

Dear Redistricting Commission for the City of San Diego,

As a board member of the Old Town Chamber of Commerce, we are alarmed to learn that you are considering moving Old Town San Diego from District 3 to District 2 and parts of Mission Hills (west of interstate 5), as well.

We ask, "Why?"

As we ponder this question, we find no significant reason for the move from District 3 to District 2. In fact, all neighborhoods within District 3 flow through Old Town – at Presidio Drive., San Diego Avenue, or Washington St., connecting major highways (interstates 5 and 8) are byways of Mission Hills and Old Town. Adversely, by removing a population of 1300 in Old Town to include Mission Valley (nearly two miles east), instead, clearly impacts defined communities of interest.

Fact is, there is more to lose than to gain.

There is a strong alliance between Old Town's sister community (Mission Hills), which is obvious by the working relationships, the connected neighborhoods, and their history. Each complements the other and share mutually beneficial partnerships.

In purely defined terms, communities of interest are indeed what you see between our neighborhoods, and we can share our stories of growth and development. Moreover, we identify with many national historic designations of several districts within District 3: The Fort Stockton Line, Heritage County Park, and not to mention the entirety of Old Town State Park, dually recognized (State and National).

How do you make sense of disconnecting communities (street by street) by establishing different districts? It does not seem logical or rational. Nor should it make sense to our Council representatives who will be responsible for managing these dislocated neighborhoods and communities.

Additionally, Old Town is more aligned (organically and by the geographic landscape) with other communities in District 3: Banker's Hill, Balboa Park, Gaslamp (Horton's subdivision of New Town), Presidio Park, and the San Diego River. It has no connection (business and residential) with the Midway area and the Coastal Communities of District 2. If it is not obvious, major roads and highways separate these districts.

As business owners and residents of Old Town San Diego, we are concerned that this proposed move to District 2 will also diminish its historic and cultural resources, and national significance as the birthplace of California and San Diego.

We ask you to keep Old Town San Diego in District 3 to maintain its integrity, character, neighborhood connections, and historical significance.

Kindly,

Patty Ducey-Brooks  
Publisher & Executive Editor  
**Presidio Sentinel**