

MINUTES OF:

**City of El Cajon Community Workshops to Implement
Measure S**

Creating City Council District Boundaries

February 22, 2017

February 23, 2017

February 28, 2017

March 1, 2017

City of El Cajon Community Workshops to Implement Measure S

Creating City Council District Boundaries

Flying Hills Elementary School | February 22, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Attendance: 38 Residents

Welcome and Introductions

Institute for Local Government (ILG) welcomed the group, explained the purpose and overview of the workshop and reviewed the agenda. Council members in attendance introduced themselves and thanked residents for their participation.

District Elections Mapping

National Demographics Corporation (NDC) provided an overview of the timeline to transition from at-large to district based local elections. Key dates included:

- Initial mapping community workshops Feb 22, 23, 28 and March 1;
- March 27 deadline to submit maps for initial review;
- April 3 draft maps released;
- April 18 community workshop to review draft maps;
- April 25, May 9 and May 23 public hearings at city council meetings to discuss and adopt the map ordinance;
- November 2018 first council district holds election (in addition to at-large mayoral election);
- November 2020 remaining three council districts hold elections.

NDC explained the many ways to be heard in this process, including: attending a community workshop and/or a city council meeting, describing map boundaries in an email to staff, drawing a map by hand or using the online mapping tool. Participants were reminded that all draft maps are due by March 27.

NDC then reviewed the Federal and State of California rules regarding how map lines should be drawn. Including criteria like needing each district to have an equal population, not racial gerrymandering any districts and maintaining communities of interest. There will need to be approximately 25,000 residents in each of the four El Cajon council districts based on the approximately 100,000 residents counted in the 2010 census. It was explained that the district boundary lines could be adjusted in 2021 when the 2020 census population numbers are released.

NDC explained the concept of community of interest and how the El Cajon City Council has requested that at least two districts should contain parts of downtown El Cajon. Community of Interest is defined as a neighborhood or community that would benefit from being maintained in a single district because of shared interests, views, or characteristics.

Break Out Groups

Participants were asked to take the blank 11x17 city map and draw their neighborhood and/or community of interest. Residents were encouraged to provide input regarding the composition of the districts, to offer any questions or comments on why certain communities of interest might go together.

Small Group Report Back

After working together in a series of small groups, residents gave the following feedback:

- Some group discussion dealt with not having enough information to work with when trying to draw lines.
- Several residents drew a large boundary line around the Fletcher Hills area since it has a less dense population and divided the center of El Cajon into smaller sections.
- The Fletcher Hills section in western El Cajon west only has 17,000 residents, so other areas of the city would need to be added to get to the 25,000-population goal.
- Districts would not be based on neighborhoods as much as geography and population. Some groups divided the city into north, south, east and west sections.
- A group used the neighborhood areas from the social media app “next door” to draw a map.
- A group looked at natural borders, including highway 67 and 8 and where school boundaries are to come up with a boot shaped Fletcher Hills district. They stressed the importance of using natural borders rather than race to decide where lines should be drawn.
- There could be a district that connects the east side of Fletcher Hills to the Granite Hills neighborhood.

After drawing neighborhoods and communities of interest on the blank maps, participants were given a second map of El Cajon with 2010 census population numbers. Residents were encouraged to take the maps home and draw boundary lines for one or more districts. If participants were ready to complete a proposed district map at that time they were welcome to do so and turn it in before they left the community workshop.

A Summary of Participant Questions and Comments

Question: Is there any basis for drawing districts based on home assessment value?

- Answer: No, district boundaries for cities are based on population and communities of interest.

Question: Are we locked into a specific number of council people? Our neighborhood is smaller, would it be in our best interest to reconsider the number of council people we have in El Cajon, having a greater number of council members representing a greater number of smaller districts.

- Answer: Changing the number of council members would require a change in the city’s charter and is outside of the scope of this meeting.

Comment: The reason Fletcher Hills would be a larger district is because there is not a lot of public transit in this part of the city.

Comment: Using the very bulky tool online mapping tool is difficult.

- Answer: We agree, the online tool is hard to use. While it is the best technology out there right now, it has not been updated since 2009. Redistricting is not currently going on outside of California.

Question: Some of us are coming from outside of the Fletcher Hills area, what should we do if we do not live in this neighborhood?

- Answer: Fletcher Hills is just being used as an example. Please draw your neighborhood as you see it.

Question: What will happen in the 2018 election if nobody runs from that district or only unqualified candidates run?

