The Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public before or during the Commission’s consideration of the item. If you wish to speak regarding an agenda item, please fill out a speaker’s slip and give it to the Minutes Clerk who will forward it to the Chair. If you wish to speak concerning an item not on the agenda, you may do so under Oral Communications.

The City of Escondido recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to services to those qualified individuals with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at 839-4641. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

1. Roll Call

2. Oral Communications

“Under State law, all items under Oral Communications can have no action and will be referred to the staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda.”

This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the commission on any item of business within the jurisdiction of the commission. State law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on items not on the agenda, but the matter may be referred to staff or scheduled on a subsequent agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes: September 5, 2013 Meeting

4. Public Hearing Planning

Discussion and planning of upcoming nine required public hearings, including hearing materials. Possible action.
5. Public Meeting Planning

Discussion and planning of upcoming public meetings. Possible action.

6. Community Outreach

Discussion and planning of community outreach; information regarding Neighborhood Groups provided. Information from Consuelo Martinez, ACLU Community Organizer. Possible action.

7. Use of Technology

Discussion of Mapping Software. Possible Action.

8. Follow-up Discussion of Attorney’s Office Role

Update on communications with SD City Attorney's Office regarding possibly using one of their attorneys as IDC's legal representative.

9. Commissioner Requested Agenda Items
   a. Individual City of Escondido Email Accounts

   Commissioner Flores emailed staff in advance of the meeting to request this item be placed on the agenda. Discussion of individual City email accounts for IDC Commissioners. Possible action.

10. Future Agenda Items

The purpose of this item is to identify issues presently known to staff or which members of the Commission wish to place on an upcoming Commission agenda. Commission comment on these future agenda items is limited by California Government Code Section 54954.2 to clarifying questions, brief announcements, or requests for factual information in connection with an item when it is discussed.

11. Adjournment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Public Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Meeting – Line Drawing</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Meeting – Line Drawing</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
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AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS AFTER AGENDA POSTING: Any supplemental writings or documents provided to the Districting Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk’s Office located at 201 N. Broadway during normal business hours, or in the meeting room while the meeting is in session.
CITY OF ESCONDIDO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
THE INDEPENDENT
DISTRICTING COMMISSION

September 5, 2013

The meeting of the Independent Districting Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Nuesca in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Carey, Commissioner Cruz, Chairperson Nuesca, Commissioner Ramirez, Vice-Chairperson Valdez, and Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Flores.

Staff Present: Diane Halverson, City Clerk; Allegra Frost, Deputy City Attorney; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Consuela Martinez, Escondido, noted that she was a community organizer for the ACLU. She referenced an email she had provided to the City Clerk and Commission and asked whether interpretation would be provided at this meeting. She asked for a clarification regarding the protocol for sending emails to the Commission. She then offered to be a resource to the Commission, noting she worked with engagement and community outreach in the community. She also noted that a public information session would be held at the library on September 24 for the purpose of informing the public on items relating to this districting process.

Chairperson Nuesca noted that interpretation was being provided at this meeting.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Ramirez, seconded by Commissioner Carey, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2013, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Hearing Schedule and Locations

City Clerk Halverson requested information regarding the planning of upcoming public hearings including logistics, dates, times and possible locations for the nine required public hearings.
Commissioner Anderson suggested combining public meeting and hearing dates as well as holding meetings on the weekends.

**Karin MacDonald, Q2,** suggested holding the public hearings before November 21st in order to allow time for submittal to City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding potential dates and locations.

Commissioner Carey was in favor using the California Center for the Arts as a potential location.

Commissioner Anderson suggested using Felicita or Juniper School as possible locations.

City Clerk Halverson asked if she could select alternative sites if the recommended sites were not available. The Commission concurred.

**MEETING DATES AND TIMES:**

The following post map public hearing dates and locations were selected by the Commission: 1) November 21, 6:00 p.m., Hidden Valley Middle School or Mission Middle School; 2) November 23, 9:00 a.m., Hidden Valley Middle School or Mission Middle School; 3) November 24, 3:00 p.m., at the California Center for the Arts, followed by a meeting in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

The sites requested for the six Pre-Map (before the preliminary map and report was delivered to the City Clerk) Public Hearings were as follows: 1) Church of the Resurrection; 2) Bear Valley Middle School; 3) Hidden Valley Middle School; 4) Mission Middle School; 5) Felicita or Juniper Elementary School; and 6) City Council Chambers.

