

98:17

Hi I am Annette Lonquist. I have attended two of the redistricting meetings online and I'm glad we're able to attend today. I've lived in the county for 30 years and in that time, we've had three supervisors. They've all been wonderful. We had a situation occur about 10 years ago that needed attention our supervisor made sure that county employees came to our area, and worked with us, and remedied the situation. We were very pleased about that. I see the supervisors fighting for their constituents. I pay attention, I listen to the news, I read the paper, I watch online, I know what's going on. I try to be involved and pay attention and I see all of the supervisors working for their constituents, they work hard. In regard to the boundaries, the districts appear to be fairly drawn. I'm not a map maker so I understand that there are some changes that might be made with streets being moved, but I don't really see a drastic change and you're talking about communities of interest. Aren't all of our communities of interest? Mine is, yours is, everyone is. I think everybody should be treated fairly no matter what ethnicity, skin color, religion, whatever. We're all here together. We all live in kern county, and I like to think that we all get along. So, I think that in the sense that our supervisors are on the front line. I see them working very, very, hard and I just wanted it to be known that I approve of what they're doing. I know they're working hard for us, and I appreciate everything they've done.

100:47

Hello everyone, my name is Patty Vignolo and this is my first board of supervisors meeting. I lived in district 1 for about 14 years and then I moved over to district 4 and I've been there for five years. I just want to reiterate the importance that your constituents are placing on you to make really good decisions regarding this and every decision that you make for the county. So, if you could just, please, I know you have so many things going on in your lives, you have so many things going on with the district, if you could please just take that one moment of pause and just really be determined to make a really good decision on behalf of all your constituents regarding this particular redistricting issue. I can tell you on behalf of all of us we thank you and keep up the good work.

109:03

good evening board of supervisors. My name is Cecilia Delgado. I live in Bakersfield, but I work within the community of Lamont, Weedpatch, and Arvin as a community organizer with Vacinos Unidos chapters. Which is Neighbors United for the Dolores Huerta Foundation. We're all in support of the current equity coalition map. First off, I was not happy that we don't have any call-ins just like you mentioned. A lot of our participants in that area are not tech savvy. They're not able to email so they're used to calling in, in previous redistricting meetings. Our Vecinos is a group of community activists who are concerned with improving the quality of life of our Latino Spanish-speaking members. We come together to address concerns regarding safety communities, paved streets, sidewalks linings parks, sports for youth, job, and access to affordable housing. We all strongly support the equity coalition map because it will allow us to join together with nearby

communities in south and east Bakersfield. The redistricting is needed because it is not feasible for any vasinos to be placed in the same district with the rich communities like the seven oaks because they don't share the same needs and communities of interest. The proposed map will empower them to connect with the Latino majority that shares their culture, language, and occupations as well as common social issues. We are requesting that you please support our efforts for a fair representation by providing current equity coalition map. Thank you.

110:56

Good afternoon board of supervisors. My name is Jaceedra Osby and I have comment about the redistricting. I live in the district and I'm a lifelong resident of Kern County, city of Bakersfield, and I support the equity coalition map. I am from a community of interests, the black community, and as the maps are represented today, they divide us. We are a very small population, and it would be equitable to put us all together in the same district because the splitting of us is not in our best interest. It does not allow us to build any power or equity as it currently stands and so I ask that you support the equity coalition map and take care of our black families. Thank you.

112:22

My name is Sheila Henderson and I live in district one. I'm a realtor in Bakersfield. As a realtor I'm concerned with communities of interest. It seems to encourage pockets that are exclusive and not inclusive. When we have an inclusive neighborhood or community, we tend to come together and work out our problems and differences that we have in each group. To say that our supervisors cannot represent people of all interest groups would demean the position and the supervisor. Two years ago, our district lines were reviewed and changed. These changes must be disruptive to our supervisors and to their communities. I hope you will be sensitive to this when you're making your decision. I live in district one, as I said. I am very pleased with our district. I think our supervisor has been very accommodating and very attentive. I watch the news and I know what's going on in our community. I know they're dealing with homeless, budget issues, lack of workforce, and reduction of oil and revenues. I understand you have problems up there and I'm just wanting to speak in in favor of our supervisors and the job that they're doing Thank you.

114:06

afternoon my name is Sonya Bennett and I currently live in the Ridgeview area of Bakersfield, and I support the equity coalition map. I support this map as it draws fair and effective voting rights act districts created by the community and is based on equity indicators like pollution burden and socioeconomic factors. I am currently in district 2 and do not share the issues of the desert and mountain areas. Communities that are located in the White Lane, Taft highway corridor for the proposed district 4 bear the same pollution burdens as rural farm worker communities. Issues such as air quality and cleanup

of the ag lens that we live on. I wish I had the same experience with the board that the prior speakers had, but I don't feel that some of the communities of color have been treated fairly in the past as the Maldef suit bears. So please consider the equity coalition map and keep our communities of interest as one. Thank you.

115:40

Supervisors. My name is Jesus Garcia, and I am the consultant that drew the community equity maps. I'd like to thank you for selecting Redistricting Partners. I think you have done an excellent choice in them. I also like to agree with your counsel because they laid out the framework that you're dealing with. You have legal requirements that mandate some things. What are some of those things? First of all, you have to create a voting rights district. That's in the law. It has to occur. People have mentioned the 2018. Well, there was another set of maps. The 94 maps in both cases the border supervisor changed its boundaries because of either of legal or because of threat of legal. Let's not do that this time. Board, you need to rise to the occasion. We have a transformational change occurring here in kern county and throughout the whole San Joaquin Valley. I'm drawing maps for here, for Kings, for Tulare, for Madera, for Merced. The exact same conversation is happening in all of those districts. The central valley is going through a transformational change that needs to also be reflected in the board. We have drawn lines that as your attorney mentioned follow natural borders, streets, highways, roads. We have included communities of interest. All the mountains and districts. All the desert districts are together and for folks that say that that district is too large, well district 4 has all the farm worker communities together as well. So, all of our lines, oh and by the way our deviation is less than one half of one percent so there's no need to go to ten percent. Let's set a target of one percent okay. My maps are our maps are now at a half percent. We can, you know, we'll give in a little bit but basically again the valley is going through a transformational change and the laws require that these adopt. It's not about how we like each other or how we all love each other. I love all my neighbors, but we need to rise to the occasion. Thank you

118:19

Tammy Tyler a parent advocate for the African American parent committee in California city. Hi, my name is Tammy Tyler. I live in California City, California, and my community and I support the equity coalition map. It empowers all communities and especially the black community and other members of communities of color. The voting rights act districts are Effective, not just compliant. I propose the district 1. I love that it's got the mountain communities, the high desert communities. We have a lot of the same problems. We have unmet basic needs like access to the internet, and healthcare, and hospitals, and fire issues. Being connected to Bakersfield means that the supervisor is beholden to Bakersfield where it's more densely populated. Additionally, Kern is large and the rural and mountain desert area is pretty sparsely populated. It's inevitable that a district is going to be have to be big because kern county is big. We have shared interests and should be together in the same district. Finally, there's a problem with racism in Kern County. The women speaking earlier who are happy, all happen to be white. Equitable maps and fair maps are really

Important. There are a lot of parents with the same problems. We want people that care. The equitable coalition map represents all people in Kern County.

120:07

Hello, my name is Sonya Norwood, and I am a resident of kern county. However, I support the equity collision map because it accurately reflects all current population. Also, it was created by the community. It draws fair and effective voting rights at districts. It keeps equal population in each district. It does not use political party or current supervision home information. It stops the cycle of lawsuits which wastes a lot of taxpayers' money and it's based on equity indicators like population burdens and covid 19 and social economic factors. Thank you for listening and your time.