- Answer: It would be very unusual for nobody to run for an open city council seat. However, if it did happen, the current council will choose someone. There aren't any "qualifications" or prior experience necessary to run for city council.

Question: Why are the 2010 census numbers being used? By the time residents vote in 2018 that population data will be outdated.

- Answer: The courts have said cities switching from at-large to district election systems have to use the most recent census or perform their own census data collection. Surveying all households citywide would be very expensive for El Cajon. However, the boundary lines will be reevaluated and adjusted as necessary after the new 2020 census comes out. If a city annexes a new large parcel of land then it could be required to do a mid-decade census update.

Question: What is the population of El Cajon now?

- Answer: It is approximately 102,000 right now.

Question: What would happen if two current council members end up living in the same district up for election in 2018?

- Answer: If there are two council members in the same district, you can have them both run in the same election. However, if two council members from different years end up in the same seat, and if the 2018 member runs, the 2020 council seat can decide to run mid-term. If the council member with the 2020 seat wins, that member would need to resign their 2020 seat and swear into the 2018 term.

Question: Can the downtown area be split in more than two districts?

- Answer: Yes, a city can divide downtown in 4 or less seats.

Question: If there are 40 people here and we all draw one map together do we then decide?

- Answer: There is a public process where residents can put forth their proposed maps but it is the city council who ultimately decides on the final map.

Question: Would it be better to have a district that balanced both business and social equities?

- Answer: There is no right answer to what the best district would look like.

Demonstration of on-line mapping tool

The workshop wrapped up with NDC giving all those interested in staying, an online map tutorial. All the draft maps were collected. Residents were asked to write their names and contact information on

everything they turn in so NDC can get back to the author if changes need to be made (to balance population for example). It was explained that maps can be submitted anonymously, but that it is likely that more weight will be placed on those with names as the process moves forward.

Adjourn

City of El Cajon Community Workshops to Implement Measure S

Creating City Council District Boundaries

Greenfield Middle School | February 23, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Attendance: 27 Residents

Welcome and Introductions

Institute for Local Government (ILG) welcomed the group, explained the purpose and overview of the workshop and reviewed the agenda. Council members in attendance introduced themselves and thanked residents for their participation.

District Elections Mapping

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Break Out Groups

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Small Group Report Back

After working together in a series of small groups, residents gave the following feedback:

- Comment: Our group decided that things in close proximity to where we live are similar neighborhoods and could be considered communities of interest.
- Comment: Since I live by 2nd street where there is a lot of retail businesses I combined the areas around 2nd street to make up the community of interest.
- Comment: I picked the areas in the city that I visit the most to be my community.
- Comment: Group focused on combining neighborhoods that were built during similar time periods.
- Comment: The city of El Cajon can be divided into three areas based on housing types: east, west and the higher density low areas in the middle.

After drawing neighborhoods and communities of interest on the blank maps, participants were given a second map of El Cajon with 2010 census population numbers. Residents were encouraged to take the maps home and draw boundary lines for one or more districts. If participants were ready to complete a proposed district map at that time they were welcome to do so and turn it in before they left the community workshop.

A Summary of Participant Questions and Comments

Question: How come there will be four districts instead of five districts?

- Answer: The mayor will continue to be elected at-large by the whole city. The other four council members will each represent a district.

Question: Who are the consultants that were hired by the city?

- Answer: NDC is the technical map consultant, they will be overseeing the map development process. ILG is the public engagement consultant, they will be guiding the community outreach process and ensuring that the transition is transparent and involves as many residents as possible.

Question: Who sets the dates of the elections? Why doesn't everybody just get elected in 2018?

- Answer: Each of the current council members will serve their four-year terms. One council term is scheduled to expire in 2018, and the other three in 2020.

Question: Will the council approval of the final map be a majority vote?

- Answer: Yes.

Question: Will council members have to live in their district?

- Answer: Yes.

Question: What was the rationale for voting to switch to districts from at-large elections?

- Answer: It is impossible to say why each individual voter voted the way they did on measure S last November. However, many were likely motivated to vote yes in order for the city to be in compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).
- Comment from resident: A lot of us voted for measure S to keep the city from getting sued. I did not want the city to pay a lot in lawsuits. If it weren't for CVRA, I would rather have kept voting for all council members.

Question: Is the requirement that districts be compact and contiguous a state law or supported by case law?

- Answer: It is recognized by state courts and is in the government code (Elections Code Division 21, Chapter 7, Article 2, Section 21620). It is also upheld by the Shaw v Reno US Supreme Court rulings and Navajo Nation vs Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission rulings.