5. **Workshop Presentation by Q2**

**Karin MacDonald,** provided a PowerPoint presentation on the following: 1) Timeline, 2) Criteria for Districting in Escondido, 3) Data and their sources, and 4) Consideration about the process. (PowerPoint presentation available at City Clerk’s Office)

Chairman Nuesca requested information regarding the cost for the line drawing software. Ms. MacDonald noted that the Advancement Project had Redraw software that cost $10,000. Chairman Nuesca requested information regarding the timing for having the software operational. Ms. MacDonald stated that the software could be operational within a couple of weeks. She also suggested inviting a software representative to speak with the Commission.
Commissioner Valdez and Ms. MacDonald discussed methods for determining the Latino population.

Commissioner Anderson suggested developing a FAQ sheet as well as informational sheets that would include the City’s boundaries that would be available on the City’s website. He suggested that all emails be directed to the City Clerk who could then forward them to the Commission. He also suggested using the schools as a venue for distributing information.

Ms. MacDonald felt it was important to have the public input available about the previous meeting as soon as possible. Commissioner Anderson felt contextual information about the meetings was important to have readily available. Ms. MacDonald suggested having one website for answering questions. City Clerk Halverson noted that she would look into setting up a specific email or website for the Commission.

Chairman Nuesca asked Ms. MacDonald if they would be calling into the next meeting. Ms. MacDonald replied in the affirmative.

6. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included the following: 1) Public Hearing Planning and Public Meeting and Public Hearing Locations; 2) Community outreach including inviting Consuela Martinez; 3) Presentation from Neighborhood Services regarding community networks; and 4) Use of technology and cost for mapping software (have software representative provide report)

Adjournment: Chairman Nuesca adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The next meeting was set for September 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

____________________  ______________________
Chairman Nuesca                        Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk
Escondido Districting Criterion 4: COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST (COI)

In Escondido, City Council District lines must maintain Communities of Interest ("COI") intact when possible. Keeping communities of interest and neighborhoods intact is the fourth criterion the Commission uses to draw lines. This means that it is the fourth most important criterion to follow, behind population equality, compliance with the Voting Rights Act, and contiguity and compactness.

WHAT IS A COI?

In the simplest terms, a COI is a group of people in the same area that shares a common bond or interest. In Escondido, the definition also specifically includes racial, ethnic, and language minority groups. The definition is broad, leaving communities a lot of discretion in determining which issues are important to them and bring them together.

Note, however, that in Escondido a COI may not be based on a relationship with a political party, candidate or incumbent. So, the Commission is not allowed to draw lines based on common support for a particular member of the City Council or political party.

HOW WILL THE COMMISSION FIND OUT WHAT COIS ARE IN THE ESCONDIDO AND WHERE?

Communities of interest are best established through oral or written testimony from individuals or groups with first-hand knowledge of them. Census and other outside data can lend additional support, but should not replace first-hand knowledge of the community. COI testimony should address at least two points: the community’s common interests and its geographic location.

While in Escondido COI specifically includes racial, ethnic and language minority groups, community members are not limited to these kinds of interests in establishing a COI. In fact, it is up to those most familiar with a community, those who live in or work with it, to identify the interests that unite it. This can include social interests such as common heritage, culture, or history; support for a school or community center; or desire to address a problem, such as the lack of healthy food options or high levels of crime; as well as common economic interests such as similar work opportunities, a desire to bring more jobs into the community or improve infrastructure.
1. **Explain the nature of the bond or common interest that forms the community:**

   Your oral or written testimony should describe the interests that the community shares. You should establish as clearly as possible what the common interests are and why or how they are important to the community. For example:

   * Testimony about a common interest in a community center should include the name and location of the center and describe the community’s involvement in it or why it is important, e.g., the community accesses a variety of educational and recreational opportunities for children, adults and senior citizens at the community center.

   * Testimony about a shared culture or heritage should identify the heritage and indicate why it is a common bond, e.g., common history, language, culture, etc.

2. **Explain the geographical location of the community of interest:**

   Your testimony must also state where your COI is located so line drawers know where it is. This includes at least a description of the COI’s exterior boundaries. This includes physical boundaries, such as streets, bodies of water, railroad tracks, or shopping centers/military bases, that delineate the outside border of the community, as well as legal or geographic boundaries, such as city or county lines that indicate a COI’s geography.

   A map showing the location of the COI, along with oral or written testimony identifying the location can be extremely helpful to allow both community members and Commissioners to locate the COI. A map showing the COI on a larger city or county map can be particularly helpful in locating the COI.

