

**San Juan County Commission**  
**Special Meeting**  
**September 12, 2023**

Chairman Lanier called the San Juan County Commission meeting to order on September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located in the County Administration Building, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, New Mexico. Those present were:

CHAIRMAN	Steve Lanier
CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM	John T. Beckstead
MEMBER	Terri D. Fortner
MEMBER	GloJean Todacheene
MEMBER	Gary McDaniel
CLERK	Tanya Shelby
UNDERSHERIFF	Cory Tanner
COUNTY MANAGER	Mike Stark
ATTORNEY	Joe Sawyer
DEPUTY ATTORNEY	Ellen Wayne
PUBLIC RELATIONS & FILM MANAGER	Devin Neeley

VISITORS:

3

**New Business**

**1. Consideration of County Commission District Plan**

Joe Sawyer, County Attorney, stated that since October 2022 the County voluntarily engaged in numerous discussions with the Navajo Nation regarding the adoption of a new County Commission district map. Mr. Sawyer introduced Chris Saucedo and Brian Griesmeyer to present a brief overview of the proposed map to the Commission for approval. Mr. Saucedo explained that the 2020 Census reflected that San Juan County has declined in population, specifically in Commission Districts 1 and 2. Due to the decline, the map, adopted by the Commission on December 21, 2021, had to be re-evaluated to ensure equal representation within the districts. The current map maintained over 80% Native American voting age population in District 1 and increased the native American voting age population from 47% to 53%. In March 2022, the Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit against the County challenging the map under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act; the court has not issued a judgment or order on the merits. The current map does not violate the Voting Rights Act however, the San Juan County Commissioners and the Navajo Nation have resolved the details of a new County Commission map. Mr. Griesmeyer presented the changes to the map as follows:

- Proposed map changes all 5 districts
- Geographic area of District 1 is changed and decreases the percentage of Native American voters to approximately 74%

- Geographic area of District 2 is changed and increases the percentage of Native American voters to approximately 67%
- All Commissioners will remain in their same districts, all districts have population deviations that complies with equal protection
- If adopted, the map will be effective immediately and applicable to the 2024 Elections but there will be no special elections for Commission Districts 1 and 2
- Commission Districts 1 and 2 elections will be held in 2026 as regularly scheduled

It is anticipated that the Navajo Nation will be dismissing their lawsuit upon adoption of the proposed map.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fortner, seconded by Chairman Pro-Tem Beckstead to approve the County Commission District Plan. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

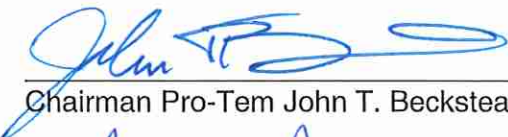
**Adjourn**

Being no further business, Chairman Lanier adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

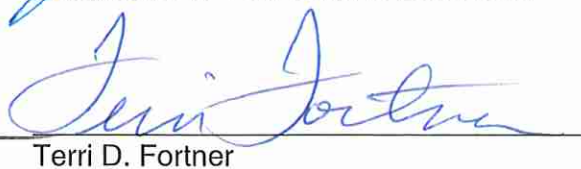
**APPROVED THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023**

**BY THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

  
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Chairman Steve Lanier


  
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Chairman Pro-Tem John T. Beckstead

  
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Glojean Todacheene

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri D. Fortner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary McDaniel

ATTEST:

  
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Tanya Shelby, County Clerk