Question: The map says El Cajon is 28 percent Latino. How do you define Latino?

- Answer: The data is based on the 2010 census. If people marked Hispanic or Latino on the census then they are considered Latino.

Question: How are the dotted lines determined on the map with population numbers?

- Answer: The dotted lines outline the census blocks. They can be divided if needed when you're drawing your proposed district boundary lines.

Question: Is this an old map? I do not see Christian high school included.

- Answer: Not all schools within El Cajon are listed on the map. If they were it would be hard to read the map.

Question: How do you want us to split up downtown?

- Answer: Downtown boundaries can be found by looking at the downtown specific plan on the cities website. It can be divided into two, three or four districts.

Question: Why would you want to split up downtown? Seems like it would create conflict to have multiple council members oversee it.

- Answer: Downtown is the most vital part of the City. It is important that it resides within more than one district so that a majority of the City Council will have a vested interest in what happens in downtown.

Question: How do we submit maps?

- Answer: People can submit their proposed maps many ways, including: by emailing a picture of it to either the city or NDC, dropping it off at city hall, or mailing it to city hall.

Question: How soon will the draft maps be posted online?

- Answer: All maps received by the March 27 deadline will be displayed on the city website on April 3.

Comment: We need more town hall meetings to gather more input from the people of El Cajon. There are only two city council meetings a month at which residents only have 3 minutes to make a public comment.

Demonstration of on-line mapping tool

The workshop wrapped up with NDC giving all those interested in staying, an online map tutorial. All the draft maps were collected. Residents were asked to write their names and contact information on everything they turn in so NDC can get back to the author if changes need to be made (to balance population for example). It was explained that maps can be submitted anonymously, but that it is likely that more weight will be placed on those with names as the process moves forward.

Adjourn

City of El Cajon Community Workshops to Implement Measure S

Creating City Council District Boundaries

Chase Elementary School | February 28, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Attendance: 21 Residents

Welcome and Introductions

Institute for Local Government (ILG) welcomed the group, explained the purpose and overview of the workshop and reviewed the agenda.

District Elections Mapping

National Demographics Corporation (NDC) provided an overview of the timeline to transition from at-large to district based local elections. Key dates included:

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NDC explained the many ways to be heard in this process, including: attending a community workshop and/or a city council meeting, describing map boundaries in an email to staff, drawing a map by hand or using the online mapping tool. Participants were reminded that all draft maps are due by March 27.

NDC then reviewed the Federal and State of California rules regarding how map lines should be drawn. Including criteria like needing each district to have an equal population, not racial gerrymandering any districts and maintaining communities of interest. There will need to be approximately 25,000 residents in each of the four El Cajon council districts based on the approximately 100,000 residents counted in the 2010 census. It was explained that the district boundary lines could be adjusted in 2021 when the 2020 census population numbers are released.

NDC explained the concept of community of interest and how the El Cajon City Council has requested that at least two districts should contain parts of downtown El Cajon. Community of Interest is defined as a neighborhood or community that would benefit from being maintained in a single district because of shared interests, views, or characteristics.

Break Out Groups

Participants were asked to take the blank 11x17 city map and draw their neighborhood and/or community of interest. Residents were encouraged to provide input regarding the composition of the districts, to offer any questions or comments on why certain communities of interest might go together.

Small Group Report Back

After working together in a series of small groups, residents gave the following feedback:

- We are in the bottom near Mt. Atascadero, drew the line to chase avenue and over to the right.
- Similar neighborhood went across freeway over to the Fletcher Hills Area, and way over to the right, wood granite hills. Same reasons- feels and looks similar, homes, lot sizes.
- We live here near this school, another airport district and east of intersection of 8th and 77th
- I'm from this area, my neighborhood is granite hills.
- We live in granite hills, we arrived at the district by using the East border of El Cajon to 2nd street and pulling it to the edge.
- I live close to chase and avocado. I took avocado and ran up it north to fletcher, west on fletcher over to marshal, down marshal and over a few streets to the west. The houses in that area are similar to ours. There are homeowners in what I drew as our district but also renters and high density which would bring us up to the 25k count.

After drawing neighborhoods and communities of interest on the blank maps, participants were given a second map of El Cajon with 2010 census population numbers. Residents were encouraged to take the maps home and draw boundary lines for one or more districts. If participants were ready to complete a proposed district map at that time they were welcome to do so and turn it in before they left the community workshop.