   Please feel free to fill out the attached form to submit to the Commission at a hearing. You can also email the information or send it through the mail. Contact information is provided on the website and in a separate handout. You can attach a map if you have one. Please see the Commission’s website for a handout on how to draw a map using Google.
DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST (COI)

- What bonds your community? What do you see as the common interests or links in your community?
  ...
  ...
  ...
  ...

- Where is your community located? What are the boundaries of your community?
  ...
  ...
  ...
  ...

- Why should the community be kept together – or separate from another area?
  ...
  ...
  ...
  ...

- Maps are very helpful! Examples include Google Maps, AAA, or even hand-drawn. All maps should clearly show the borders of your community (e.g. streets, shopping malls, railroad tracks, etc.)
TIMELINE

Escondido Independent Districting Commission

Understanding the Timeline for the districting process:

The districting process is on a strict timeline to completion, per the Consent Decree. The exact date for each step is triggered by the date that other events happen. There are five triggering events:

(1) the seating of the Commission,
(2) the filing of a Preliminary Districting Plan,
(3) the submission of a Recommended Districting Plan;
(4) if the City Council disapproves a Recommended Districting Plan, and
(5) the date of the November 2014 election if the Council still has not adopted a plan.

Trigger 1: Seating of the Commission
Within 60 days, the City Council must approve a budget for the districting Commission.
Within 150 days, the Commission must hold at least six public hearings, draw district lines, and complete a Preliminary Districting Plan along with a report explaining it, and submit it to the City Clerk.

Trigger 2: Filing of the Preliminary Districting Plan
Within 30 days, the Commission must hold at least three public hearings on the PDP. Within 40 days, the Commission must finalize a Recommended Districting Plan and submit it to the City Council for its up or down approval.

Trigger 3: Submission of the Recommended Districting Plan
Within 40 days of submission to the City Council, the City Council must hold at least one public hearing and must approve or reject the plan by majority vote. If it rejects it, the City Council must provide its reasons for rejection to the Commission in writing.

Trigger 4: If the City Council rejects the Recommended Districting Plan
Within 40 days, the Commission must submit either the same RDP or a new RDP.

Trigger 5: At least 120 days before the November 2014 election
If at this point, the City Council has not yet voted to approve a plan, the RDP then under submission shall be automatically adopted as the Final Districting Plan.
How to Draw a Map of your Community of Interest or Neighborhood Using Classic Google Maps

In addition to describing the issues that bond your community of interest, the Commission needs to know where your COI is located. Google Maps Engine Lite is a tool you can use to do this.

1. Sign in with your Google account, or create an account if you don’t have one. Open Google Maps: http://maps.google.com/. Make sure you are using “Classic Google Maps.” The “new Google Maps” does not have the drawing features of Classic Google maps yet.

2. Click on the upper-left tab, “My places,” then select the “CREATE MAP” button. DO NOT select “Or create with classic My Maps” as this handout is based on the newer, “Google Maps Engine Lite”

3. Select “New Map” or if you are editing an existing map, select “Edit Map.” You may give your map a title by clicking in the box where it says, “Untitled layer.” Click the “Save” button.

4. To get started mapping, zoom in to your neighborhood area so that the entire area is visible in your monitor.

5. Select the “Add line or shape tool,” located at the top of the map below the search bar.

6. Draw a border around your neighborhood or community by clicking and dropping points around the border.

7. To finish the border, click on your starting point. You will end up with a grey shape showing your neighborhood or community. Google Maps will name it “polygon” by default. Note: if you don’t click on the first point to close the “polygon” your area will be a line rather than a polygon.

8. You may edit the area by deleting or moving points. Use the “Pan tool”, and click on the area to reactivate and edit the points that form your polygon.

9. To delete a point, click on it with the “Pan tool” to select it, right click then select “delete point.” You may also delete the entire area and start over. If you have accidentally deleted your area or a point you wish to keep, use “Ctrl Z” to bring it back.

10. If you wish you may then name your “polygon” and add a description.

11. You may use the “Add marker” tool to add place marks to your map in order to indicate locations of significance as well as, community assets in your COI. Click on the “Add marker” and then click the location on the map you want to mark.

12. Once finished, click the folder button, in the left panel. Select, “Export to KML” then select the layer you created for your COI or if you have multiple points and areas on your map that you wish for the commission to see select, “Entire Map,” click “Download,” name the KML file and save it. You can view your KML outside of Google maps in the free version of Google Earth.

