



MINUTES

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

6:30 P.M. Open Session

SPECIAL MEETING

**CITY COUNCIL, AIRPORT COMMISSION,
MARINA ABRAMS B NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, PRESTON PARK SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, SUCCESSOR AGENCY OF THE FORMER
MARINA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND MARINA GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

Council Chambers
211 Hillcrest Avenue
Marina, California

Zoom Meeting URL: <https://zoom.us/j/730251556>

Zoom Meeting Telephone Only Participation: 1-669-900-9128 - Webinar ID: 730 251 556

In response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N.29-20 and City Council Resolution 2020-29 ratifying the Proclamation of a Local Emergency by the City Manager/Director of Emergency Services related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, public participation in the City of Marina City Council and other public meetings shall be electronic only and without a physical location for public participation, until further notice in compliance with California state guidelines on social distancing. This meeting is being broadcast "live" on Access Media Productions (AMP) Community Television Cable 25 and on the City of Marina Channel and on the internet at <https://accessmediaproductions.org/>

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL & ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: (City Council, Airport Commissioners, Marina Abrams B Non-Profit Corporation, Preston Park Sustainable Communities Nonprofit Corporation, Successor Agency of the Former Redevelopment Agency Members and Marina Groundwater Sustainability Agency)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cristina Medina Dirksen, David Burnett, Lisa Berkley, Mayor Pro-Tem/Vice Chair Kathy Biala, Mayor/Chair Bruce C. Delgado
3. MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Please stand)
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
 - a. City Council hold a public hearing to receive a presentation on the redistricting process and receive input from the community.

Redistricting Process

Two Initial Hearings - July 6 & September 21 = Held prior to release of draft maps. Educate, solicit input on the communities in the Districts.

Census Data Release - Mid/Late August = Census Bureau releases official 2020 Census population data.

California Data Release - Early October 2021 = California Statewide Database releases California's official 'prisoner-adjusted' 2020 redistricting data.

Engagement Workshops - November 19 & 20 at the Marina Community Center = November 19, 6 – 8 p.m. and November 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Draft Map Hearing - January 4 (Virtual) = Discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence. Deadline to submit drafts: December 21, 2021, 5 p.m.

Draft Map Hearing - February 15 = Discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence. Deadline to submit drafts: February 1, 2022, 5 p.m.

Map Adoption - By April 17, 2022 = Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption. Map adopted via ordinance.

Redistricting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws = Equal Population; Federal Voting Rights Act; No Racial Gerrymandering.
2. California Criteria for Cities = Geographically contiguous; Undivided neighborhoods and "communities of interest" (Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together); Easily identifiable boundaries; Compact (Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people) - Prohibited: "Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party."
3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles = Minimize voters shifted to different election years; Respect voters' choices / continuity in office; Future population growth; Preserving the core of existing districts

Defining Neighborhoods

1st Question: What is your neighborhood?

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary: Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills; Areas around parks or schools; Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition

Beyond Neighborhoods: Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

Geographic Area, plus

Shared issue or characteristic: Shared social or economic interest; Impacted by county policies

Tell us "your community's story"

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being "included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation"?

- Or would it benefit more from having multiple representatives?

Definitions of Communities of Interest may not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Beyond Neighborhoods: Communities

Under the California Elections Code, "community of interest" has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests **that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.**

Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

Public Mapping and Map Review Tools

Different tools for different purposes.

Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest - Simple “review draft maps” tool; Easy-to-use “Draw your neighborhood” tool; Paper- and Excel-based simple “Draw a draft map” tools; Powerful, data-rich “Draw a draft map” tool.

Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps.

Simple Map Review Tool

Online Interactive Review Map = ESRI’s “ArcGIS Online” – similar to Google Maps in ease of use; Used to review, analyze and compare maps, not to create them; Includes overlays of “community of interest” and other data.

