



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jim Throop, City Manager
J_throop@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6462(21) Providing Input To The Santa Barbara County Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission Regarding Drawing of County Supervisorial District Boundaries; Designate Member of the City Council or the City Manager to Provide Further Input to the Commission Consistent with Resolution No. 6462(21)

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Consider adopting Resolution No. 6462(21) providing input to the Santa Barbara County Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) and designate and authorize a City official to provide comment to the Commission during the redistricting process consistent with City Council guidance and input (attached); or
- 2) Take no action, or provide input to the Commission other than what is included in the draft Resolution. (The City has no obligation to provide comments or input to the Commission.)

Background:

In the November 2018 Statewide General Election, Santa Barbara County voters approved Measure G that formed an 11-member independent redistricting commission to establish the electoral district boundaries in Santa Barbara County for the upcoming decade following receipt of the 2020 federal census data. The primary goal when developing election districts is to draw lines that respect neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements.

Discussion:

The Commission began meeting in January 2021 to review, discuss, and deliberate on redistricting statutes, public outreach plans, and mapping tools for constituents to use

during a series of public meetings that will be held in each district. The public is encouraged to participate in the redistricting process that is expected to be completed in December 2021. More than 175 County residents applied to serve as a commissioner. Following a comprehensive process that included 10 public meetings, 11 seats were filled: two members per district and one at-large member.

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their electoral district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. State law requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and doing public outreach, including to non-English speaking communities. The Commission is asking for the public's help to plan, draw, and redivide new County supervisorial districts. The finalized maps that the public will help to create will define the five Santa Barbara County supervisorial district borders, and these new County supervisorial districts will impact how the public will elect the Santa Barbara County Supervisors for the next 10 years.

The Commission's schedule moves aggressively after the October 18, 2021, meeting, when initial draft maps were accepted. It will be beneficial for the Commission to have guidance from the City Council regarding supervisorial district boundaries.

Each supervisorial district will need to encompass approximately 89,300 residents. The City of Lompoc's census population is 44,444¹. It will be important for the City to weigh in on where the lines should be drawn in order to obtain the best representation from County officials. However, the Commission process moves quickly, and staff will likely not have time to return to the City Council for formal direction on map proposals. To facilitate this input, staff recommends the City Council authorize an official or officials of the City, such as the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, or City Manager, to provide comment during the process consistent with the City Council guidance and input in Resolution No. 6462(21).

Staff recommends the following policy positions:

1. Cities within Santa Barbara County should be considered Communities of Interest and wholly contained within a single Supervisorial District to the extent possible.
2. The City of Lompoc, with its population being less than that of a single Supervisorial District, should be wholly contained within a single Supervisorial District.
3. Due to their related interests, Vandenberg Space Force Base, Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, and the federal prison should all be contained within a single Supervisorial District.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lompoccitycalifornia,US/POP010220#POP010220>

Maps that have been submitted so far can be found at:

<https://drawsantabarbaracounty.org>

The schedule of the Commission is to adopt a map by December 8, 2021, with remaining steps toward that goal articulated in the table below.

November 18, 2021, 12:00 pm	Public input on focus maps (Round 1)
November 22, 2021, 6:00 pm	Review focus and newly submitted maps, narrow to 3-4 focus maps, (Round 2) direction on map modifications
December 1, 2021, 6:00 pm	Identify preferred map, direction on map modifications, if any
December 8, 2021, 6:00 pm	Adopt map

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Conclusion:

Having a City representative provide input to the Commission will allow the City to ensure its interests are represented in the redistricting process.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6462(21)