13. Email your KML file to the Commission at districting@escondido.org. Please be sure to include in your email to the Commission the name of your COI, the names of streets and other landmarks that form the boundaries, as well as the names of places and locations within the COI that are important to you.
City of Escondido - Independent Districting Commission

Demographic Profile

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*Counts include the half-white population pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02
+Estimates were rounded and therefore the detail does not exactly add to the total

Data Sources:
(1) 2010 Census Redistricting Data [P.L. 94-171] Summary File, U.S. Census Bureau
(2) 2005-2009 and 2007-2011 Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) Special Tabulation from the 5-Year American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

September 13th, 2013
Districting in Escondido: How it works and How to participate
What is districting?

- In a district-based electoral system, representatives are elected from districts.
- Starting in 2014, Escondido’s City Council members will be elected by the voters in each district instead of by all the voters in the City.
- Districting is the process of drawing the boundaries that divide the City’s population into the four districts.
- An Independent Commission is charged with constructing the City Council boundaries.
Introduction to the Independent Commission:

- 7 members – selected by a panel of three retired judges
  
  - Chair: Dana Nuesca
  - Vice-Chair: John Valdez
  - Commissioner: Jack Anderson
  - Commissioner: Andrew Carey
  - Commissioner: Doris Cruz
  - Commissioner: Bill Flores
  - Commissioner: Roberto Ramirez
What does the Commission do and When?

- **Hold public hearings:**
  - 6 public input hearings throughout October 2013
  - Upon conclusion, 2 line drawing meetings in October

- **Collect data through Community Input:**
  - at hearings, through mailed and emailed submissions

- **Construct and approve a Preliminary Districting Plan**
  - After the line drawing meeting on October 29

- **Hold feedback hearings on Preliminary Plan:**
  - 3 hearings in November to collect comments
  - 1 hearing in November to modify Preliminary Plan

- **Approve a Recommended Districting Plan and submit to the City Council for approval**
Commission Meetings and Hearings:

- **Business meetings are scheduled for:**
  - The following dates

- **Public input hearings are on:**
  1. Thursday, October 10, 6 pm (add locations)
  2. Saturday, October 12, 9 am
  3. Thursday October 17, 6 pm
  4. Saturday, October 19, 9 am
  5. Thursday, October 24, 6 pm
  6. Sunday, October 27, 3 pm

- **Line Drawing meetings are on:**
  - Sunday, October 27, 6 pm
  - Tuesday, October 29, 6 pm
Commission Meetings and Hearings:

- Feedback hearings on the Preliminary Plan are scheduled for
  - November 21 – 6 pm
  - November 23 – 9 am
  - November 24 – 3 pm
- An additional hearing to make modifications to the Preliminary Plan will be held on
  - November 24 – 6 pm
- Other meetings may be scheduled. Please check our website for dates (http://)
How will the Commission decide where to draw district lines?

A consent decree between the City of Escondido and private plaintiffs contains the criteria that the Commission must use to draw district lines. Criteria appear in rank order.

1. Districts shall comply with the US Constitution, including reasonably equal population.
2. Districts shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.
3. Districts shall be contiguous and drawn to encourage compactness.
4. Districts shall respect the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest.
5. Incumbents’ or candidates’ place of residence shall not be taken into account. And districts shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party, incumbent or candidate.
Criterion 1: US Constitution & Equal Population

- 14th Amendment (Equal Protection)
  - Interpreted to require reasonably equal district populations, e.g., “one person, one vote”
  - Prohibits intentional discrimination because it is a violation of equal protection (the jurisdiction is treating residents differently because of race, and thus not according them equal protection under the law).

- 15th Amendment
  - Bans racial discrimination in voting
What is the Ideal Population per district?

| Ideal population for each type of district: |
| Total population ÷ # of districts = Ideal POP |
| Escondido total Population from 2010 Census: 143,911 |

| Ideal population for Escondido City Council Districts? |
| Total Population ÷ four districts = Ideal POP |
| 143,911 ÷ 4 = ~35,977 |
How equal is equal?

- Different standards for different jurisdictions
  - Congressional Districts held to ‘strict scrutiny’
  - Lower level districts have more flexibility
- Districts must be reasonably equal
  - Some deviation above and/or below the ideal population is allowed
  - Equal population generally subject to VRA compliance (Generally ±5%)
**Criterion 2: Voting Rights Act: Section 2**

- Prohibits the denial or abridgement of voting rights on the basis of *race or language minority status*. *(42 USC § 1973)*
  - VRA defines “language minority” as Asian, Native American, Alaskan Native or Spanish heritage. Does not apply to other language groups.

