

**City of Carpinteria  
Ad Hoc District Elections Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting**

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Councilmember Alarcon called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Committee Members present: Councilmember Natalia Alarcon  
Vice Mayor Al Clark

Staff members present: Dave Durlinger, City Manager  
Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk

Others present: Paul Mitchell, Redistricting Partners  
Sophia Garcia, Redistricting Partners  
Chris Chafee, Redistricting Partners  
Gail Marshall  
Russell Ruiz

Acting City Clerk Barrett noted for the record that this meeting would be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20 and Santa Barbara County Health Officer's Order in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and provided the protocols by which the public would be participating and stated that members of the Committee, staff and any presenters would be participating by video conference.

2. Public Comment: This is a time for public comments on matters not otherwise on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District Elections Committee.

There was no public comment

3. Continue discussion regarding an updated public hearing schedule and process for Transitioning to District-Based City Council Elections.

City Manager Durlinger explained that this meeting was a preview of and preparation for the update on the District Elections that the Council would hear at its meeting on June 28, 2021 and would inform the public of the mapping process. He presented the redistricting process timeline.

Mr. Mitchell acknowledged the transparency of the district elections process with the public being able to participate in meetings and discussed the community outreach process. This process includes hearing about communities of interest and suggestions for drawing lines. He reported that at least two hearings need to be held after maps have been released. Once draft maps have been created, they need to be made available to the public (i.e. posted on the City's website) for at least seven days to allow for public feedback and any changes to be made and discussed prior to the next hearing. At some point, the Council will adopt a map that has been posted for seven days. If there are any substantive changes to the map, the revised map would need to be posted for another seven days and placed on the agenda for a future hearing. He generalized that the public mapping tool could be put up next month, outreach hearings could begin in September, maps drawn by late October and continued through Spring so final maps could be adopted in Spring 2022.

Ms. Garcia discussed the memo which explains to the public how the process works prior to the September outreach hearings.

City Manager Durlinger spoke on the District Mapping 101 presentation the Committee had seen before and thought was a good tool which Redistricting Partners would present to the public.

Emails distributed to Committee: Russell Ruiz

4. Review of public outreach and map drawing options.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned the outreach efforts such as the Farmers Market and information sent to local media. He noted that the California Voting Rights Act is the primary law regarding this effort and the Fair Maps Act can be thought of as a sister law. He pointed out that the Fair Maps Act is specific for agencies doing redistricting. He described the outreach memo which will include the information that needs to be on the City website, translation services, and other elements. He announced the following three ways maps could be drawn:

1. Public uses public mapping tool and recommending draft plans for City to utilize
2. Ask consultants to draft lines, we will participate in all hearings, engage consultants through direction of City and listening to public comment
3. Live line drawing process during public meeting and get to a draft map that could be made public and placed on the agenda for a future meeting

He commented that the three ways are not mutually exclusive and talked about the online software that will be posted with the final redistricting data once it's available. He advised that Committee members and the Council to not draw maps yet as they should

not have any already developed ideas on how the districts can to be laid out when considering public input.

City Manager Durflinger asked Mr. Mitchell to describe the factors the City must consider to result in an appropriate (legal) map. Mr. Mitchell replied that Redistricting Partners would work with the City to create a one-page handout that would outline the required criteria such as districts need to be equal size, follow the Federal Voting Rights Act, draw districts that preserve communities of interest, and be compact and contiguous.

Mr. Mitchell said there will likely be a lot of mapping options either drawn by the public or consultant and most mapping options will have familiar characteristics. The Council will have decisions that are clearer about the tradeoffs in the districting process than being handed three maps that look completely different from each other.

Speaker: Russell Ruiz

5. Discussion of City's options on the number of districts City could establish and selection/election of the mayoral position.

City Manager Durflinger noted that the Council would consider either four districts, five districts, or both and ask the public for input. He inquired when this decision must be made in advance of the mapping work with the public.

Mr. Mitchell replied that it would be best to make the decision as early as possible in the process. He mentioned that if the decision was made later in the process, the City and consultant could work around how that will be done and may require duplicate work and the need to purchase another software license to allow one license for the four district option and one for the five district option. City Manager Durflinger observed that the timing of the decision should occur ideally before the first public outreach meeting in September. Mr. Mitchell noted that the decision to have four or five districts is a policy decision for the Council to make. City Manager Durflinger identified some of the possible situations that may arise during the process of setting up districts. He specified that at the right time in the schedule, staff would bring these issues up for the Council to decide on.

Mr. Mitchell remarked that it was important to remember that district lines are not being drawn based on where incumbents live. When it's time to number the districts and order the election, that is when the Council can be aware of which incumbents live in which districts and how to number the districts in an equitable way.

Speakers: Russell Ruiz

6. Scheduling of next meeting.

The Committee agreed to schedule the next meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm and allow staff to setup the next meeting agenda based on the outcome of the June 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and follow-up from this meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Councilmember Alarcon adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.

  
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Brian C. Barrett, Acting City Clerk