Simple Map Drawing Tool

Paper “Public Participation Kit” = For those without internet access or who prefer paper; Total Population Counts only – no demographic numbers

Simple Map Drawing Tool + Excel Supplement

“Public Participation Kit” = For those who know Excel and do not wish to use online tools; Adds CVAP data; Excel does the math

DistrictR

“Draw Your Community of Interest” focus = Also includes simple district-mapping tool; Only available in English; Similar external options: Representable.org, DrawMyCACommunity.org

Caliper’s “Maptitude Online Redistricting”

Full Database, Powerful Online Mapping Tool = Powerful, common, data-rich online tool; Six language options: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Korean; [Quick Start Guide](#)

Share Your Thoughts = Website: www.MapMarina.org - Phone: 831.884.1278 - Email: RedistrictingMarina@cityofmarina.org

Public Hearing & Discussion

What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?

What other notable areas are in the City, and what are their boundaries?

Any questions about the mapping tools?

Second Public Hearing

Council Discussion, then Action: Vote on areas that meet each AB 849 definition: “neighborhoods”

“communities of interest . . . that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.”

Council questions: Are the recordings of tonight's meeting going to be part of the website? Redistricting appears to be on the national radar, correct? What steps have you taken since the last time to be more inclusive and transparent in reaching hard to reach communities to not have disenfranchisement? Assembly Bill 849, communities of interest, do not include relationships with

political parties – what does this meant and how do you not include relationships with incumbents or political candidates? When we are trying to get communities of interest together? How do like neighborhoods impact fairness of the election process and how that might impact, the elections? If you split privileged neighborhoods, what's the impact there? Is there is there more representation of privileged folks when their neighborhoods are split versus when they're correlated together? Were these boundaries drawn to incorporate where the four elected council people live, is that they are the shape they are? Were these boundaries that are fairly crazy drawn, because of where four people lived? Do you recall a map that was divided into four, that was consistent with school district that school boundaries and police beat boundaries? Is this going to be a fair process? How could we make it the fairest Mr. Tilton? Is one of the primary considerations is in the size of the districts that they are relatively the same size, is that true? In defining what is the population count you have to rely on the census block total, is that correct? Can a census block be split? in defining areas where you have to make reach over areas of lower population to get to areas of population, where there actually are people located sometimes you get some elongated configurations is that not correct? So, whereas, someone might see some nefarious or some political motives to how a shape would be drawn the actuality is that in trying to come up with population counts, that allow for them to be equal because we have to once again get to one person or one representative, one person, one vote. Is that also correct? In general, it is better to have a full five districts rather than the mayor at-large? Whereas if you have a council of seven or nine people it's okay then to have the mayor at-large position because you're trying to keep it that you have one vote and one representative for each representative for each council member, is that correct? The five-district issue is completely separate from what we're doing today is that not correct or not entertaining five districts? On Assembly Bill 849(1), we can use these criteria repeatedly for any maps that are going to be proposed correct? Are there any of those four criteria that are current that we will need to comply with that are not complied with this Map 109c? Was this last map buffer in population growth anticipated for annexing CSUMB? Should we be considering that? What timeline are we anticipated to make this map good for, is it another 10 years or 11 years? Has Tripepi Smith worked in such diverse communities as ours and what methods have, been used to reach underrepresented communities? What strategies are you going to us to mitigate people's resistance to participating and in person events during the pandemic? Who is doing the translating? Is it Google Translate or do you have a Spanish speaker on staff? How difficult would it be to translate our written documents into Korean, Chinese Vietnamese? What would be involved funding wise to pick up these additional languages and any others that the council believes are appropriate? Is there precedence using a core rental areas as communities of interest? Economic Stratum - there's a different economic stratum in Abrams and Preston Park, as compared to the new developments which are called Sea Haven, and The Dunes in the map in front of us. Preston Park and Abrams Park, which are 100% rentals and include quite a number of affordable housing units and had been there since 1987 so they're older compared to the more high end units of Sea haven and the Dunes - does it make sense to have those communities which are very different in the same district, or does it dilute the voice of the lower income stratum by including them in a district that has very high income stratum? What if we have more communities of interest. Then four and we have to come up with four districts and it might be discontinuous to include different communities of interest, such as the Preston Park/Abrams area in with the core central Marina rental district? So, what do you do if you have more communities of interest that are disparately located than you have districts to draw up? Does it normally make sense to divide a new subdivision between two districts? Staff was asked if the League of California Cities link on redistricting webinar could be added to the resources on the website? Can the District be named versus calling them “district1 or district 2”?