- Prohibits practices that have the purpose or effect of discriminating on the basis of *race or language minority status*.

- Applies nationwide, to ALL jurisdictions that conduct elections.
Electoral systems can limit the “ability to elect a candidate of choice” by a protected class of voters in various ways:

- Example: at-large election systems can make it impossible for even a large minority group to elect a candidate of choice, when the majority votes against them.
- Example: single-member districts can be drawn in ways that minimize voters’ ability to elect.

Systems that limit ability to elect in this way are said to “dilute” minority voting strength.
Sec. 2 and the “Gingles test”

What is a Section 2 or Majority/Minority District?

-> Minority group must be large enough to constitute a majority in the district (50%+ CVAP*)

-> Minority group must be geographically compact

-> Minority group votes cohesively

-> There must be evidence of polarized voting against the minority group

*CVAP = Citizen Voting Age Population
Criterion 3: Contiguity

- Definition: A district in which all parts are connected to each other
  in other words:

- A district in which one may travel from any location to any other location without crossing the district boundary

- If the jurisdiction is not contiguous (has non-connected areas) then the non-connected areas are commonly assigned to the closest district
Escondido’s non-contiguous area
Criterion 3: Compactness

- Addresses the geography of the district
- Districts should be “drawn to encourage geographical compactness”
- Many different measures developed
- “eyeball approach” “appearances do matter”
  - (Shaw v Reno)
- Assumed to “guard against all types of gerrymandering” “drastic departures from compactness are a signal that something may be amiss”
  - (Karcher v. Daggett)
Criterion 4: Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest (COIs)

- District lines should not divide neighborhoods or communities of interest
- What is a Community of Interest?
  It depends...
- A Group of people with a specific common interest...
  (“actual shared interests” Miller v Johnson, 1995)
  ...That can be defined geographically
- What are they not:
  - Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents or political candidates” (per Escondido Consent Decree)
COI: Defined by Those Familiar with the Community

- Law does not limit the kinds of interests that may bind a community.
- Consent Decree states that may include “racial, ethnic, or language minorities.”
- It is up to those who live in or work with communities to identify and establish the interests that unite it.
- Interests need not be limited to current situation, but can also include common goals.
How to document a Community of Interest or your Neighborhood – an example:

- Create a map of the boundaries (use Google maps if no Geographic Information System available) or
- Write down the boundaries
- Outline what defines the Community of Interest:
  What is your mission or your commonality?
  > Show that your members live within the boundaries
  > Explain what is different outside of the boundaries of your Community of Interest

- Explain why it is important to be kept whole, and how the Community of Interest/Neighborhood would be negatively impacted if split by a City Council boundary line
Community of Interest definitions may include:

- Organizing around schools, school districts
- Transportation hubs
- Community Centers
- Dog parks

Race and Ethnicity
Additional factors:
- Shared experiences or history
- Access (or lack of) to education
- Higher number of kids per household/younger overall population
- Shared languages and cultures
Criterion 5: Ignore Politics

- Draw districts without regard for where candidates or incumbents live.
- “Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.”
  - Prohibits intentional benefit/harm
Why should YOU participate in districting?

- To give your community a voice and make sure it has equal access to the political process.
- To encourage citizens to register, vote, and remain politically engaged.
- To help shape a districting plan that provides communities a meaningful opportunity to elect candidates who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives.
- To take advantage of opportunities to participate in all phases of the districting process.
How to Get involved – How to Learn more

To participate in the process: testify, submit written testimony, send supporting information to the redistricting task force.

Please check our website for news and upcoming meetings.

Our email is: districting@escondido.org

Our website is:

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!
Escondido City Council Districting FAQs

The Escondido City Council is changing how its members are elected. Instead of an at-large election system in which candidates have to win among all voters in the city regardless of where they live, Council candidates will be elected from districts in which they live. On Election Day, voters will only vote for the candidates running in the district in which they live.

In order to make this change, the Independent Districting Commission will decide how to divide Escondido's population into four districts. They need to hear from you to be sure that the district lines allow an opportunity to elect a candidate to represent your interests on the Council.

How will the Commission decide where to draw district lines?

The Commission’s decisions will be governed by federal and state legal requirements as well as criteria specific to Escondido. The US Constitution requires districts contain roughly equal population and it and the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) prohibit racial discrimination. The federal Voting Rights Act also prohibits discrimination because of language minority status\(^1\) in addition to practices that have a discriminatory effect.

Escondido’s decisions will also be governed by specific criteria resulting from a consent decree in a California VRA case. In ranked order, the Commission must address the following criteria:

1. All districts comply with the United States Constitution. This includes that each district contain about the same number of people.

2. All districts comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination.

3. All districts must be contiguous and encourage compactness.

4. All districts should respect neighborhoods and communities of interest. (including racial, ethnic, and language minorities, but excluding relationships with political parties, incumbents or candidates).

5. Districts must not be drawn: (a) To favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate, or party. Or (b) With consideration of the place of residence of incumbents.

Why should I be involved?

\(^{1}\) The VRA defines "language minority" as Asian, Native American, Alaska Native or Spanish heritage languages.
The Commission needs to hear from you to help it make informed decisions about where to draw district lines. In particular, it needs information from you about your neighborhoods and communities of interests. Only you know your communities and neighborhoods. Keeping your neighborhoods and communities together in the same district can help you get more responsive representation. By sharing that information with the Commission, you can help them avoid dividing your community into different districts.

**How can I be involved?**

The Commission will ask for your input in a variety of ways. You can come to one or more of the six public hearing workshops and tell the Commission about your community directly. You can attend one of the Commission’s business meetings and provide information during open forum. You can send information to the commission via mail to:

Escondido Independent Districting Commission  
c/o Escondido City Clerk’s office  
201 N. Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025

And via email:

districting@escondido.org

If you have questions, you can also call the districting office at:

**Phone number here**

For the most updated schedule and information, please check the Commission’s website at:

**Web-address here**

The Commission wants to hear from you! At the hearings, translation services will be available for those who need them!

**When are the hearings and what will happen there?**

The Commission has scheduled 6 public input hearings plus 1 line-drawing meeting. After these hearings, a preliminary districting plan will be made available for review. The Commission will then hold three more hearings to get your feedback on
their preliminary districting plan, and then make modifications to the districts as necessary.

Public input hearings will take place on the following dates:

**Thursday, October 10 – 6pm at location**
**Saturday, October 12 – 9 am at location**
**Thursday, October 17 – 6pm at location**
**Saturday, October 19 – 9 am at location**
**Thursday, October 24 – 6pm at location**
**Sunday, October 27 – 3 pm at location**

The public input hearings above will contain a brief training for all attendees by the consultants and an opportunity to look at maps and data before providing testimony. You will be able to fill out a form that describes your neighborhood or community of interest to submit to the Commission or you can tell the Commission about it in person.

The Sunday, October 27 hearing will be followed by a meeting at 6pm in which the commission will start working on a preliminary map proposal.

The Line Drawing meeting will take place on:

**Tuesday, October 29 – 6pm at City Hall**

The October 29 meeting is entirely dedicated to working on, and finishing, the preliminary plan.

In November, the Commission will convene three hearings to solicit public comments about the preliminary plan. These hearings will take place on:

**Thursday, November 21 – 6pm at location**
**Saturday, November 23 – 9 am at location**
**Sunday, November 24 – 3pm at location**

The Sunday hearing will be followed by a Commission meeting at 6pm in which the Commission may make adjustments to the preliminary plan based on feedback by the public. The Commission will then vote on the Recommended Districting Plan and send it to the City Council.

What information does the Commission need from me?
The Commission needs to hear about your community of interest and/or your neighborhood.

The fourth criterion the Commission will use to draw district lines requires it to try to refrain from splitting neighborhoods and communities of interest (COIs) between districts. In order to comply with this criterion, the Commission needs to learn where those COIs and neighborhoods are located. Information and data about these are extremely limited from "official" sources, so the Commission really needs to hear from the public to make sure that they do a good job complying with this criterion. They need to hear from you about what defines your community and where it is located so they can avoid splitting into more than one district.

Where is your neighborhood?

For neighborhoods, the Commission also needs to hear where its boundaries are. You can describe it by outlining important landmarks, such as schools, parks or religious buildings located in the neighborhood. Boundaries may include the streets or other physical features such as train tracks, rivers/creeks/washes, parking lots/shopping centers, etc., that form the outside borders of your neighborhood. This allows the Commission to locate your neighborhood on the map they will use to draw districts. It will help the Commission if you give some information about your neighborhood: what is it called? What do you know about its history? Is there a neighborhood organization?