121:29

Good afternoon, my name is Camila Chavez. I'm the executive director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. The DHF has been working on redistricting for the past five years. We engaged with the board of supervisors on the Luna case to redraw the county districts in 2018. DHF then worked on the current high school district later that year and kern community college district in 2020. DHF has trained, engaged, and empowered hundreds of kern county residents in this important civic endeavor. Now we're back to discuss the board of supervisor districts, a process that only happens every 10 years. We are excited to be here in partnership with the following organizations: The Center on Race, Poverty and The Environment, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, The Central Labor Council, Central Valley United for Power, SCIU Local 521, United Domestic Workers, and other organizations and individuals who are part of the Equitable Maps Coalition. The maps being presented today have been developed in collaboration with hundreds of kern county residents and our collective experiences have brought this quantitative data to life, quantitative and qualitative data to life. The maps the equity coalition are proposing enlarge what is currently district one. I am a resident of Keene, a mountain community in the Tehachapi foothills and I think that district one does a great job of keeping our mountain communities together. Kernville, Lake Isabella, Tehachapi, Mojave, California City, Fraser Park, and Taft have a lot in common. We share the same geographic characteristics and resource challenges as well. You know are challenged with fire zones, limited health facilities, public transportation to name a few. I ask that the mountain and high desert communities be acknowledged as a community of interest and kept together in the same district, district one, as proposed by the equity coalition map and that it be adopted by the board of supervisors. The geography is large, yet the populations are equal. Thank you.

134:14

Robin Walters- Dear supervisors, as an engaged member of district three I'm asking you to adopt the current equity coalition map. This map takes into account communities of interest, draws fair and effective voting rights act voting rights act districts, and stops

the wasteful spending of time and money on lawsuits. Your actions have already cost us the taxpayers far too much in last lawsuit spending. Your recent actions to deny a contract because of a political view is yet another example of subjecting your constituents to unnecessary and wasteful spending on lawsuits. Please follow your legal and moral obligations and make certain our districts are equitably drawn. I along with hundreds of others ask you to support the equity coalition map. Respectfully Robin Walters.

135:05

Emma De La Rosa. Policy advocate for leadership council for justice and accountability. I work with residents in unincorporated Kern County, specifically residents from Hilltop fuller acres, Lamont, Casa Loma, and residents from county islands within Bakersfield. Folks in these areas are all in different supervisorial districts despite facing similar issues. Exposure to harmful pollutants, lack of financial investment in their communities, lack of affordable housing, and limited public infrastructure including lighting, sidewalks, and sewers. It is important that our communities be granted the rights to effectively advocate to address their needs thus I support the equity coalition map because it represents the needs of the aforementioned communities and is supported by residents.

138:10

Brett Bailey. The present district boundaries between districts one and four in the urban areas of Bakersfield do not any longer represent the area with geographical integrity and are in desperate need of redrawing after the growth of the last 20 years. The Rosedale area dominates district 1 and dilutes rural residents in the mountain districts and share very little with Ridgecrest. Thank you

140:46

My name is Lori Pesante and I direct the redistricting program for the Dolores Huerta foundation. You've heard a lot about the equity coalition map. I'm here to provide some details but it begins with a journey that began in January. Paolo Freya wrote in pedagogy of the oppressed that the solutions we seek are not going to be found at the top, they're going to be found at the bottom and many, many, people like myself and like folks in the Foundation have been doing redistricting work because it seeks to tap into the power of the people over the course of 10 years. So, when we started meeting in January, we started finding other folks who also want to see the redistricting process put right what has gone very, very, wrong in kern county and many other parts of the central valley. So, the equity coalition map has a layer on it that includes information from our history department at Cal State, Bakersfield. Racially restrictive covenant information and we use that information along with a lot of other equity indicators to make sure that groups that have been systematically cut out of property rights and intergenerational wealth building would be empowered by this redistricting process and indeed the numbers you have in front of you are very, very, clear. Kern County is 65.7 percent people of beautiful color, 65.7. It has been a long trend to see this demographic shift here in Kern County. It is high time that our maps finally reflect that. So, the equity coalition map started bringing people

