

November 8, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

Please relay my comments to the Redistricting Commissioners prior to tomorrow's meeting.

Dear Commissioners:

San Diego has a population of 1.4 million people. Redistricting is about representation of the citizens of San Diego. Biocom and other biotech special interests would have you believe that they are properly the subject of redistricting and "deserve" to have UCSD, UTC, Sorrento Valley, Torrey Pines and Mira Mesa in a District 6 that represents their industry. As they have stated, single family homeowners in District 1 represent "disparate interests" and they want them separated from their business interests. It is interesting that Biocom supports the SD Communities Collaboration map which is a massive exercise in economic gerrymandering giving Biocom everything they requested during the hearings despite having no legal standing in the redistricting process.

The Redistricting Commission of 2010-2011 created districts that provide good representation for San Diego. As a result, the San Diego City Council is more diverse than it has ever been. The Council has an Asian, a Black, 3 Hispanic, 2 LGBT, 5 POC, 4 White councilmembers as well as 4 women and 5 men. Moreover, San Diego's mayor is LGBT and Hispanic. This represents San Diego's diverse population.

I question the tactics involved in this redistricting process and the real agenda behind it. Please do not be intimidated by the vile behavior displayed at the recent hearings. Please question what is transpiring behind the scenes that may contribute to it.

The SD Communities Collaboration map would disenfranchise 300,000 citizens including every resident of the existing District 2 and a colossal 74% of the residents of the current District 1.

There has been no analysis of this map. Does this map dilute minority voting rights in any districts? Does it promote "competitive districts" for district elections? Does it have partisan implications for future elections? Why is there only 1 coastal district? What business profits from this map? These are the questions I hope you will ask as you move forward.

Once again, thank you for your service. Please choose a map that best represents the 1.4 million people of the City of San Diego and not the special interests that seek to overwhelm this process by bullying the commissioners or others involved in the process.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Burton

Torrey Hills