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

APPEARANCES:

For the City of Escondido:

CITY OF ESCONDIDO
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INDEX

OPENING COMMENT: DANA NUESCA

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION: ANNA HENDERSON

PUBLIC COMMENT: JERRY SWADLEY

PAUL DeLAURENTIS

JOANNE TENNEY

JOSE CASTRO

LAURA KOHL

CONSUELO MARTINEZ
DANA NUESCA: We are going to call this meeting to order. We are going to follow the agenda. The first thing that we have on the agenda is roll call. I'm going to go ahead and go through the roll call and call out commissioners.

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

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

At my left is John Valdez, Jack Anderson. Andrew Carey is not present. I'm sure he's probably on his way. Doris Cruz, Bill Flores and Roberto Ramirez.

And so we are all here.

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

We are going to start -- you have an agenda.

You picked up an agenda at the beginning.

First thing, if you do want to speak, make sure that you fill out a speaker form so that during the public hearing you can speak and, you know, that's why we are here. We do hope that you are going to be willing to get up there and speak.
And just some -- just a couple things.

Restrooms are outside the door here and make a right and they're, I believe, outside at the far end of the building or somewhere right there outside.

One other thing. After the workshop, after the Q2 workshop, she's going to kind of go over what redistricting or what districting, for that matter, is.

And then we are going to take about a 20-minute break from the actual meeting and allow you to go around and look at the maps after she's given her workshop.

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

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

The other thing is the commissioners will be walking around and we will be talking to you. If you give us an idea, you still need to do what I just said. Fill out a piece of paper or come to the microphone,
because at that point we need to have it -- we need to have it on public record, okay? I hope that makes sense. If you guys have any questions, please feel free to see any of the commissioners.

FEMALE: I have a map.

DANA NUESCA: Perfect.

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

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

FEMALE: Do I give that to you?

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

FEMALE: Okay.

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

So we do have Q2 here. That's the consultant, the expert consultant. They are from the Bay area. And
Anna Henderson is the one that will be conducting this portion of the meeting.

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

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

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

Let me move a little bit. One moment.

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

Okay. So in a district-based electoral system, representatives are elected from districts. Currently, up until now, and it's Escondido, everyone -- the city council members are elected by everyone in the whole city. What the commission will be doing is dividing the
city up into four districts and people that want to be a
city council member will run for each of those
districts.

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

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

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

We'll be collecting data through community
input, and that's hearings like tonight but also other
ways of getting input, either by sending a letter to the
city clerk's office, giving written testimony in an
e-mail, different ways to get your voice heard.
Next there will be constructing and approving a preliminary districting plan, and that will be done after the line drawing meeting that will be held on October 29th.

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

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

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

And then, again, the line drawing meetings that I mentioned on October 27th and October 29th. Please note that the one on October 27th will be held immediately after the public input hearings, so if you want to do an all-day districting marathon, you can go to both.
And then the preliminary plan hearings are so scheduled for November 21st, November 23rd and November 24th. And the preliminary hearing will be held on November 24th. So that will be after the first preliminary plan meeting.

Other meetings may need to be scheduled. There is a website here, escondido.org, where you can look at and see if there's anything else going on. Also a lot of the information that I will be talking about tonight is also online, so if you know people who weren't able to be here tonight, you can share that information with them. There is a lot of information in there.

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

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

And the criteria appear in ranked order. So the Number 1 criteria is the most important one. Number 2 criteria is the second most important and so
So the first criteria is that districts shall comply with the constitution, including reasonably equal population, and I'll talk a little bit more about that, but I just want to go through the list first.

The second is that districts shall comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

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

The fourth is that districts shall respect the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest.

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

Okay. So turning to the first criterion, U.S. Constitution and equal population. There's too many parts of the U.S. Constitution that pertain to districting. The 14th Amendment, the main part of that being worried about equal protection. It's been interpreted to require reasonably equal district populations. You may have heard the term one person,
one vote or one man, one vote. And that basically means
that districts should have about the same population.

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

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

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

So you have the total population of the city
divided by the number of districts equals the ideal
population. So the -- and the data that we use for that
is the census data for 2010. So the total number of
people that was in the census in 2010 in Escondido
divided by four, which is the number of districts we are
looking at.
So the census population was 1004 -- 143,911.