into the fold, educating people. This is not an easy process. You're not going to wrap your head around it in 30 seconds right and so every week we met with people. We started collecting surveys, which by the way we based on the Luna case okay. We taught people about the Luna case. We helped people understand the history that we are working with and we absolutely 100 percent started with the fair maps act. 2019 gave us a very, very, powerful, and important tool to get this right and so we started with this back and forth every week with folks and poor Mr. Garcia has been with us every step of the way. Can you move the line here, can you move the line there, no, no, no, that's going to mess with my deviation. People regular people being brought into the fold, and you heard a lot of them today and you weren't at the other workshops, but they've been coming to all the workshops as much as humanly possible despite issues with Microsoft teams. Or not having Microsoft teams as is the case today but our equal population our deviation is half of one percent which demonstrates that indeed not only is it possible to get below 9.5 percent. Mr. Garcia would never let us have a map with a deviation that high come on now. But the second most important criteria there is the voting rights act considerations. We want you to be in the best position possible to be stewards, good stewards of all our taxpayer dollars. This map absolutely puts you there with district 5 at 83.7 percent Latino population which of course is what triggers some of the considerations from your legal counsel in terms of where the obligation presents itself under the voting rights act. CVAP for district five is 68.8 percent. Communities of color CVAP is 79.4. We're not just thinking about one particular protected class we're thinking about all of them. The equity coalition map takes into consideration all constitutionally protected groups, all of them. It's not just about the Latino population, it's about the black population, it's about our native Americans, it's about our Asian population, it's about our Punjabi population, it's about our LGBTQ population. District 4 71.8 Latino population, people of color 86.1 percent. C-vap for Latino in district 4 60.6, people of color 80.5 percent and we're not pairing them with a gated community where the eligible voter turnout is like 98 percent where they get out voted every time. District 3 is probably my favorite because it's got 59.7 percent Latino population but communities of color 72.8 percent. Latino CVAP eligible voters 46.1 but people of color CVAP 61 and that's where that racially restrictive covenant layer comes in. We wanted to make sure, and you heard there was testimony at your first redistricting hearing on that Saturday identifying where the redlined community is and in fact in my presentation, I have these beautiful pictures from the department of agriculture of the negro shantytown. We are swimming in a sea of history. These maps have got to reflect the future. We also asked for acknowledgement of communities of interest many, many, times now. You have of course heard about the mountain high desert rural community of Interest. We asked for acknowledgement which is kept whole in d1. We have asked for identification of the racially restrictive covenant neighborhoods maintained in d3. The southeast Bakersfield fuller acres, Lamont, Arvin, Weedpatch alignment in what is a return to the traditional district five. Southwest Bakersfield along pumpkin center, my old stomping grounds, along Taft highway, rural farm worker communities dealing with a lot of the same issues kept in the same district, district four. And then of course West Bakersfield and Rosedale and I used the point in time count to help guide the lines there along the parkway because what we see in the homeless point in time count of course is we've got

folks in the downtown area, but they get pushed into the riverbed. We got to have some unification there because the next 10 years we got to have solutions from the people. Then we have community of interest that we'd like to have recognized in the kern river parkway of our unhoused populations, we maintain them in district 2. The geographical integrity piece which is number three in terms of order of priority for the fair maps act all census designated places and cities are kept whole in current county on our map with the exception of Bakersfield, which of course would violate equal population to if you have to split Bakersfield. We're too big and in no way shape or form did we use partisan data or look at any kind of supervisor residence or anything like that. Totally eliminated from the equation altogether and a lot of other counties have actually passed ordinances requiring that they not have any of this data available to them and it not be used in the maps. So, the law is very, very, clear and Kern County hasn't been asked to go through this process with that new law in place so I really, really, appreciate the attention being paid by your consultant to how to consider what that means for this group. I look forward to seeing your proposed maps and evaluating it using exactly the same criteria that the people have been asking for you to use as well. So, thank you for your attention.