

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting

September 10, 2001

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Alicia Aguilar.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Alicia Aguilar, Chairman	
Aurelio H. Padilla, Vice-Chairman	
S. T. Frank Pando, Member	
Gary Daves, Member	
Helen Baca, Member	
James Fernandez, County Manager	
Thomas Garde, County Attorney	
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Padilla made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Baca seconded it. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Manager James Fernandez.

Public Hearing

2001 Redistricting.....Valencia County Board of Commissioners

Francisco Apodaca, from Productive Data Solutions, gave the Commission more options to reconsider. The reason for these new options, is when Mr. Apodaca downloaded the material from the Census Bureau, there was a glitch in their system that had the County one tract over, so the County was using one tract from Cibola County. The way census geography works, it goes State, County, census tracts, census blocks. Tracts are large areas made of blocks. When Mr. Apodaca downloaded the information it was shifted east. Mr. Apodaca contacted the census bureau when Lawrence Kaneshiro, Director of Elections notified Mr. Apodaca that a precinct had a zero population. Mr. Apodaca was able to re-download the proper data and checked it block by block to make sure the block numbers and precinct numbers were accurate. In the County there are 6,000 blocks. Although the first 3 options were based on erroneous data, it gave the Commission a good starting point as to communities of interest and political boundaries. Mr. Apodaca gave the Commission five options that basically preserve communities of interest.

Commissioner Pando asked Tina Gallegos, County Clerk, when Precinct 12 was split into 12 and 17, were the boundary lines removed? Ms. Gallegos answered yes, there is a new precinct boundary line for Precinct 17 that didn't exist before and it is on Sichler Road and follows the ditch west of Sichler Road. This line is on the Highline Canal. The southern boundary of Precinct 12 is Morris Road. According to Commissioner Pando this line goes all the way to Wal Mart. Mr. Kaneshiro said the Southwest boundary follows the railroad tracts and that boundary did not change. The east boundary of precinct 17 is the Belen Highline Canal.

Option 1

In Option 1, there are five Districts and from the comments of the last meeting, Mr. Apodaca tried to keep everything in Los Lunas within one Commission District. District 1 will be made up of Precincts 1, 3, 2, 12, 37, and 17. Commissioner Pando asked if prisoners are counted in the census. Mr. Apodaca said they are counted as total population. The way the census works, is wherever everyone is at on April 1, 2000 they are a resident of that area. District 2 would have Precincts 6, 15, 16, 38, 19 and 36. District 3 consists of Precincts 7, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 33, 20, and 27. District 4 would have Precincts 8, 32, 21, 22, 35, 34, 29, and 30. District five would have Precincts 13, 9, 11, 18, 14, 10, 5, and 28.

Option 2

In Option 2, District 1 would have Precincts 1, 3, 2, 12, and 17. District 2 would consist of Precincts 16, 6, 10, 36, 38, 19 and 37. District 3 would have Precincts 7, 27, 23, 25, 24, 26, 35, 31, 20, and 33. District 4 would have Precincts 30, 29, 21, 22, 32, and 8. District 4 would have Precincts 13, 9, 11, 18, 4, 14, 5, 15, and 28. In comparing the current option and Option 2, Commissioner Pando said it keeps everything as it is. Mr. Apodaca said the big difference of this option from the current is that Precinct 14, which currently is in District 1 would go to District 5 and Precinct 10, which is currently in District 1, would go to District 2. Precinct 7, which is currently in District 2, would go to District 3.

Option 3

In Option 3, District 1 would consist of Precincts 1, 3, 17, 2, 37, and 27. District 2 would have Precincts 15, 6, 8, 32, 38, 36, 19, and 12. District 3 would have Precincts 7, 23, 22, 21, 25, 24, 26, 31, and 20. District 4 would have Precincts 33, 29, 35, 34, 30 and 16. District 5 would have Precincts 13, 28, 14, 5, 10, 18, 11, 4, and 9. James Fernandez, County Manager, clarified that Option 3 districts Commissioner Padilla out of his District. Mr. Apodaca said that Option is out.

