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TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeanine B. Nadel, County Counsel

RE: **Redistricting Advisory Committee regarding additional criteria to be used for determining Supervisor District Boundary Adjustments**

The following is a memorandum regarding the redistricting process that will hopefully assist you in your discussions with the Redistricting Advisory Committee.

Elections Code section 21500 establishes the redistricting requirement and specifically provides that, "following each decennial federal census, and using that census as a basis, the board shall adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that the districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be and shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 1973 of Title 42 of the United States Code, as amended. **In establishing the boundaries of the districts the board may give consideration to the following factors: (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the districts."**

As stated, the primary requirement of the redistricting process is to obtain 20% of the population in each of the five districts. A variance of less than 3% is considered presumptively valid. The courts have allowed a variance of up to 3% from the 20% distribution (i.e., 17-23%). Any variance of over 3% is not recommended as it will require legal justification.

The other mandatory requirement is that the County is required to comply with Section 2 of the *Federal Voting Rights Act (42 USC 1973(b))*, which forbids the imposition or application of any practice that would deny on grounds of race or color the right of any citizen to vote.

The secondary factors that may be considered by the board in determining the adjustment are:

- **Topography**—*natural landmarks and barriers that act as logical boundaries*
- **Geography**—*differences between districts such as rural, urban, climates, etc.*
- **Cohesiveness**—*location-based factors that are unique to individual districts*
- **Contiguity**—*districts must be a single mass as opposed to multiple, unconnected areas. In other words: A district should be one in which one may travel from any location to any other location without crossing the district boundary.*
- **Integrity**—*cities, communities, and neighborhoods should not be divided into separate districts when avoidable*
- **Compactness of territory**—*all points in the district should be kept tight and close as opposed to thin elongated fashion*
- **Community of interests**—*a community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, and industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process. **Communities of interest shall not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.***

The census population count has revealed that an adjustment is necessary. Currently, the population counts and variances are as follows:

District	Population	Variance
District 1	18,107	3%
District 2	18,355	4%
District 3	18,248	4%
District 4	17,031	3%
District 5	16,100	8%

Total Population Count 87,841

As to the requirement that the County comply with the Voting Rights Act, the population counts demonstrate that there is no minority group that is large

enough to constitute a majority in the district. Therefore, there will be no issue as to whether this process will dilute minority voting rights.

2010 Census Hispanic Origin by Supervisor Districts

District 1=4,889
District 2=5,445
District 3=2,574
District 4=3,288
District 5=3,369

The Redistricting Committee has met weekly since April 27, 2011. They have developed a calendar for public meetings where they expect to receive public input regarding this process. Attached to this memo is a calendar of meetings. Input from the Board of Supervisors regarding the criteria to be used in this process will be beneficial to the committee as they begin to engage the public. For purposes of this meeting, the Committee, chaired by Jim Mayfield, will be seated at the staff table and will be prepared to discuss the additional criteria that they deem relevant to be used in determining the adjustment.

The Committee will have its report and proposal(s) for boundary adjustments for the Board to consider at its July 26, 2011 meeting. Subsequent thereto, the Board will be required to hold at least one public meeting prior to the meeting in which it will adopt the boundary adjustment ordinance.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, feel free to contact me.

JBN/rma

RANKING OF REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE CRITERIA:

- Balance rural/urban population with each district
- Equally sized districts, physical size
- Less cohesiveness-balance
- Political balance in each district
- Geography
- Cities and communities – need not be divided
- Geographical balance in each district
- Community of interest
- Topography
- Access to supervisor

CITIZEN'S REDISTRICTING MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, May 4	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room B 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, May 11	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room B 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, May 18	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room C 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, May 25	5:00 p.m.	Fort Bragg Public Library 499 E. Laurel St., Fort Bragg
Wednesday, June 1	5:00 p.m.	Willits Library 390 E. Commercial St., Willits
Wednesday, June 8	5:00 p.m.	BOS Chambers 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, June 15	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room C 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, June 22	5:00 p.m.	Point Arena Library 225 N. main St., Point Arena
Wednesday, June 29	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room C 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, July 6	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room B 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, July 13	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room C 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Wednesday, July 20	3:00 p.m.	Conference Room C 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah
Tuesday, July 26 (BOS Presentation)	TBD	BOS Chambers 501 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah

