

2411 Shamrock Street, City Heights, California 92105  
619.281.4663 [mrjohnstump@cox.net](mailto:mrjohnstump@cox.net)

September 26, 2021

City of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission  
c/o: Ms. Laura J. Fleming, Executive Director [Redistricting2020@sandiego.gov](mailto:Redistricting2020@sandiego.gov)/[LJFleming@sandiego.gov](mailto:LJFleming@sandiego.gov);  
202 C Street, MS 2A  
San Diego, California 92101

RE: **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3)

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

**INTRODUCTION:** Thank you for all of the Commission and your staff’s hard and professional work to bring us to the final of the nine Special Hearings, by current Council Districts, to give City of San Diego inhabitants an opportunity to provide input on their “Community of Interest”.

It is very appropriate that the last of the nine special input sessions conclude where Spanish explorers first met the indigenous Kumeyaay people and the modern history of San Diego began – Horton’s New Town. San Diego Bay has been adopted by the Commissioner as your ZOOM background.

My past letters have focused on placing at the core of each new Council District a significant natural watershed. In this case the watershed is San Diego Bay, the outfall from Florida Canyon, Swetzer Creek, and many small canyons from the Banker’s Hill Hillcrest, and Balboa Park areas.

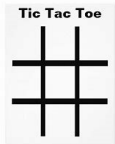
We need natural boundaries water shed based districting to assist in making the tough political decisions that must begun now as we face a future San Diego that will have significant Climate Change impacts, in the near and long-term. In 2031, your successors will think favorably of you for your foresight.



FFIGURE 1 “A vision of the bay’s future” SD Union Tribune

**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** 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**.

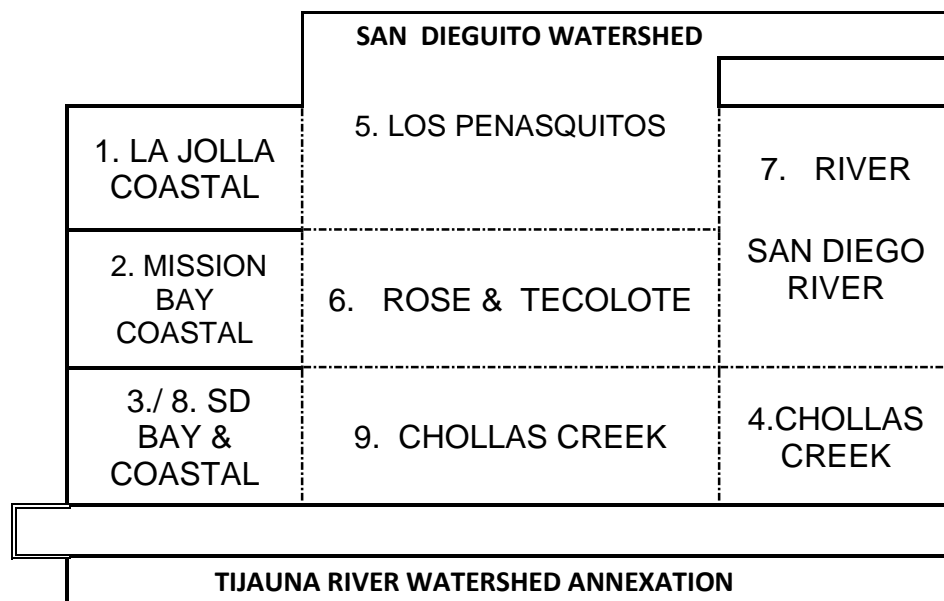


Figure 2 “THE ACORN”

As you can see above, current District 8 and current District 3 shares a connection to San Diego Bay, with current District 8 (D8) necessary for the City to be legally contiguous. Thus, there are 4 current San Diego Coastal Districts. Redistricting could expand the Coastal Districts by including the Los Penasquitos outfall; when the Commission reduces the population of the LA Jolla Watershed -current Council District one (D1).



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 most larger annexation areas. These annexation areas are: Lower Chollas Creek watershed – current District 4; the 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; the Tijuana Watershed – current Council District 8, and the Upper Chollas Creek watershed – current District 9. There are about 4 Coastal Council Districts and 5 inland Council Districts; but all have watersheds. Today's letter focuses on the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3).

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:

CURRENT DISTRICT	POPULATION	DEVIATION	%DEVIATION
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 DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3):

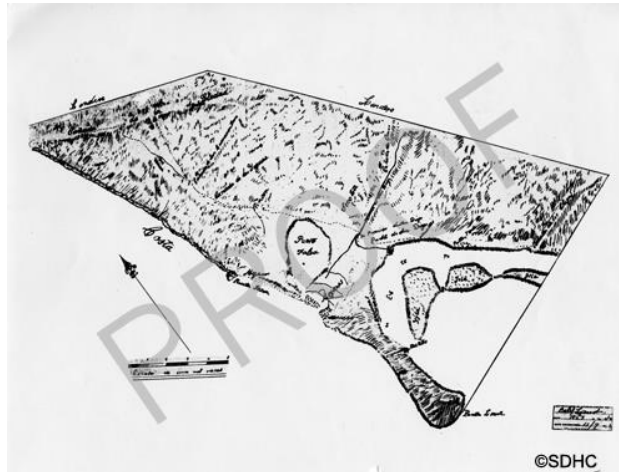


I am presenting on **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3). The **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** is one of the three original City of San Diego Coastal Zone Districts. Subsequently, additional Coastal Zone areas were developed and added to the East and North & South of the original City of San Diego boundaries. The original City of San Diego boundaries can be visualized as a slice melon. The west side, of the melon is the Pacific Ocean. The top of the melon slice is La Jolla. The bottom of the melon slice is San Diego Bay. The East side, of the melon, was unincorporated east San Diego County. **BOUNDARY STREET** is that eastern north south boundary of the original City of San Diego. The other natural original boundary, to keep in mind, is that the San Diego River exited by flooding into the Bay; instead of today's

artificial Pacific Ocean outfall. The San Diego River outfall, at Dog Beach was dredged in 1941, to drain its swamp exit.

*BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL NOTES*

*"Following Mexico's surrender of Alta California to the United States in 1848 as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe, Congress created a Board of Land Commissioners for California to determine the validity of all land claims founded on Mexican land grants. The creation of this Board was directly related to article one of the treaty with Mexico requiring the U.S. to recognize all valid grants within the ceded territory that had been made prior to the beginning of the war. As required, the city petitioned their land claim in 1852 in case number 589: "President and Trustees of the City of San Diego vs. U.S. government for Pueblo Lands." Locally known as the "Pueblo Lands case," this claim was confirmed by the board in 1854 but the government appealed the ruling. However, the appeal was never followed up on, so it was dismissed and the board's decision was confirmed and deemed final in 1857. The Fitch map was used to determine the boundaries of the city in this case." (San Diego Pueblo Lands Collection, MS 267, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA. The "Fitch Map" is presented below:*



**FIGURE 3 – FITCH MAP OF SAN DIEGO – SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER**

The FITCH MAP was a very general representation of near Coastal San Diego, the Bay, Old Town and north to about La Jolla. Later, surveyor maps made a much better presentation and included the significant boundary features showing the absolute Eastern Boundary – now Boundary Street; the Northern Boundary at La Jolla; and the Southern Boundary at Chollas Creek. The surveyor maps identified and showed the significant watersheds that define the natural features of San Diego including the Los Pinquitos, Rose Creek, Florida Canyon, Swetzer Creek, and Chollas Creek. Most of the City of San Diego is yet to be annexed and added to the Melon Slice to become the Kumeyaay Acorn.

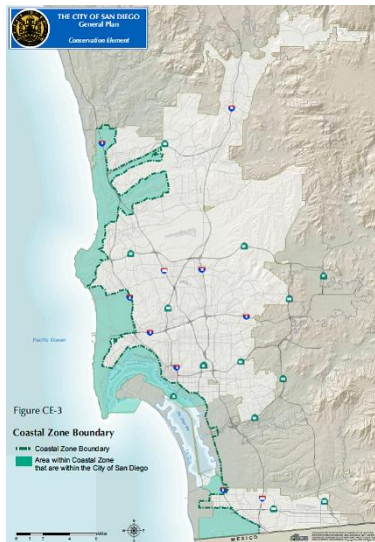
Please note that, at the City's founding the San Diego River drains to the San Diego Bay. The San Diego River swamp out fall can be better seen on page one, of this letter. These are the areas of predicted Climate Change Sea Level rise in the Liberty Station, Marine Depot, and the Sports arena areas. The San Diego River will regain its connection with the San Diego Bay, as sea level rises or if the **River to Bay Canal** project comes off the planner's drafting tables.



**FIGURE 4 – MAP PUEBLO LANDS OF SAN DIEGO**

The above map very clearly shows the San Diego River draining to the Bay and the two other watershed, Swetzer canyon and Florida Canyon draining to the Bay in the area we call Downton today. These two fully urbanized water sheds, with the former San Diego River swamp outfall, define the SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED.

**CURRENT SAN DIEGO COASTAL ZONE:** The California Constitution and its Coastal Commission defines the San Diego Coastal Zone as portrayed in its map, as adopted into the City of San Diego’s General Plan:



**FIGURE 5 – City of San Diego General Plan Map - Figure CE-3 “Coastal Zone Boundary”**

The above “Coastal Zone Boundary” map may define a natural boundary and an actual community as “... a body of people living in the same place, **under the same laws and regulations,**...” (Emphasis Added, Sacred Heart Academy of Galveston v. Karasch, 173 Tenn. 618, 122 S.W. 2d 416, 417.).

**PRELIMINARY AND PENDING MATTERS:** Before starting the discussion of current Council District Three (D3). I want to briefly present several pertinent matters that have been raised before the Commission, in the past by myself and others. These matters are summarized below:



**OUR UNSHELTERED SISTERS AND BROTHERS:** The streets, sidewalks, and public spaces of Current Council District Three (D3) are the places of habitation for our unsheltered Sisters and Brothers. They are entitled to the rights and protections of our Constitution and City Charter as you and I. (In fact the City Charter takes special care to refer to covered persons as “inhabitants”, rather than residents, citizens, or renters/home owners). I request that the Commission docket a special report and consideration of the treatment, likely undercount, and distribution of the Unsheltered, before actual boundary line drawing begins. Please read: Lazarus and the Rich man **LUKE 16 10-31**.



**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ASSISTS IN ESTABLISHING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST:** The actual attendance at area public and charter schools should assist the Commission in determining whether there is a particular community of interest in any particular neighborhood area. There were significant differences in perception, during Commission testimony, concerning the student body make up at Crawford High School. The area has a significant recent African American population and schools like Iftin Academy and the Umi Learning Academy. The Pan Asian advocates suggested consideration of University students. The Commission is urged to seek a presentation on actual student attendance in areas claimed as racial or other community of interest.



**ATTRIBUTION OF THE INCARCERATED TO COUNCIL DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE:** California law provides for the reallocation of prisoners from their place of confinement, on Census Day, to their last place of residence. This reallocation could significantly decrease Council District Three and increase the populations in Council Districts Four, Eight, and Nine. This reallocation must occur before actual boundary line drawing begins. Please welcome home the incarcerated as Tony Orlando and Dawn sang: “TIE A YELLOW RIBBON ROUND THE OLD OAK TREE: <https://youtu.be/dggAOk5peA>



**RANDOMLY ASSIGN COUNCIL DISTRICT NUMBERS:** It is suggested that, after the Commission determines the new Nine Council Districts; it randomly assign odd and even District numbers. During the public testimony there was a speaker’s theme of that claimed that this place or area was traditional in District X and thus must remain in District X without asserting a valid “Community of Interest” factor rationale for inclusion. Random assignment would shuffle the deck and begin a new day, perhaps free of nostalgia .



**RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER A PUBLIC VOTE TO INCREASE COUNCIL DISTRICTS:** During the special meeting testimony sessions persons inquired about adding districts. The Commission could refer these suggests to the Council for their consideration, prior to the 2031 Redistricting. Addition of two new Council Districts would promote better representation ratios.

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

1. That the actual population numbers for the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3) not be considered until the **ATTRIBUTION OF THE INCARCERATED TO COUNCIL DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE;**
2. That the actual population numbers for the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3) carefully consider **OUR UNSHELTERED SISTERS AND BROTHERS;**
3. That the population adjustments for the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** be made by first removing neighborhoods and communities outside of the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED**. Neighborhoods to the far East of the 1- 805 and I 15 freeways should be removed to achieve balance;
4. That the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** – current District Three (D3) regain a strong connection to the San Diego Bay;
5. That the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** areas to be added be along the drained original San Diego River outfall to the Bay;
6. That an area to remove from the **SAN DIEGO BAY WATERSHED** be those areas of current Council District Three (D3) that are in the **CHOLLAS CREEK WATERSHED**. The **CHOLLAS CREEK WATERSHED** areas are those areas East of Boundary Street and West of the 15 Freeway. Removal of these non-watershed areas would promote natural boundaries and help balance the population numbers for both current District Three (**D3**) and current District Nine (**D9**);
7. Current District Three (**D3**) analysis be done at the BLOCK GROUP level; not mere CENSUS TRACTS, ZIP CODE area, or Subdivisions/Community names; and
8. That an inventory and mapping be done of area Social Services facilities; and gathering places to refine and better define communities of interest;

**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 Watershed features. 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 28, 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**)