

To the Redistricting Commission:

I am submitting these comments with respect to the proposed Compromise Map of San Diego City Council districts.

I live in Torrey Hills, which is in the little finger of current District 1 that is reassigned to District 6 in the proposed Compromise Map of City Council districts. I strongly object to the reassignment of this area to District 6, as it means that virtually all of the area surrounding my home—the area I've considered my neighborhood for over 20 years—would be in a different council district. As a result, my neighbors and I would effectively have no representation on City Council for the next ten years.

I have little knowledge of and no direct experience with the key issues that affect the rest of proposed District 6, and I can expect the District 6 city council representative to have little knowledge or focus on the issues affecting Torrey Hills, which would constitute only a tiny fraction of District 6. This situation is likely to foster *disengagement*, frustration and cynicism rather than active interest and engagement in civic affairs.

The redistricting process is intended to preserve communities of interest. Torrey Hills has been inextricably intertwined with the Carmel Valley community to our north and east since the inception of Torrey Hills' development several decades ago. Additionally, Torrey Hills is within the boundaries of the Coastal Zone; the rest of proposed District 6 is not (with the exception of a margin along a portion of the south rim of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve).

Council districts should be contiguous, respecting natural and man-made boundaries and providing reasonable access to other areas of the district. Torrey Hills is physically isolated from the rest of proposed District 6 by Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, which stretches from Interstate 5 to Interstate 15; there are no north-south roads spanning the Preserve east of Black Mountain Road, which is nowhere near Torrey Hills. Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve is thus a natural boundary as well as a barrier that impedes reasonable access to other areas of proposed District 6 from Torrey Hills.

Districts are required to be drawn to provide fair and effective representation for all citizens of the City. However, by appending Torrey Hills to District 6, the City would effectively deprive the residents of Torrey Hills of representation. Torrey Hills' issues and priorities differ significantly from the rest of proposed District 6, but because the number of Torrey Hills residents would represent a mere rounding error in the overall District 6 population, it would be extremely difficult to gain attention to our needs. The Councilmember representing District 1 would be quite well-versed in the issues impacting Torrey Hills, yet Torrey Hills residents would have no voice with the District 1 representative. Either way, the residents of Torrey Hills would effectively be unrepresented.

Therefore, because the proposed inclusion of Torrey Hills in District 6 would violate multiple criteria for the City's redistricting and would effectively deprive the residents of Torrey Hills of representation on City Council, I respectfully request that the Compromise Map be amended to keep Torrey Hills within the boundaries of City Council District 1.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and for your work on behalf of the residents of San Diego.

Robin Pruitt