 those familiar with the community because you guys that  
14 live in the community, you know the most about the  
15 community. I can look at a map and really fancy  
16 software and see a lot of interesting information about  
17 Escondido and different areas, but I don't really know  
18 the community just from looking at a computer. So  
19 that's what you really need community testimony about.

20           The law does not limit the kind of interest  
21 that may bind a community. The consent decree does  
22 state that they may include racial, ethnic or language  
23 minorities, but that's not all that can be included.  
24 It's really up to those who live and work in  
25 communities, you guys, to define and identify and

1 establish what those interests are that ignite you.

2           Your interests may not be limited to current  
3 situations. They may be aspirational. So, for example,  
4 if you're trying to work on economic development --  
5 economic development, even though you may not have  
6 developed everything right now, the fact that you are  
7 working on it and it's a goal, can be something that  
8 binds your community together.

9           The other part that's really important for the  
10 commission is that we need to document your communities  
11 and where they are. So where they are is huge. You can  
12 get up and tell us all the great information about your  
13 communities and how wonderful it is and all that binds  
14 you together, but if you don't tell us where it is, we  
15 won't be able to do very much with that information.

16           So when you are talking to the commission or  
17 submitting written testimony or talking to your friends  
18 and neighbors, you might want to do so, make sure that  
19 you tell them you need to say what you the community is,  
20 what binds you together and what it is. Where it is is  
21 key.

22           So there's different ways you can do this. You  
23 can create a map of the boundaries, and this packet and  
24 online we have a work sheet that talks you through how  
25 to use equal maps to do that if you so wish. But even a

1 map that's written on the back of a napkin can be  
2 helpful as long as it has that information that we need.  
3 So we would need, like, the streets or different areas,  
4 if there is a river or a shopping center, something that  
5 shows boundaries of that community are.

6           Okay. So just some examples of communities of  
7 interest definitions. Organizing around schools or  
8 school districts, transportation hubs, community  
9 centers, dog parks, which is my partner's current  
10 favorite thing. Dog parks are important. So  
11 definitions of that may include race and ethnicity,  
12 shared experiences or history, access or lack thereof of  
13 education. Sometimes there is things that people have  
14 in common, like having more children or extended family  
15 living in a household, also shared languages and  
16 cultures.

17           And then the fifth criterion is to ignore  
18 politics. The commission should be drawing districts  
19 without regard for where candidates or incumbents live.  
20 So they shouldn't be taking into consideration where the  
21 current city council members live or someone who may  
22 want to be a council member in the future. And the  
23 districts are not supposed to be drawn for the purpose  
24 of favoring or discriminating against a candidate or  
25 incumbent or any political party.

1           Okay. So why should you participate in the  
2    districting? It's your choice to give your community a  
3    voice. It's your chance to give a voice to your  
4    community and to make sure there's equal access to the  
5    political process.

6           It can also encourage citizens to register and  
7    vote or remain politically engaged. It can be a  
8    motivating factor in getting more involved in the  
9    political system in the city. It can help to shape a  
10   districting plan that provides communities a meaningful  
11   opportunity to elect candidates to represent their  
12   interests on issues that are important to their lives,  
13   and to take advantage of opportunities to participate in  
14   all phases of the districting process.

15           By being involved, you get to help shape how  
16   the districts are going to be drawn and that will shape  
17   the -- the city council ultimately can be elected.

18           And then just those -- that final note here  
19   about how to get involved and how to learn more. To  
20   participate, testify, give written testimony, send  
21   supporting information to the independent districting  
22   commission, please provide information about your  
23   community of interest and neighborhood as soon as  
24   possible. This is important. The deadline for  
25   submitting this information is October 31st, 2013, so we

1 have a couple weeks. Definitely get that information in  
2 as soon as you can. Even better if you don't wait until  
3 the 31st. As soon as you can.

4           And there is information here about how you can  
5 submit information. You can do it at hearing like  
6 today, you can mail or drop off some written testimony  
7 at the clerk's office or by e-mail to  
8 [districting@escondido.org](mailto:districting@escondido.org).

9           And please check the city's website  
10 [escondido.org](http://escondido.org). It has a lot of good information. It  
11 has this PowerPoint. It has a lot of other handouts you  
12 can use and you can print out and share with your  
13 friends and family.

14           Thank you for participating.

15           So does anyone have any questions? I know I  
16 just threw a ton of information at you, so I appreciate  
17 your sitting through it, especially through our  
18 technical issues which won't happen again.

19           As Commissioner Nuesca mentioned, we have these  
20 maps that are here on the sides of the room and they are  
21 the same. There is one set over here on your right and  
22 there is one set over here on your left. And that  
23 really shows some different information about the city.