A Summary of Participant Questions and Comments

Question: Can you give an overview of the meetings last year and how this change happened?

- Answer: The City of El Cajon held a series of public educational workshops in the spring and summer of 2016 to inform residents about measure S and the potential consequences of being out of compliance with the California Voting Rights Act.

Question: Will there be one council member running per district? Will the maps take into account where current council members live?

- Answer: There will be one council member representing each district in the future but where they currently live is not a map criteria in El Cajon.

Question: Once we get the districts on the map, how will we determine which existing council members live in each district/ how many per district?

- Answer: There are two parts to the process. First, the City Council will decide which district seat is up for election in 2018 and which three district seats are up in 2020 on each of the draft maps considered this spring. Then, once the map is chosen and district elections begin in 2018, each council member running has to live in the district they are running for.

Question: Is it set in stone that one council seat will be up in 2018 and three in 2020?

- Answer: This election sequence is the same as it was before moving to district elections. The charter amendment that passed in November keeps the same structure and the existing council terms.

Question: Will the election cycle repeat?

- Answer: Yes

Question: The council will ultimately make the decision not us?

- Answer: Yes, council will make the final decision.

Question: What will stop a council member from drawing a circle around their house? I do not see them moving to stay in different districts?

- Answer: Council has asked that where they currently live not be included as a map criteria during this process. Some cities do it differently.

Comment: I believe that it is better to see El Cajon as one whole instead of districts voting against each other. However, now that measure S has passed it has been decided. Concerned now that residents are not going to establish districts tonight at this workshop.

- Answer: It is state law that a city must hold at least two community meetings before any draft maps are considered. People can create and turn in draft maps today, most people just choose to take time at home and turn them in later.

Question: When will the boundary lines be redrawn?

- Answer: The 2020 census numbers will likely require the lines to be redrawn, the data will be released in 2021.

Question: Do you give the draft maps to the council and then they choose?

- Answer: Council will make the final decision, however, that will happen after the community workshop on April 18th and a series of public hearings in May through early June.

Question: Will the source of the map be identified or will it be anonymous?

- Answer: Maps can be submitted anonymously, but we do encourage people to put their contact information. For two reasons, they are more likely to put weight on something when they know where it is coming from. Two, if there is an error with the map we can come back to you to fix it.

Questions: Do we have to draw all four districts?

- Answer: It is encouraged that all four districts be drawn for a map to be considered for adoption by the City Council. But, a single district map can be submitted and NDC will take it as a suggested community of interest.

Demonstration of on-line mapping tool

The workshop wrapped up with NDC giving all those interested in staying, an online map tutorial. All the draft maps were collected. Residents were asked to write their names and contact information on everything they turn in so NDC can get back to the author if changes need to be made (to balance population for example). It was explained that maps can be submitted anonymously, but that it is likely that more weight will be placed on those with names as the process moves forward.

Adjourn

City of El Cajon Community Workshops to Implement Measure S

Creating City Council District Boundaries

Lexington Elementary School | March 1, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Attendance: 13 Residents

Welcome and Introductions

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Small Group Report Back

After working together in a series of small groups, residents gave the following feedback:

- My neighborhood is Mollison and Lexington, in the heart of El Cajon. It's very crowded, big middle eastern population, a park nearby and a few schools, government facility, shopping centers.
- I live in downtown area, I included the shopping areas and my church to be part of my neighborhood.
- I live in Granite Hills area. My community of interest is the areas nearby where the houses look similar to mine and the socioeconomic diversity is the same.

After drawing neighborhoods and communities of interest on the blank maps, participants were given a second map of El Cajon with 2010 census population numbers. Residents were encouraged to take the maps home and draw boundary lines for one or more districts. If participants were ready to complete a proposed district map at that time they were welcome to do so and turn it in before they left the community workshop.

A Summary of Participant Questions and Comments

Question: Who has the priority of whose map is better than others?

- Answer: As long as it meets the criteria, all draft maps will be given the same level of consideration.

Question: What happens to the mayor?

- The mayor will continue to be elected at-large by the whole city. The next mayoral election will occur in 2018.

Question: Have they decided which of the districts will be up in 2018?

- Answer: No, the council will indicate which district will be up for election in 2018 on each of the proposed maps.

Question: Will the council members who are seated now remain unassigned to a district until their term is up?

- Answer: The current council will remain at large until two or four years from now.

Question: Are you paid to be here?

- Answer: Yes, almost all cities use an outside firm to manage the transition from at-large to district elections.

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