

Redistricting public comment given during the regularly held Board of Supervisors Meeting on 10/12/21 at 9:00 AM under Unscheduled Appearances.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVvFDt7q8iQ>

Starts 8:00

Ends 11:12

“Good morning, my name is Lori Pesante, P-E-S-A-N-T-E, and I've given your clerk my contact information for the record.

I am the director of civic engagement and government relations for the Dolores Huerta Foundation. It's good to see everybody again today.

I'm here because there's a process issue that I would like, uh, to bring to the Board's attention. It appears that within your redistricting process, that the last time public input was taken was on September 14th at, uh, 9 AM here in the chambers and that there have been no public input sessions occurring at 6 PM where in the evenings or on the weekends, and that the deadline to submit draft maps is October 20th, next week at 5 PM. There are no other hearings since September 14th until after this deadline, with, of course, no evening or weekend hearings until November 3rd, which is after the deadline of October 20th.

And so, um, it's a little troubling to think that with the Fair Maps Act of 2019 requires that jurisdictions engage public participation in good faith that there have been no opportunities for the public to provide input or to submit maps with a public presentation until after, that we don't have another one coming up until after your deadline is done.

So, uh, that plus the fact that about 80% of what's being translated into Spanish is being, um, understood, and, and this is a common problem. Obviously, translation can be kind of tricky. Um, however, I would like to request that, uh, to address this translation issue in the future that perhaps we can, um, seek out a group or a company or an individual that is certified in translating into Spanish and has a proven track record. Um, for example, there was one that comes to mind who worked in Tulare County, Team Linguistica. They've had extremely positive results there and redistricting is a tricky topic; that they have specially trained to be able to translate appropriately. Um, this is very similar to like other specialized contexts like the medical field where translators can't ju-....it's not just that they can speak Spanish, they have to know the terminology as well. So, it would be my request to this Board that perhaps Team Linguistica or another similarly situated, um, specialized translation company be considered for future hearings.

And my final ask is that, um, I would like this Board to consider having a public input hearing in the evening next week, um, either on Monday October 18th or Tuesday October 19th at 6:30, um, prior to the 20th deadline so that the public can have an opportunity to take advantage of those wonderful educational sessions that you've sent out in to other cities in the, in the county. That's a great idea, um, and hopefully the folks participating in that educational opportunity would then have a hearing to actually provide their input.

Um, so, next week, if that could be, um, approved, or can seriously considered, I'd be very grateful.

Thank you”