

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jeremy Payne, and I am writing on behalf of Equality California - the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) civil rights organization with over 900,00 members. I would like to express our support for Preliminary Map 1 (HaystaqDNA Draft Map One -- Corrected), which was listed on the October 21st special meeting agenda.

In this map, the historic LGBTQ+ communities in San Diego that surround Balboa Park, which includes Hillcrest, Mission Hills, University Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Downtown, and Bankers Hill are all unified. In San Diego, there is a very significant, geographically specific LGBTQ+ community of interest that densely populates the neighborhoods listed above. For the LGBTQ+ community, these neighborhoods have served as major building blocks of community organizing and leadership, and these neighborhoods have a history of voting cohesively to elected candidates of choice – both members of the LGBTQ+ community and officials who have been consistently responsive to the LGBTQ+ community's needs.

In fact, this collection of neighborhoods over the past three redistricting cycles have almost all been part of the 3rd City Council District in the City of San Diego, where the past five city council members elected there have all been out LGBTQ+ individuals who are responsive to the LGBTQ+ community of interest and its needs. Importantly, the four councilmembers who previously occupied the seat have gone on to serve as members and leaders of the California Legislature and as mayor of the City of San Diego — again reinforcing the fact that when the local LGBTQ+ community of interest is empowered to elect candidates of choice, they are able to elect officials who are responsive to the community's needs at all levels of government.

It is paramount that the LGBTQ+ community be kept together and not separated between districts that fail to see the LGBTQ+ commonality in Hillcrest, Mission Hills, University Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Downtown, and Bankers Hill.

Thank you,
Jeremy Payne