24           What we'd like you to do is, if you want to,  
25 you can submit any form that you want. But after -- in

1 this packet of information that you picked up, after the  
2 PowerPoint printing, there is a flyer here that says,  
3 "Escondido Districting Criterion 4, Communities of  
4 Interest."

5           And the third page of that, that will give you  
6 more information about community -- COI. It's a lot  
7 easier to say COI instead of communities of interest.

8           You'll see there's a paper called define your  
9 community of interest form, and that gives, you know,  
10 just kind of use the questions or the information that  
11 the commissioner will need to hear from you.

12           The first one is what bonds your community?  
13 What do you see as common interests or links in your  
14 community?

15           And the second question, where is your  
16 community located? Which for us members is really  
17 important to know. What are the boundaries of your  
18 community? Are there streets, railroad tracks, shopping  
19 center, a park or a trail or something that kind of  
20 tells us where it is?

21           Preferably, we'd like to get, you know, the  
22 exterior boundaries, you've got four streets or five  
23 streets depending on how the streets are. So these maps  
24 can be helpful if you wanted to go look at them. We are  
25 trying to put together some information to give to the



1 commission. Please feel free to take a look at them.  
2 Feel free to mark on them if you want to. But as  
3 Commissioner Nuesca mentioned, you really need to submit  
4 your information you want to have on the record directly  
5 during testimony.

6           So if you come and talk to me privately or talk  
7 to the commissioners privately, that won't get into the  
8 record. You need to make sure that you say it during  
9 the public hearing portion of the meeting.

10           Yeah?

11           FEMALE: Yeah, I have a question. Regarding  
12 the public input hearings, there is five more hearings  
13 that are going to be held. Are they basically the same  
14 as what you're covering today or at -- or at each of  
15 these input hearings, will you be giving an update of  
16 what's happening, or are they basically all the same?

17           EXPERT CONSULTANT: So the question was are --  
18 will the format at each of the hearings, the public  
19 input hearings be the same, and yes, they will be the  
20 same.

21           No questions?

22           So either I did an amazing job or I did an  
23 amazing job confusing everyone. So the main thing to  
24 keep in mind, though, is that the commissioners really  
25 need to hear from you is that community of interest from

1 your neighborhood. That's the main thing that's the  
2 most helpful and most vital thing you have to be  
3 providing tonight.

4 And I want to thank you all for being here.  
5 It's the first hearing. You guys are trailblazers.

6 And with that, I'll hand it back to  
7 Commissioner Nuesca.

8 DANA NUESCA: Okay. We are going to take, like  
9 I said, about 20 minutes. Feel free to walk around. We  
10 will be walking around with you, should you have any  
11 questions. So look at the maps, and then we will come  
12 back again in about 20 minutes and start the public  
13 hearing. Thank you.

14 (Recess taken.)

15 DANA NUESCA: We are going to call the meeting  
16 back to order. Start making your ways back to your  
17 seats, please.

18 Okay. I'm going to turn the meeting over to  
19 Ms. Halverson.

20 DIANE HALVERSON: I will be calling the names  
21 of those of you that turned in a speaker slip. You will  
22 be given three minutes to address the commission.

23 Our first speaker is Jerry Swadley.

24 JERRY SWADLEY: Hello members of the  
25 commission. My name is Jerry Swadley. And I'm

1 president of Escondido Country Club Homeowners  
2 Organization and otherwise known as ECCHO, E-C-C-H-O,  
3 and we are a nonprofit corporation. We have a board of  
4 directors that were elected. We serve a community of  
5 about 2100 residents in the northwest quadrant of the  
6 city. It's been there for 50 years, as long as the  
7 Escondido Country Club has been there and the golf  
8 course we live near. It's really a landmark an iconic  
9 place within the northwest quadrant of Escondido.

10 ECCHO has permission of the grounds of  
11 Escondido Country Club as open space for the Escondido  
12 community. And in the course of pursuing that mission,  
13 ECCHO drafted a citizens' initiative measure to preserve  
14 the open space. In less than half the time allotted,  
15 ECCHO volunteers, not paid signature gatherers,  
16 volunteers obtained more than 9,000 signatures, well  
17 over the 6,000 threshold needed.

18 The initiative was, in fact, verified by the  
19 registrar, and the city council adopted the measure as  
20 an ordinance. The golf course is now designated as open  
21 space.

22 The initiative campaign was a unified factor of  
23 the residents of north of Escondido. While we obtained  
24 signatures throughout the city, many were concentrated  
25 in the communities that benefited from the open space.