Where and what is your Community of Interest?

For COI, the Commission needs to hear from you about what defines your community and where it is located. What is the basis or common interest that brings you and your community members together? For example, a COI might exist around a local school where people may participate in activities, around a bus transportation line that is commonly used by community members, around a park that is maintained by group of community members, or around a common cultural or language background. Just looking at a map, it is mostly impossible to know what common interests people living in a certain area share. Your information will help the Commission better understand what is going on with the people living in the areas represented on those maps and this will help them know what areas should be kept together in districts. Like with neighborhoods, the Commission also needs to learn from you where your COI is located. This includes telling the Commission about important landmarks in your community as well as the streets and physical aspects that form its borders.

Who is the Commission?

The Commission is made up of seven Escondido voters who were interested in serving in the effort to draw district lines. They applied to serve on the
Independent Districting Commission and were selected by a Selection Panel of three retired judges who live in San Diego County.

Add bios of Commissioners

**What are the requirements to be a Commissioner?**

Each of the Commissioners had to comply with certain criteria. They have to be Escondido voters. In addition, they had to certify that they had not been involved in certain political behaviors in the last 10 years. They were not allowed to: (1) have been a candidate for local, state or federal elected office, (2) been a paid employee or consultant for a California political candidate or political committee, (3) been an official or paid employee of a California political party, (4) made donations greater than $5,000 in any 2-year period, and (5) cannot be a current candidate for any local, state, or federal elected office. In addition, Commission members must agree not to run for Escondido City Council for five years after their service on the Commission.

**Which data are used to draw lines?**

To equalize the populations in the districts, the Commission has to use the PL94-171 dataset. That is the dataset that was compiled from answers to the 2010 census questionnaire. This dataset has a number of different variables, including the count of the total population. This dataset does not differentiate between citizens and non-citizens: everyone who lived in the United States on Census day (April 1, 2010) and who filled out a form is counted. Districts are not equalized based on registered voters or on citizens. Districts are equalized based on the total population.

For the Voting Rights Act Criterion, the Commission will use the Citizen Voting Age Population variable from the American Community Survey. The commission may also use Statement of Registration and Statement of Vote data.

For the Contiguity and Compactness Criteria, the Commission will use Census geography.

To find out where Communities of Interest and Neighborhoods exist, the Commission will use public input and public submissions of data.

**Which Section of the Federal Voting Rights Act applies to this districting?**
Neighbors Create Neighborhoods

A neighborhood is a community built by a group of people who strongly believe in the same goal: creating a safe and clean place to live and thrive. A neighborhood acts as a support system that enables such a community to emerge. In order to learn about and address the concerns and issues that a neighborhood has, neighborhood groups are formed.

Neighborhood Services works hard to create a bridge between resources and people. Throughout the years, neighborhood groups have positively changed many of Escondido’s neighborhoods.

Purpose of Neighborhood Groups

The purpose of a neighborhood group is to unite residents and create a more positive community, through partnerships among neighbors, communities, and the City of Escondido.

A neighborhood group also serves as a means of identifying issues in the neighborhood. Identifying issues through a neighborhood group facilitates the dialogue between residents and the city, leading to a better outcome in solving problems.
Neighborhood Services’ Role

As an active member of an organized neighborhood group, here is just a brief summary of the benefits you can enjoy:

- Neighborhood Clean-ups
- Neighborhood Improvements
- Grants to Block Projects
- Block Parties
- Leadership Development
- Adopt-A-Lot Program
- Neighborhood Meeting Support
- Neighborhood Liaison Support
- Discounted Space Rental for Meetings/Events
- Informational Speakers
- Ivonne’s Traveling Puppet Show
- Escondido Federal Credit Union Membership

The Neighborhood Services division offers varying degrees of support to organized neighborhood groups, ranging from staff support to monetary assistance for infrastructure improvements.

Neighborhood Services is responsible for administration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. CDBG is federal funding for use in lower income areas that have been identified by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) as eligible for federal support.

Neighborhood Services manages capital projects related to neighborhood improvement and acts as the primary liaison between the City, neighborhood groups and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG funds are used for a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services.

Benefits of Being in a Neighborhood Group

How to Get Involved in a Neighborhood Group

The easiest way to get involved in a neighborhood group is to talk to your neighbors. You might already be living within a neighborhood group’s boundaries and not even know it!

