

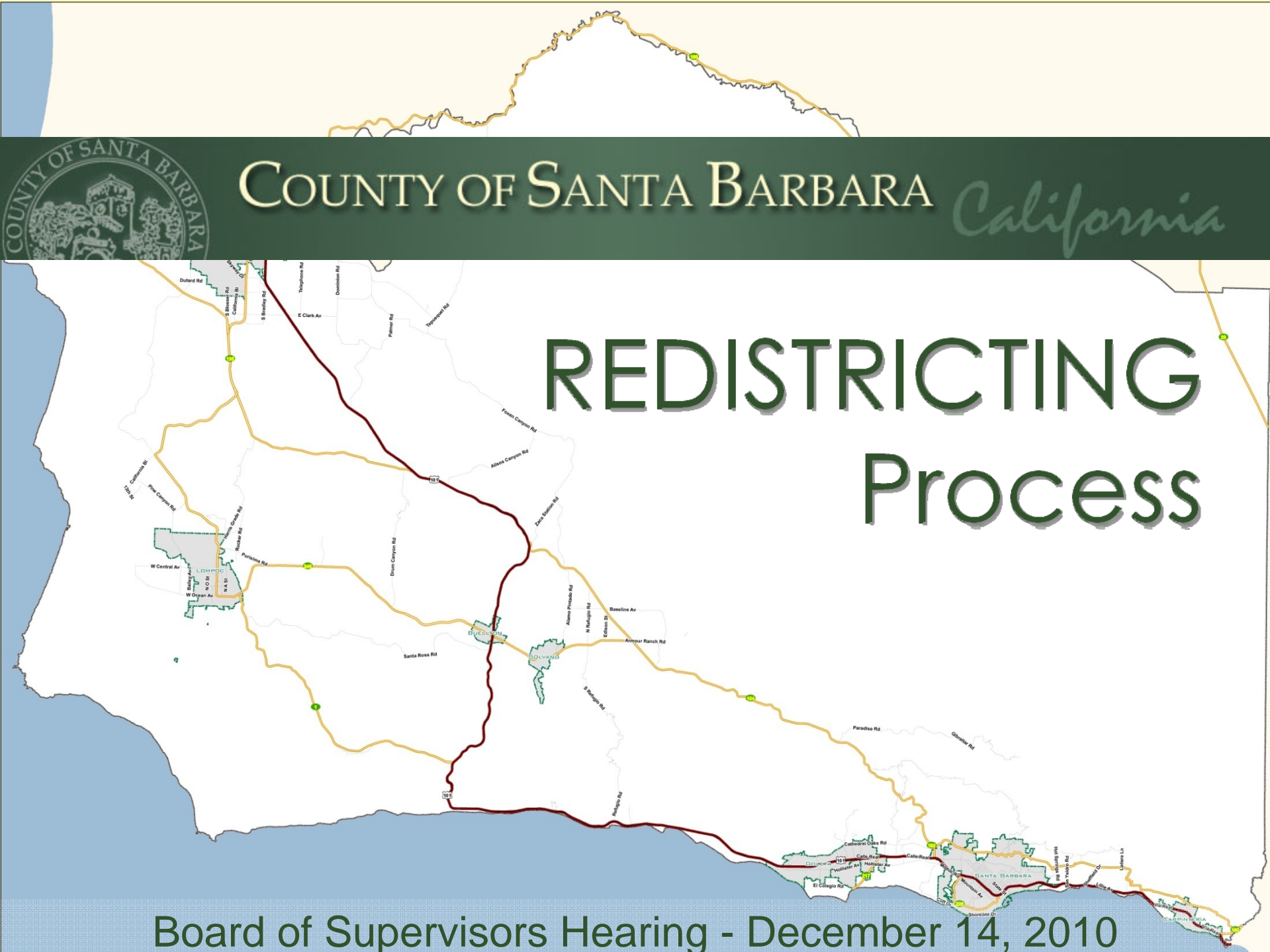


COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

California

REDISTRICTING Process

Board of Supervisors Hearing - December 14, 2010



Purpose of this Presentation

- Receive an overview of the Redistricting process.
- Provide direction to staff as appropriate.



Overview

- Definition of Redistricting and Purpose
- Criteria Used in Redistricting
- Possible Approach to Redistricting
- Possible Timeframe
- Board Direction
- Next Steps



What is Redistricting & Why do it?

- Redistricting is the process of adjusting boundaries of districts
- Federal and State laws require boundaries to be adjusted every ten years
- Purpose is to ensure equal representation by having as equal a population in each district as practical (“One Person = One Vote”)
- Example:
 - 10 voters in District A
 - 100 voters in District B
 - District A has ten times the voting power than District B
- Driven by population so process uses data from the Census to draw boundary scenarios, with one scenario ultimately adopted by the Board of Supervisors (reading of a second ordinance)



Criteria to Use

- Total population divided as equally as possible into the number of districts
- Topography/Geography:
 - Mindful of natural barriers like mountain ranges and major bodies of water in creating district boundaries
- Cohesiveness/Contiguity/Integrity/ and Compactness of Territory:
 - Boundaries of a district are connected and districts are not split into two; compactness also refer to ability of citizens to relate to each other and their representatives
- Community of Interests
 - Shared interests, views and/or social, economic and political traits of individuals residing within a district



Possible Approach

- Multi-departmental County team lead by CEO
- Possible Use of Media/Public Relations Consultant
- Engage the community in the process through input on criteria and the boundary scenarios that emerge
 - Community meetings in each district
 - Geographical Information System (GIS) Sessions
 - Advertisements to encourage the public to attend meetings
- Frequent updates to the Board on community input and review of Redistricting proposals



Possible Timeline

- US Census provides data to States by April 1
- Public Outreach and Community Meetings: April-June
- Redistricting Proposal Submittal Deadline: June 17
- Special Hearings by Board to Review Proposals
 - Proposed week of July 11-15 (3 weeks after deadline)
 - Receive community Input and provide direction to staff
- Board hearing on Redistricting Ordinance: August 2 & 9
 - Two weeks after special hearings
 - Second reading on August 9
 - Possible second reading on August 16 if needed



Recommendation

- Provide direction to staff as appropriate
- Staff will return on February 15 with detailed outreach strategy, budget, and timeline