I'm not very good at reading numbers. Sorry. As you will notice, you can't divide one person into four, so that's why you say that's as equal as possible because we can't be coming back to split people up.

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

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

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

And in the context of the Voting Rights Act
compliance, usually about 5 percent over and 5 percent under is okay. But you want to keep it as equal as you can.

Okay. Our computer is very unhappy.

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

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

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

In the context of districting or drawing districts, it comes into play because the way that elections are conducted can be discriminatory even if it's not on purpose. So -- but that is called vote
dilution. Electoral systems can limit the ability to
elect candidate choice by protecting a class of voters
because it makes it impossible.

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

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

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

Then there also must be evidence of racially
polarized voting. And what does that mean? That means
that the minority group tends to vote cohesively or
together on the same candidate. And so the majority
group tends to vote against the minority voting
preferences.

Okay. That's a lot of talking.

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

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

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

Okay. Now, we have pictures. Pictures, look
it. So on Page 9 here, here is some examples of
contiguity. On the top one here, you guys have been to San Francisco. This is San Francisco. You have the city here with all the little piers sticking out. And then Treasure Island that's out in the middle there. And it's connected by a bridge. So this is called bridge contiguity.

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

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

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

But in the course often it seems to be
something like an eyeball approach that appearances do matter, and that comes from Shaw v Reno, a Supreme Court case and a bunch of other cases that went after it.

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

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

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

So what is community of interest? Basically, it's a group of people with a specific common interest or an actual shared interest that can be geographically defined. So you actually have to be someplace on the map together and have an interest.
We also need to keep in mind that in Escondido we know what communities of interest are not. The consent decree specifically states that they shall not include relationships with political parties or incumbents or political candidates.

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

Oh, my gosh. The computer is working. Okay.

I'm going to keep on going.

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

The law does not limit the kind of interest that may bind a community. The consent decree does state that they may include racial, ethnic or language minorities, but that's not all that can be included.

It's really up to those who live and work in communities, you guys, to define and identify and
1. establish what those interests are that ignite you.

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

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

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

   So there's different ways you can do this. You can create a map of the boundaries, and this packet and online we have a work sheet that talks you through how to use equal maps to do that if you so wish. But even a
map that's written on the back of a napkin can be helpful as long as it has that information that we need. So we would need, like, the streets or different areas, if there is a river or a shopping center, something that shows boundaries of that community are.

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

And then the fifth criterion is to ignore politics. The commission should be drawing districts without regard for where candidates or incumbents live. So they shouldn't be taking into consideration where the current city council members live or someone who may want to be a council member in the future. And the districts are not supposed to be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against a candidate or incumbent or any political party.
Okay. So why should you participate in the districting? It's your choice to give your community a voice. It's your chance to give a voice to your community and to make sure there's equal access to the political process.

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

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

And then just those -- that final note here about how to get involved and how to learn more. To participate, testify, give written testimony, send supporting information to the independent districting commission, please provide information about your community of interest and neighborhood as soon as possible. This is important. The deadline for submitting this information is October 31st, 2013, so we
have a couple weeks. Definitely get that information in as soon as you can. Even better if you don't wait until the 31st. As soon as you can.

And there is information here about how you can submit information. You can do it at hearing like today, you can mail or drop off some written testimony at the clerk's office or by e-mail to districting@escondido.org.

And please check the city's website escondido.org. It has a lot of good information. It has this PowerPoint. It has a lot of other handouts you can use and you can print out and share with your friends and family.

Thank you for participating.

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

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

What we'd like you to do is, if you want to, you can submit any form that you want. But after -- in
this packet of information that you picked up, after the
PowerPoint printing, there is a flyer here that says,
"Escondido Districting Criterion 4, Communities of
Interest."

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

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

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

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

Preferably, we'd like to get, you know, the
exterior boundaries, you've got four streets or five
streets depending on how the streets are. So these maps
can be helpful if you wanted to go look at them. We are
trying to put together some information to give to the
commission. Please feel free to take a look at them.

Feel free to mark on them if you want to. But as Commissioner Nuesca mentioned, you really need to submit your information you want to have on the record directly during testimony.

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

Yeah?

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

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

No questions?

So either I did an amazing job or I did an amazing job confusing everyone. So the main thing to keep in mind, though, is that the commissioners really need to hear from you is that community of interest from
your neighborhood. That's the main thing that's the
most helpful and most vital thing you have to be
providing tonight.

And I want to thank you all for being here.

It's the first hearing. You guys are trailblazers.

And with that, I'll hand it back to

Commissioner Nuesca.

DANA NUESCA: Okay. We are going to take, like

I said, about 20 minutes. Feel free to walk around. We

will be walking around with you, should you have any

questions. So look at the maps, and then we will come

back again in about 20 minutes and start the public

hearing. Thank you.

(Recess taken.)

DANA NUESCA: We are going to call the meeting

back to order. Start making your ways back to your

seats, please.

Okay. I'm going to turn the meeting over to

Ms. Halverson.

DIANE HALVERSON: I will be calling the names

of those of you that turned in a speaker slip. You will

be given three minutes to address the commission.

Our first speaker is Jerry Swadley.

JERRY SWADLEY: Hello members of the

commission. My name is Jerry Swadley. And I'm
president of Escondido Country Club Homeowners

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

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

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

The initiative campaign was a unified factor of the residents of north of Escondido. While we obtained signatures throughout the city, many were concentrated in the communities that benefited from the open space.
Hundreds of volunteers were brought together in the effort. We have a community of interest unique in this city. Essentially that community of interest lies north of 78, west to the city boundary, north to the city limits on both sides of I-15. It is this northerly quadrant that voters responded most enthusiastically to our campaign.

My request of the commission is this:

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

Thank you.

DIANE HALVERSON: Our second speaker is Paul DeLaurentis.

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

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

And as Mr. Swadley already described with this initiative it's such a unique community, the consultant
said you will never get that many signatures of registered voters of Escondido, but we did ranging from the San Marcos line north of 78 clear over to the line on the east, Escondido Hills, Reedy Creek area, throughout all that area.

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

Thank you.

DIANE HALVERSON: Joanne Tenney.

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

Basically where I live is senior citizens and apartments, and so I tried to follow your outline here, and what I see is common interests or lanes in my community would be concerns about social security and medicare, senior housing, public assistance programs,
rent control, public transportation, access to shopping
and medical, and that's basically all I -- all I think.
But I think that is the common interest for our group.
Thank you.

DIANE HALVERSON: Jose Castro.

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

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

I basically have chosen geographical boundary to create what I call a Broadway corridor, and I submitted that map which starts off south on Second Avenue going as far north as geographically possible for the city boundaries and bordering the I-15 on the west
end and going as far east as the geographical borders will allow.

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

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

Thank you for your time.

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

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

JOSE CASTRO: Oh, okay. I started with Second Avenue to the south. As far north as possible of the geographical will allow, I believe I went up to -- because I don't know the area myself. I went as far as
I knew which would be El Norte and above. I tried to border it with Interstate 15 on the west and I stopped at Rose Avenue because I'm actually not sure how far east it goes. I don't have the advantage to take a view of it. But hopefully those will help -- with the map that I submitted will help give a basic geographical location.

EXPERT CONSULTANT: Thank you very much.

JOSE CASTRO: Thank you.

DIANE HALVERSON: Laura Kohl.

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

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

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

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

DANA NUESCA: Thank you.

DIANE HALVERSON: I have no more speakers.

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

DIANE HALVERSON: I have no speakers.

DANA NUESCA: No speakers. Okay. I don't see
anybody moving towards the table.

CONSUELO MARTINEZ: Should I fill out a form?

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

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

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

So I just wanted to extend the invitation to the public, 4:00 to 7:00 every Wednesday in Escondido.
The address is 260 South Orange Street, Number 9, Escondido 92025. And then we have, if you go on our website, nuestrovotoescondido.org in Spanish. So thank you.

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

MALE: Can I make a comment?

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

MALE: That's fine. Thank you.

DANA NUESCA: Okay. Stick to the rules here. So the next item on our agenda is adjournment, and so we are officially adjourned. Thank you very much for coming. We really appreciate it.

(Proceedings concluded at 7:17 p.m.)
I, KRISTY A. MONTALBAN, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, do hereby certify:

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name this 24th day of October, 2013, at San Diego, California.

[Signature]

KIRSTY A. MONTALBAN
CSR NO. 13551

[Signature]

date: 10/27/13

Dana L. Nassar