Mayor opened the public hearing for public comments:

- Nan – Commented that it seems like Council Member Berkley is trying to get rid of the mayor seat. Why, we liked having a mayor?
- Konny Murry – Newly elected member of the Board of the League of Women Voters of Monterey County and very appreciative of all the information that you have given. You did a great job of outlining the required process. You seem to be well on your way to follow the law and for the City Council to record draw the line. Pleased to hear of your efforts on civic involvement. The League strongly recommend an Advisory Commission of interested citizens be put together. It seems to me that those the district people probably know folks that are very interested in ought to be part of that so, keep up the good work and I plan on sitting on as much of these as I can. I'm so proud of you. Thank you.
- Audra Walton – Heard there was an opportunity for public participation and asked if there is an ad-hoc committee or something that the city was putting together? Wanted to know how to be more involved in the process? I know you guys might get tired of hearing me talk about participatory budgeting, but if we didn't have that, this I think would be a great place where the citizens to jump right in and begin helping with that planning.
- Gabriel Saucedo – Asked how can we make and engage people, through a survey in the mail and their opinions? A survey in the mail keep people engaged in this project.
- Paula Pelot – Pleased that we're going to have this much more robust mapping tool I think that was part of the problem last time, it's very difficult for people to map it out. One question for the city attorney and city manager as to the status of other legal proceedings at the state level, having to do with whether or not we need to have districts, or can we go back to at-large? The reason why I asked this is to Mayor Pro Tem point about the advantages versus disadvantages of districts. I think that what we will find when we get the census results, which is going to clarify quite a bit of this is that we probably do not have defined areas of the city, where there are protected classes that sort of hole up in one area or another. Interested in seeing if there is some method by which we might consider moving back to at-large elections. Commented about the odd shaped map and once we get a lot of the census data, a lot of our questions, a lot of our issues are going to be answered by that data and hopefully we can draw much better maps. Recalled relative to where certain council members lived or did not live in the maps for drawing the last time is the council made that decision and that it had to do with the election rotation that there were two people that you could not map out of their seat, their elected seat because their terms we're not complete.
- Karen Andersen – Asked if the list of community groups that was given during the presentation, whether or not that is already available to us or how soon that will be available to the public?
- Kenia – express gratitude that we're going through this process, gerrymandering is a very serious issue particularly, more recently partisan gerrymandering. It was mentioned and it might not have been intention this way, that apathy is what prevents people from participating and I wanted to push back a little bit. Concept. Thinks most of the time groups, underserved communities don't participate for different structural inequalities and difficulties including time and access. Commented on public outreach arm of it and the exhibit list, not sure how effective that is at reaching underserved communities. Asked if there are any alternatives, other than technology centered outreach? There's a lot of barriers that prevent people from engaging. I think a mailer is a great idea and I would like more opportunities for open air venues. In person things and explanations make for better engagement than sending an email, some people just don't do that. Thank you.

- Daren – Asked how the district lines actually got drawn? Curious as to how the district lines actually got drawn the way they are right now with these little appendages coming off of them and things, you know wrapping around the city the way they do? Worry about the influence of somebody having influence over why things land the way they do. Not in favor of District voting until the demographics actually are shifted far enough to where it actually is a benefit to the city to be a district voting and district voting. I do like the fact that we have a we vote for a mayor in the city, I would not want to overturn that.

Mayor closed public comments.

MEDINA DIRKSEN/DELGADO: ACCEPT THE REPORT AND TO HAVE STAFF COME BACK WITH OPTIONS FOR INCREASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS.
5-0-0-0 Motion Passes by Roll Call Vote

5. ADJOURNMENT: 9:30PM

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor