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City of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission

c/o: Ms. Laura J. Fleming, Executive Director Redistricting2020@sanidiego.gov; LJFleming@sanidiego.gov; JBerry@sanidiego.gov

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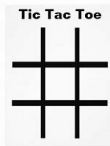
RE: **SAN DIEGUITO/LOS PENASQUITOS (D5) & ROSE & TECOLOTE (D6)** – Politically Neutral Boundaries

Dear Honorable Chairman Hebrank, Honorable Vicechair Malbrough, and Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you for the notice of the **Council District 5 Community Input Meeting, scheduled for: 5:30PM, Thursday, September 23, 2021.** Broadcast publicly available on Zoom [**SEE: Information in Footer Below**]

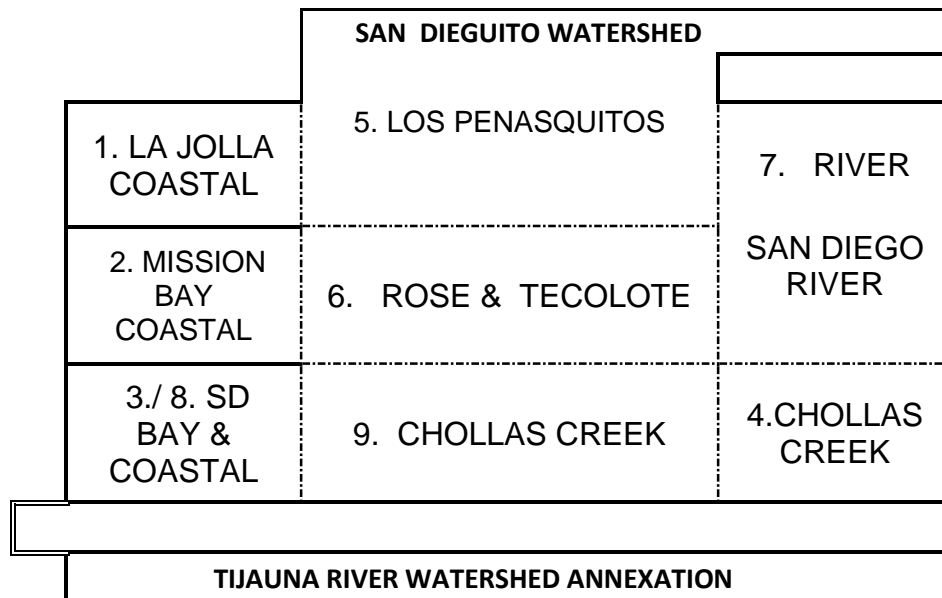
BACKGROUND & CONTEXT:

My previous letters of written testimony have advocated for politically neutral natural boundaries as a jumping off place for defining the nine (9) City of San Diego Council District boundaries.



My previous written testimony has identified that the municipal boundaries of our City is not a simple square that you could not simply drop a Tic Tac Toe grid onto the map, to get nine (9) Council Districts. This challenge is primarily a result of the many numerous additions or annexations to the original City of San Diego boundaries.

Two (2) very large additions from the late 1950’s and early 1960’s caused the City to have a challenging shape to allocate into Council Districts. These **Tijuana River/ SD Bay** and the **San Dieguito /Los Penasquitos Watersheds** annexations result in a municipal shape that suggests “gerrymandering’ to all that do not know San Diego’s development history.





Taking all of the annexations together, the current shape and boundaries of the City of San Diego the indigenous Kumeyaay people might see an “**ACORN**”, above their lands. [Oak acorns are the primary bread meal source for the Kumeyaay.] Below is a new version of the **ACORN**

Our City **ACORN** is a beautiful natural irregular shape, and it has differing population densities. The Coastal Western Side has higher population densities. The original City Boundary areas, along that Coast (D 1, D2, & D3) are joined by the must larger annexation areas. These annexation areas are: Lower Chollas Creek watershed – current District 4; the subject San Dieguitos / Los Penasquitos watersheds –current District 5; the Rose & Tecolote Canyon watersheds – current District 6; the San Diego River Source watershed – current District 7; and the Upper Chollas Creek watershed – current District 9. There are 4 Coastal Council Districts and 5 inland Council Districts; but all watersheds. Today’s letter focuses on the **ACORN’s cap and stem**.

The preliminary analysis map and data table, prepared for the Commission and residents review: [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Table](#) and [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Map](#) indicates that current four Coastal Districts have population deviations as follow:

<u>CURRENT DISTRICT</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>DEVIATION</u>	<u>%DEVIATION</u>
CURRENT DISTRICT 9	145,293	(8,585)	-5.6%
CURRENT DISTRICT 8	148,991	(4,887)	-3.2%
CURRENT DISTRICT 7	159,168	5,290	3.4%
CURRENT DISTRICT 6	152,435	(1,443)	-0.9%
CURRENT DISTRICT 5	158,841	4,963	3.2%
CURRENT DISTRICT 4	144,895	(-8,983)	-5.8%
CURRENT DISTRICT 3	161,843	7,965	5.2%
CURRENT DISTRICT 2	146,905	(6,973)	-4.5%
CURRENT DISTRICT 1	166,534	12,656	8.2%

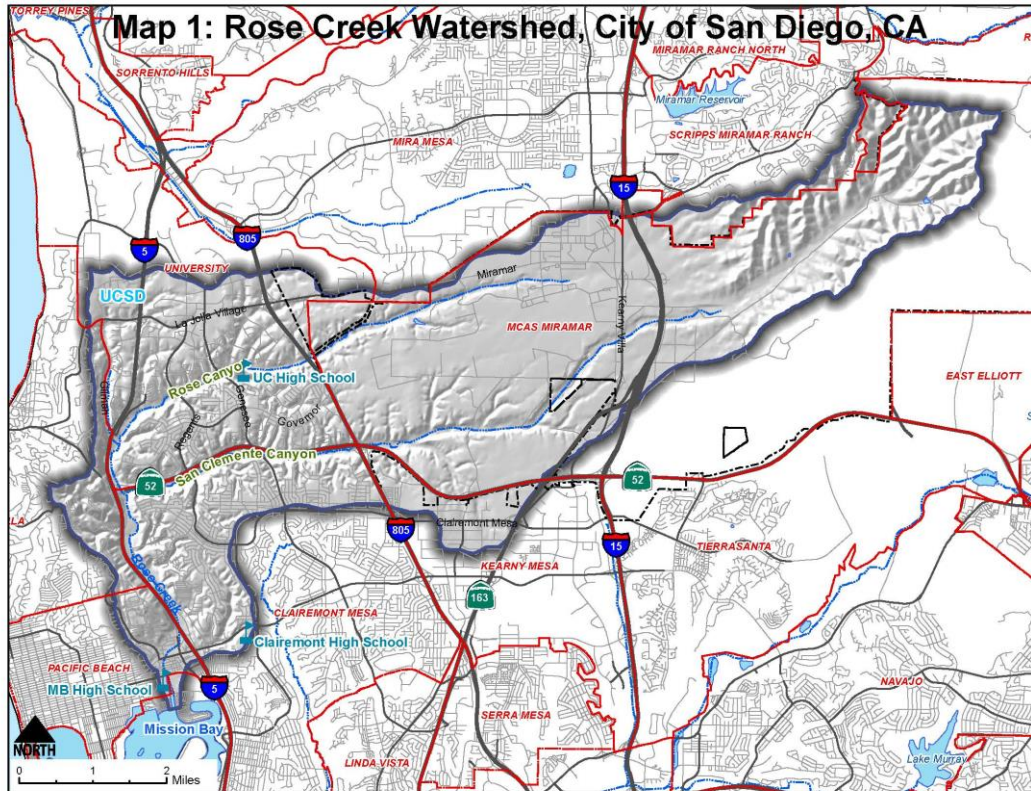
TABLE 1 - [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Table](#) DESCENDING ORDER

The differences in population densities requires modification of the sizes and shapes of Council districts away from the simple **Tic Tac** Toe grid. The top and Bottom of the Acorn annexations (Current Districts 8 & 5) present special challenges as to how to attach current District 8 – Tijuana River Outfall, to the San Diego Bay and the San Pasqual River Annexation – Current District 5, to the upper portion of the City. The rest of the City Council District are bracketed by Coastal Districts or the Eastern Other Municipalities constrained Council districts.

SAN DIEGUITO/LOS PENASQUITOS (D5) & ROSE & TECOLOTE (D6):

I am presenting on both **SAN DIEGUITO/LOS PENASQUITOS (D5) & ROSE & TECOLOTE (D6)** because the **ACORN CAP** and the coastal districts, to the West, constrain an define the options and opportunities for redistricting shaping of the central watershed districts - **ROSE & TECOLOTE (D6)**. The current **LA JOLLA WATERSHED** Council District (D1) is significantly over populated = **+8.2%**. On the other hand, the current **MISSION BAY WATERSHED (D2)** is under populated = **-4.5%**. Current **LA JOLLA WATERSHED** Council District (D1) must be reduced. Current **MISSION BAY WATERSHED (D2)** must gain.

Only the stem of the **ACORN**, in the **SAN DEQUITOS WATERSHED**, has some 43,031 persons or 28% of the “ideal” new population of 154,106. Below the **ACORN STEM**, is the **LOS PENASQUITOS WATERSHED**, current District 5 (**D5**). This **ACORN CAP** could span the **ACORN** or do what it does now and turn radically South into **ROSE & TECOLOTE CANYON WATERSHED – Current District 6 & 5**, which drains into the **MISSION BAY OUTFALL (D2)**. Below is a map of this watershed:



Map 1: Rose Creek Watershed , City of San Diego, CA

ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER AND RESEARCH:

Voting Rights and fair and equitable representation of Communities of Interest must be considered in arriving at new Council district boundaries. The Commission’s past hearings have had extensive testimony calling for a Pacific Islander and Asian - Pan Asian District formed from within current Districts’ 5 and 6; including moving and including the Asian student populations at the University of San Diego, now in **D 1**.

I am unsure of how the Census and our City’s Redistricting Commission is handling and distributing two very significant populations. How are the **INCARCERATED AND HOMELESS** populations going to be allocated?? The **INCARCERATED AND HOMELESS** populations are particularly in Downtown San Diego [New Town]; because there are two (2) major incarceration facilities and many social service facilities located there in current Council District three (**D3**).

The City of San Diego has a complex and modern Water Treatment and Distribution System. This Water Distribution System encompasses distinctly different sections of the City. The City annually provides each resident with a water quality report by these distinctly different service

areas. I believe that these distinctly different Water Service Areas could assist the Commission in determining new Council Boundaries. Below is a basis Water System service map:



MAP 2 City of San Diego Water System

RECOMMENDATIONS: I recommend and request further Commission study of the following:

1. That the actual population numbers for the Pan Asian Community be applied to the drawing of the boundaries of this central watershed district - **ROSE & TECOLOTE CANYON WATERSHED**;
2. That analysis of racial and ethnic characteristics be done at the BLOCK GROUP level; not mere CENSUS TRACTS, ZIP CODE area, or Subdivisions/Community names;
3. That an inventory and mapping be done of area Churches, Mosques, and Temples; Social Services facilities; and gathering places to refine and better define communities of interest;
4. That school attendance data be mapped to identify where students live and their racial and ethnic characteristics. Identification of where students live might provide insights on communities of interest;
5. That the attribution of **INCARCERATED AND HOMELESS** populations going to be allocated?; **INCARCERATED AND HOMELESS** populations going to be allocated?; and
6. That an overlay of the City of San Diego Water System be considered as another boundary factor concerning new Council Districts;

CONCLUSION:

We need natural boundaries water shed based districting to assist in making the tough political decisions that must begin now as we face a future San Diego that will have significant Climate Change impacts, in the near and long-term. In 2031, your successors will think favorably of you for your foresight.

Thank you for considering this testimony calling for an initial politically neutral starting off redistricting method based on natural features, historic, residential, and economic patterns. This testimony is consistent with my earlier letters are herein incorporated by reference. I look forward to presenting oral testimony on the matters presented in this letter, at the Commission's Special meeting of September 23, 2021 and its future meetings. Please place all of my letters into the Commission's record .

All the best,

/s/

John Stump, resident, property owner, and taxpayer in current Districts Four (D 4) and Nine (D 9)