

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITIZENS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



Summary of Proceedings
2020 Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission

Date: **Wednesday, February 3, 2021**
Time: **6:31 PM – 7:39 PM**
Place: **Remote Virtual Participation Only**

Recordings of the Commission Meetings, Agendas, Supplemental Materials and Minutes of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission are available on the internet at:
www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc

BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

MRS. TILTON ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER KATZ.

1. Commission Convened

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Bradley, Bray, Hudley, McClintock, Morris, Ochoa, Olmedo (late), Rios, Turley, Twibell

Commissioners Absent: Katz

ITEM 3 AND 4 WERE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

3. Discussion and decision of staff's recommendation to continue Interim Chair and Vice Chair for this meeting or nomination and selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

4. Disclosure of ex parte communications.

NONE.

2. Public Comment

The Public Comment period is reserved for comments on items not on the Agenda and for matters

within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commission may adopt reasonable regulations, including time limits, on public comments. The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the public comment section, except to decide whether to place a matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:36 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD REGARDING REGRETS FOR COMMISSIONER KATZ RESIGNATION, AND APPRECIATION FOR HER SERVICE.

SCOTT RAFFERTY, HEARD REGARDING HIS DISAPPROVAL AND CONCERNS FOR THE LEGAL COUNSEL SELECTION PROCESS.

MARY HUDSON, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY.

PEGGY WILSON EXPERIENCED TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS.

BARBARA SABASTINI, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY FOR THE DISTRICT 1 VACANCY.

PEGGY WILSON, HEARD IN SUPPORT OF CHERYL TROSKY FOR THE DISTRICT 1 VACANCY.

WRITTEN COMMENT:

CHRIS SKINNELL, NIELSEN MERKSAMER, ADDRESSING PHILIP SEYMOUR'S QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

FREDRIC WOOCHER, RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST ALLEGATION.

COMMISSIONER KATZ, LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

MR. JOHNSON RESPONDED TO MR. RAFFERTY'S COMMENT AND CLARIFIED THE RECEIPT AND PROCESSING OF MR. SKINNELL'S EMAIL.

5. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action regarding selecting Independent Legal Counsel.

MR. CHURCHWELL GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF LEGAL COUNSEL SELECTION, AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH STRUMWASSER & WOOCHER. THE HOURLY RATES WERE REDUCED FROM \$575 TO \$525, THE NEXT HIGHEST RATE REDUCED FROM \$525 TO

\$475, SET AN OVERALL \$200,000 CAP, AND IF DEPLETED, THE COMMISSION AND LEGAL COUNSEL WILL NEGOTIATE AT THAT TIME.

COMMISSIONER TURLEY INQUIRED ABOUT A SUMMARIZATION OF THE LETTER FROM MR. WOOCHEER. MR. CHURCHWELL SUGGESTED INVITING MR. WOOCHEER TO EXPLAIN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LETTER.

MR. WOOCHEER PROVIDED AN EXPLANATION FOR COMMENTS ABOUT DISQUALIFICATION DUE TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST, REGARDING PREVIOUS REPRESENTATION OF A FORMER COUNTY SUPERVISOR IN 2008.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

LEE HELLER, HEARD AND COMPLIMENTED MR. WOOCHEER'S IMPRESSIVE RESPONSE ON SHORT NOTICE.

ANDY CALDWELL, HEARD REGARDING NIELSEN MERKSAMER, THE ORDINANCE, AND CONCERNS ABOUT STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER.

RECESSED THE MEETING FOR CLOSED SESSION AT 7:07 PM.

6. Consideration of the appointment of an independent contractor who functions as an officer or an employee of a local agency pursuant to Section 54957(b) of the Government Code.

Title: Independent Legal Counsel

RECONVENED THE MEETING IN OPEN SESSION AT 7:25 PM.

7. Announcement of any reportable action taken in closed session.

NO REPORTABLE ACTION.

COMMISSIONER MORRIS STATED THE COMMISSION WILL NEGOTIATE A PRICE AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNTY FOR FINAL CONTRACT APPROVAL.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND STRUMWASSER & WOOCHEER FOR LEGAL COUNSEL.

MOTION CARRIED: 10 AYES

8. Discussion and possible action regarding future agenda items.

- DISTRICT 1 VACANCY AND INTERVIEWS (FEBRUARY 22)
 - CANDIDATES: JAMES SCORSO, CHERYL TROSKY, DANIEL MONTELLO (USE DECEMBER 8 INTERVIEW), AND CLAUDIA KNUDSON (USE DECEMBER 9

INTERVIEW)

- OUTREACH STRUCTURE (DIGITAL ACCESS, BUDGET, BIG PICTURE, DETAILS)
- SUPPORT TOOLS

9. Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling future meetings.

THE COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSED MEETING THE 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM, AND CONFIRMED THE NEXT MEETING DATES:

- MARCH 3, 6 PM
- MARCH 17, 6 PM

ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.