Option 4

In Option 4, District 1 would consist of Precincts 1, 3, 2, 12, and 17. District 2 would be made up of Precincts 16, 15, 6, 36, 8, and 38. District 3 would have Precincts 37, 19, 7, 23, 25, 24, 27, 31, and 20. District 4 would have Precincts 22, 21, 26, 35, 29, 33, and 30. District 5 would have Precincts 13, 9, 11, 18, 4, 10, 5, 14, and 28.

Option 5

In Option 5, District 1 would split Precinct 1 along Highway 6 all the way to the Bernalillo County line. Commissioner Pando asked what happens with Highland Meadows as all of it is either on the right side of the railroad tracks or on the left side of the tracks and are both registering under District 1. Mr. Apodaca said the County would have its current alignment that it has now. Ms. Gallegos told Commissioner Pando that they are all registering in Precinct 1 and if it splits it would depend on the street address and where they live as to whether their ballot will have District 1 or District 3. Linda Lawrence from Highland Meadows said that 80% of the population of Highland Meadows lives on the north side. Mr. Apodaca said in District 1, Precinct 1 will be split in Highland Meadows and will be made up of that portion east of Highland Meadows. District 1 will have that portion of Precinct 1, and Precincts 3, 2, 12, 19, and 17. District 2 will have Precincts 16, 15, 6, 36, 38, and 8. District 3 would have the southern portion of Precinct 1, and Precincts 27, 37, 7, 23, 24, 25, and 31. District 4 would have Precincts 20, 33, 29, 35, 26, 22, 21, 32, 34, and 30. District 5 would have Precincts 28, 13, 9, 11, 18, 4, 10, and 5. Highland Meadows will be Precinct 1 but will have two Commissioners, District 1 on the north and east side and District 3 on the south side.

Lillie McNabb, from Bosque Farms, feels that keeping the Precincts together and contiguous should be one of the main points. Ms. McNabb appreciates Mr. Apodaca trying to keep the Precincts on the east side on that side and the Precincts on the west side on the west side. Ms. McNabb would like the Precincts to stay in contact to where they don't interrupt the voting mode. Commissioner Daves commented that there was a problem in Peralta where roads split Commission Districts and that doesn't happen with this proposal. All of the Options put the Peralta and Valencia Precincts in District 4 and one option would move Precinct 10 to District 2. Commissioner Daves feels there is a community of interest within the Peralta and Valencia area. Mr. Apodaca explained that in 1980 during the redistricting process, Congress defined communities of interest as being those areas that have a like interest being in a community, a historic area, or areas where there are neighborhoods or subdivisions. Mr. Apodaca said it is difficult to preserve rural and urban areas in Valencia County.

Commissioner Baca told Mr. Apodaca that she likes Option 5 but doesn't like the split in Highland Meadows. Commissioner Baca would also like to take Precinct 26 to offset one or the other.

Commissioner Padilla agrees with Commissioner Baca on Option 5.

Commissioner Daves said that one of the things he asked for was to have Precincts 28 and 16 put into one District and that doesn't happen with any of these proposals. Commissioner Daves thinks that the Gerry Mandering that occurred in 1990 has been removed under all the options. Commissioner Daves said that Mr. Kaneshiro made up his own proposal where the deviations are very small and the only deviation would be within 1% or 2% except for District 5, which is a little over 5%. Commissioner Daves believes that proposal is worth looking at. The Commission received a memo from Legal, which suggests that the Commission should be careful if the greatest difference between the low and the high is in excess of 10%. In Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal, Commissioner Daves said there is about a 7% total deviation. Commissioner Daves does not see any major problems with District 5 and thinks it would be preferable with Precinct 10 to be in District 5, that Precinct 5 to remain in District 5, and for District 5 to lose Precinct 15 is not a problem.

