

November 8, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

After attending almost all of the Redistricting Commission hearings, I can't exaggerate how upsetting this process has been because of the hours of disrespectful testimony drowning out serious voices endeavoring to create a map with the Commission that works for all San Diego citizens.

Even the mere consideration of a map that would uproot and disenfranchise over 300,000 residents at the behest of these loud and often obnoxious voices is disturbing.

The Commission Chair's map proposal contains flaws that are easily remedied:

The inclusion of Torrey Highlands whose only connection to a future District 6 is through an unpopulated habitat preserve would mean severing it from Del Mar Mesa Planning Area in District 1. Del Mar Mesa property owners gave up 75% of their property to create the preserve. Further, a small community of 400 homes would be served by two Councilmembers. Putting it back into District 1 is a simple solution, but would mean returning Torrey Highlands to its proper place in District 5.

To compensate for the population loss, the southeast portion of University City could be moved District 6 without causing too much disruption to the ongoing UC Community Plan Update. Further, University Towne Center should remain in District 1.

This plan (Map 74856) is incremental, uses natural boundaries, meets population goals, and respects community planning areas.

Above all it honors the difficult work of the 2011 Redistricting Commission whose map produced the most diverse City Council in history.

The Commission's duty is to all the citizens, not just a noisy organized special interest group with a political agenda.

Respectfully,

Lisa Ross
Former Chair, Del Mar Mesa Planning Board