1 Hundreds of volunteers were brought together in the  
2 effort. We have a community of interest unique in this  
3 city. Essentially that community of interest lies north  
4 of 78, west to the city boundary, north to the city  
5 limits on both sides of I-15. It is this northerly  
6 quadrant that voters responded most enthusiastically to  
7 our campaign.

8 My request of the commission is this:

9 Establish a district boundary that honors the  
10 eco-community of north Escondido. Do not bisect this  
11 region which has recently demonstrated its unity.

12 Thank you.

13 DIANE HALVERSON: Our second speaker is  
14 Paul DeLaurentis.

15 PAUL DeLAURENTIS: Members of the commission,  
16 my name is Paul DeLaurentis, and I live in the country  
17 club neighborhood also, 1531 David Drive. I have been  
18 in Escondido for about ten years. Moved from  
19 San Marcos.

20 I know it sounds great to say I come from the  
21 country club area, but realistically it's a blue collar  
22 area, people work there and there's a tremendous amount  
23 of retired people who have lived there 40, 50 years.

24 And as Mr. Swadley already described with this  
25 initiative it's such a unique community, the consultant

1 said you will never get that many signatures of  
2 registered voters of Escondido, but we did ranging from  
3 the San Marcos line north of 78 clear over to the line  
4 on the east, Escondido Hills, Reedy Creek area,  
5 throughout all that area.

6           So the point is what we feel what we are asking  
7 for, what I'm asking for now is when you draw your  
8 lines, we would like it to include that north part as it  
9 works out to the population, of course, and everything  
10 else because we share a common interest there. We work  
11 there. We shop there. We have one high school. And we  
12 would love to have one city official that we can go to  
13 and represent us and not have it all fragmentized and  
14 everything else.

15           Thank you.

16           DIANE HALVERSON: Joanne Tenney.

17           JOANNE TENNEY: Good evening. I'm short. My  
18 name is Joanne Tenney. I live over on El Norte Parkway  
19 in Morning View. And I did turn in a map that gives a  
20 little bit more specific boundaries.

21           Basically where I live is senior citizens and  
22 apartments, and so I tried to follow your outline here,  
23 and what I see is common interests or lanes in my  
24 community would be concerns about social security and  
25 medicare, senior housing, public assistance programs,

1 rent control, public transportation, access to shopping  
2 and medical, and that's basically all I -- all I think.  
3 But I think that is the common interest for our group.  
4 Thank you.

5 DIANE HALVERSON: Jose Castro.

6 JOSE CASTRO: Good evening. My name is Jose  
7 Castro. Unfortunately, I haven't had the pleasure of  
8 most of you to see the community. But I do see it in a  
9 different way as I ride around in my truck and hear the  
10 children play and listen to the voices of the people  
11 gathering at the bank and grocery stores and all just  
12 mingling and talking are the pride of owners and car --  
13 as you cruise down and walk down Grant Avenue during  
14 cruise night.

15 And the pleasure of my favorite, you know,  
16 walking through the farmers market and hearing and  
17 smelling the voices and the aroma in the aromatics, the  
18 fruits and vegetables that come in that are just freshly  
19 picked, you know, throughout our community and  
20 supported.

21 I basically have chosen geographical boundary  
22 to create what I call a Broadway corridor, and I  
23 submitted that map which starts off south on Second  
24 Avenue going as far north as geographically possible for  
25 the city boundaries and bordering the I-15 on the west

1 end and going as far east as the geographical borders  
2 will allow.

3 I stopped at Rose Avenue, but I never  
4 understood where the country club was and I think that,  
5 you know, I would probably modify my map to bring that,  
6 incorporate it into it, because we are a community of  
7 blue collar, white collar, professionals, seniors,  
8 disabled, students, the youth, all multiple ethnic  
9 diversities and classy people all in one area, and we  
10 all celebrate and take pride in who we are.

11 Whether you live in a residential home or  
12 you're an apartment dweller or a condominium co-op, we  
13 are all part of a vast community and hopefully that --  
14 the commission will take into effect that geographical  
15 boundaries and the multiple array of citizens within our  
16 community.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 EXPERT CONSULTANT: Can I ask a clarifying  
19 question of this witness, please.

20 Can you restate the boundaries? You just went  
21 a little fast.

22 JOSE CASTRO: Oh, okay. I started with Second  
23 Avenue to the south. As far north as possible of the  
24 geographical will allow, I believe I went up to --  
25 because I don't know the area myself. I went as far as

1 I knew which would be El Norte and above. I tried to  
2 border it with Interstate 15 on the west and I stopped  
3 at Rose Avenue because I'm actually not sure how far  
4 east it goes. I don't have the advantage to take a view  
5 of it. But hopefully those will help -- with the map  
6 that I submitted will help give a basic geographical  
7 location.