If you are living within an already established neighborhood group, all you have to do is attend the group meetings! You can find out when the next meeting is by talking to your neighbors or calling Neighborhood Services at (760) 839-4579.

It is very easy to get involved, and the benefits are definitely worth the minimal effort.

Contact us today for more information on how to start getting active in your neighborhood.

For More Information Contact:

Rich Buquet
City of Escondido Neighborhood Services
Phone: (760) 839-4579
E-mail: rbuquet@escondido.org
Mon-Thurs 7:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
www.escondido.org/neighborhood-services.aspx

Kids enjoying activities with Police Explorers at Lansing Circle Neighborhood Block Party

Adams & Gamble Streetscape Project funded with CDBG

S. Tulip Street improvements funded with CDBG
Los Vecinos Crean el Vecindario

Un vecindario es una comunidad construida por un grupo de personas que creen firmemente en la misma meta: crear un lugar seguro y limpio donde vivir y prosperar. Un vecindario actúa como un sistema de apoyo que permite que tal comunidad aparezca. En orden de conocer y resolver las preocupaciones y los problemas que tiene un vecindario, se forma grupo de vecindario.

Servicios al Vecindario trabaja duro para crear una conexión entre recursos y personas. Entre los años, grupos de vecindarios han positivamente cambiado muchos de los vecindarios de Escondido.

Propósito de Grupos de Vecindario

El propósito de un grupo de vecindario es unir a los residentes y crear una comunidad positiva, a través de asociaciones entre los vecinos, comunidades y la ciudad de Escondido.

Un grupo de vecindario también sirve como un medio para identificar problemas en el vecindario. Identificación de problemas a través de un grupo de vecindario facilita el diálogo entre los residentes y la ciudad, conduce mejores resultados en la solución de los problemas.
Como miembro activo de un grupo organizado de vecindario, aquí tiene un breve resumen de los beneficios que usted podrá disfrutar:

- Limpiezas de Vecindario
- Mejoramientos a Vecindarios
- Proyectos de Becas a Bloques
- Fiestas de Vecindario
- Clases de Liderazgo
- Programa de Adopte-Un-Lote
- Apoyo Para Juntas de Vecindario
- Apoyo de Enlace
- Localización Para Juntas y Eventos
- Oradores Informativos
- Presentación de títeres (para niños)
- Membresía a la Unión de Crédito Federal de Escondido

La División de Servicios al Vecindario ofrece varias formas de apoyo a grupos de vecindario organizados, desde el apoyo de personal a asistencia monetaria para mejoramiento de infraestructura.

Servicios al Vecindario es responsable de la administración de los fondos de Beca Bloque de Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG). CDBG son fondos federales para uso en zonas de bajos ingresos que han sido identificados por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) como elegibles para apoyo federal.

Servicios al Vecindario administra proyectos de inversión relacionados con el mejoramiento de vecindarios y actúa como el principal enlace entre la ciudad, grupos de vecindario y (HUD).

Los fondos de CDBG se utilizan para una amplia gama de actividades de desarrollo comunitario dirigido hacia la revitalización de vecindarios, desarrollo económico, mejores instalaciones y servicios comunitarios. 

La forma más fácil de participar en un grupo de vecindario es hablar con sus vecinos. ¡Quizás ya está viendo dentro de los límites de un grupo de vecindario sin saberlo!

¡Si usted vive dentro de un grupo de vecindario ya establecido, todo lo que tiene que hacer es asistir a las juntas del grupo! Usted puede informarse de cuándo la próxima junta es hablando con sus vecinos o llamando a Servicios al Vecindario al (760) 839-4057.

Es muy fácil participar, y los beneficios definitivamente valen el esfuerzo mínimo.

Contáctenos hoy para obtener más información de cómo puede empezar a ser activo en su vecindario.

Para Más Información Contacte a:
Dulce Salazar
Ciudad de Escondido Servicios al Vecindario
Teléfono: (760) 839-4057
Correo Electrónico: dsalazar@escondido.org
Lunes-Jueves 7:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
www.escondido.org/neighborhood-services.aspx
Existing & Potential Neighborhood Groups

Neighborhood Groups
- Potential
  - Cedar-Cedar Brook
  - Orange Place
  - West Hillside
  - Adams/Gamble

- Old Escondido Historic District
- Mission Grove
- Lansing Circle
- Rustic Village
- Los Arboles
- S. Elm/Hickory
- WIN

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June 2009