Commissioner Pando said the one he likes the most is Option 2 because he would take all of the Highland Meadows area and keeps what he already has. In Option 5, the only problem he has is Precinct 19, as it has a lot of population. One of his concerns is that Precincts 1, 12, and 17 are three of the fastest growing Precincts in Valencia County right now. If Option 5 was to be accepted, Commissioner Pando believes that in 4 or 5 years his District will be way over in population due to the growth that is happening. Commissioner Pando would like to eliminate Precinct 19, as it will put him over. In Option 1, Commissioner Pando has all of Highland Meadows, Precincts 3, 2, 12, 17, and 37, which will put him a little bit under.

Commissioner Daves thinks it's untenable that Precinct 1 be split and if most of the people live north of the road.

Mr. Fernandez said by making District 1 with Precincts 1, 2, 3, 12, 17, 19, and 38, that would give Commissioner Pando 13,846 people.

Commissioner Pando would prefer to take Precinct 37 rather than Precinct 19 because there is a little less population in Precinct 37.

Commission Chair Aguilar believes her District changed the most because she had all of Los Chavez and she is losing it. Commission Chair Aguilar believes that Precincts 5 and 15 should be split. She also believes that Precincts 36, 8, 6, and 5 have commonality. Commission Chair Aguilar would like to have Precinct 5 and she will give up Precincts 15, 2, and 38. Mr. Fernandez said if District 2 had Precincts 6, 5, 8, 16, and 36 that would be a total population of 13,661.

Mr. Fernandez gave totals for all Districts with the suggested changes. District 1 would have a total population of 13,846. District 2 would have a total population of 13,661 with Precincts 6, 5, 8, 16, and 36. District 3 would have a total population of 12,887 with Precincts 7, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, and 37. District 4 would have a total population of 12,555 with Precincts 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35. District 5 would have a total population of 13,203 with Precincts 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 28. With these numbers, District 1 would be 4.65% above the optimal district. District 4, which is the smallest would be -5.10%, so the deviation between those two would be 9.75%, so the Commission would fall within the 10%.

Commissioner Daves wished that Mr. Kaneshiro had presented his work to the Commission. In Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal, District 1 was below .41%, District 2 was below -2.7%, District 3 was below 1.33%, District 4 was below 1.32% and District 5 was above 5.76%. In that proposal, District 5 would consist of Precincts 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, and 28. Commissioner Daves said there would be less deviation in Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal than in this one. Commissioner Daves would regret switching Precincts 5 and 15. In terms of a true community of interest, Commissioner Daves believes Peralta and Valencia are closer as a community of interest. Commissioner Daves will not initially support a shift without looking at Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal between Districts 2 and 5 with a split where Precinct 5 is in District 2 and Precinct 15 is in District 5.

Commission Chair Aguilar is happy with Option 5, as she recalls on Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal, he had Precinct 20 in District 3 and there were other changes as well. Mr. Apodaca said that for discussion sake that he would make up a map of all the options presented but for the Commission to consider the options that he heard tonight. Mr. Apodaca said it might be in the best interest to look at Mr. Kaneshiro's map also, just for discussion purposes. In Mr. Kaneshiro's proposal, District 2 would have Precincts 6, 8, 15, 16, 36, and 38. Commission Chair Aguilar would not agree with that. District 5 would have Precincts 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, and 28. Commissioner Pando said he would talk to Commissioner Baca because if they switch Precincts 19 and 37, they will both be pretty equal in population. Commissioner Baca thinks she is more comfortable with Precinct 37. Commissioner Daves told Mr. Apodaca he wishes he would put the Precincts, populations and total population in each Option for each District. Mr. Apodaca will have those for the Commissioners in the morning.

The final public hearing will be on October 1, 2001 at 6:00 P.M. in the County Commission Room.

The next Regular Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commission will be held on September 18, 2001 at 6:00 P.M. with Executive Session beginning at 5:00 P.M. in the County Commission Room at the Valencia County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Padilla made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 P.M. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NOTE: All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the September 10, 2001 Special Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**ss/
ALICIA AGUILAR, CHAIRMAN**

**ss/
AURELIO H. PADILLA, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**ss/
S. T. FRANK PANDO, MEMBER**

**ss/
GARY DAVES, MEMBER**

**ss/
HELEN BACA, MEMBER**

ATTEST: ss/

TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: October 2, 2001