8 EXPERT CONSULTANT: Thank you very much.

9 JOSE CASTRO: Thank you.

10 DIANE HALVERSON: Laura Kohl.

11 LAURA KOHL: I'm in between. I'm a teacher at  
12 Hidden Valley. I have also taught at Orange Glen  
13 Elementary, and I think that there is a perfect  
14 community bonded together in the area that's northwest  
15 corner is El Norte and Ash, and then it would include  
16 everything to the city limit going to the northeast and  
17 the southeast to the city limit too. But, anyway,  
18 everything from Ash kind of north, northeast and  
19 southeast. So that whole area.

20 It's an obvious place because there are feature  
21 schools that all fit into the high school area there,  
22 Orange Glen Elementary, Oak Hill, Lincoln Elementary all  
23 feed into Hidden Valley Middle School and there is  
24 also -- then they go into Orange Glen High School. So  
25 you have this whole community of kids, of families that



1 are already engaged in that community spirit.

2           Also it includes the community center of Valley  
3 Parkway, and part of my reason in saying this is a block  
4 is that at this point, these people have been under  
5 served in the city of Escondido, and that's why they  
6 were able to decimate the East Valley Library.

7           If they had had somebody on the city council  
8 who could protect them, they would never have taken out  
9 the city library. So the other parts of the parks and  
10 transportation.

11           DANA NUESCA: Thank you.

12           DIANE HALVERSON: I have no more speakers.

13           DANA NUESCA: Okay. At this point, if you  
14 haven't gotten your speaker and you still want to speak  
15 during the public hearing, I need that right now. If  
16 not, we are going to move into what's called an oral  
17 communication. And I'm sure you're probably wondering  
18 what's the difference between the public hearing and the  
19 oral communication. Oral communication would be  
20 something that we haven't discussed that is not part of  
21 the public hearing, something you would just like to get  
22 up and speak about. So if you do want to speak during  
23 the oral communication, do we have anything?

24           DIANE HALVERSON: I have no speakers.

25           DANA NUESCA: No speakers. Okay. I don't see

1 anybody moving towards the table.

2           CONSUELO MARTINEZ: Should I fill out a form?

3           Good evening. My name is Consuelo Martinez. I  
4 just wanted to take this opportunity to inform the  
5 public that I work for the ACLU, and I'm an Escondido  
6 resident. But we are hosting office hours every  
7 Wednesday this month from 4:00 to 7:00 at our Escondido  
8 office. And we have been doing this for two weeks, and  
9 yesterday we had eight people that came and people who  
10 wanted to learn how to back their communities of  
11 interest and also to start -- had a lot of questions  
12 about what are the community of interest.

13           And I have found that some young people  
14 especially thought, oh, well, I don't really know my  
15 community, and then they just kind of started talking in  
16 conversation and all of a sudden they just said all  
17 these detailed things about their community that I had  
18 never heard about.

19           So I think, you know, this is a good  
20 opportunity and a good resource for the community to  
21 come and really learn how to talk about their  
22 communities of interest and we are happy to help with  
23 that and we have volunteers at our office as well.

24           So I just wanted to extend the invitation to  
25 the public, 4:00 to 7:00 every Wednesday in Escondido.

1 The address is 260 South Orange Street, Number 9,  
2 Escondido 92025. And then we have, if you go on our  
3 website, nuestrovotoescondido.org in Spanish. So thank  
4 you.

5 DANA NUESCA: Okay. Since we have no further  
6 speakers, the next item on --

7 MALE: Can I make a comment?

8 DANA NUESCA: Do you want to make -- he would  
9 need to fill out another --

10 MALE: That's fine. Thank you.

11 DANA NUESCA: Okay. Stick to the rules here.

12 So the next item on our agenda is adjournment,  
13 and so we are officially adjourned. Thank you very much  
14 for coming. We really appreciate it.

15 (Proceedings concluded at 7:17 p.m.)

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1 I, KRISTY A. MONTALBAN, Certified Shorthand Reporter for  
2 the State of California, do hereby certify:

3  
4 That the foregoing proceedings were reported by me  
5 stenographically and later transcribed into typewriting  
6 under my direction; that the foregoing is a true record  
7 of the proceedings taken at that time.


8  
9  
10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name this 24<sup>th</sup>  
11 day of October, 2013, at San Diego, California.

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KRISTY A. MONTALBAN  
CSR NO. 13551



10/27/13  
Dana L. Nuesca