

The following is text of public comment made at the Redistricting Commission meeting on October 21, 2021 at 3:00 PM by Sherri S. Lightner.

I am speaking on behalf of District 1 United. At the last hearing I concluded by asking you all, "So who now in District 1 will be equitably disenfranchised by tearing apart our communities of interest to meet a numbers requirement?"

Clearly it is not a small portion of D1 that will be disenfranchised given the proposed HaystaqDNA maps which retain as few as 44% of District 1's population. These maps eviscerate D1 and violate the minimal instructions given by the Commission. Given how the instructions were used, it is disappointing that all of the public testimony has essentially been ignored. The failure of the Commission to listen, read or consider the comments of District 1 United is stunning.

The consultant interpreted the Commission's instructions which compressed all of our testimony into a Yes or No check mark. The maps clearly demonstrate that our public testimony was not heard. In considering the maps presented by Haystaq, it is clear that the consultant is unfamiliar with the area and that the instructions provided by the Commission were woefully inadequate.

The wholesale destruction of our district by these maps is inexplicable. Especially in light of the fact that the 2011 Redistricting Report made significant findings to support the district as configured. Why has the consultant gone outside the current district boundaries to replace adjacent populations with more distant ones, thereby removing in some cases more than half the current district residents?

The resulting disenfranchisement of our voters should be of concern to the commissioners and basis enough to throw out these maps and draft new instructions that reflect actual public testimony.

In the effort to rip UCSD, the hub of the district, from D1, the compactness of the remaining district has been destroyed, even to the extent of using a nonexistent road for connectivity.

These maps clearly demonstrate that it is all about the numbers no matter how many people are disenfranchised in the process, no matter how many COIs are destroyed and no matter how much gerrymandering is needed to get District 6 into University City. I look forward to discussing the maps' deficiencies this evening.