

To Redistricting Commissioners:

I am deeply concerned that the comments of UCSD students at the District 6 Redistricting Community Meeting tonight will be given a heavier weight of consideration than that of Clairemont residents in reference to Council District 6 redistricting.

My concern is

1. Will those UCSD students that spoke maintain a connection to San Diego by living and working here once they graduate? There is no way to determine that of course, but it should be something to seriously consider when redistricting that will affect our communities for the next 10 years.

2. It seems, unless I heard wrong, that all the UCSD student speakers were Asian and are pushing for special interests as though a particular council district is needed just for them. Diversity is the cornerstone of American Democracy and to have a council district that is focused on one segment of the population would be wrong.

Another concern is about the speaker who urged that Kearny Mesa should be combined in a council district with Mira Mesa and Sorrento Valley. That also would be making a council district that has a sole focus on the Asian community when there should be a lot of diversity in all council districts. In addition, Kearny Mesa is separated from Mira Mesa by the huge expanse of MCAS Miramar and therefore would not be contiguous

Combining Kearny Mesa with Mira Mesa and Sorrento Valley in a district would also wrongly separate Communities of Interest, namely Clairemont and Serra Mesa, from Kearny Mesa. The common interest that Clairemont and Serra Mesa share with Kearny Mesa is city-owned Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport that is an economic engine in the region, but does also create toxic lead air pollution problems from leaded avgas, as well as aircraft noise and safety issues for the close surrounding communities. Clairemont and Serra Mesa are Communities of Interest with Kearny Mesa whereas Mira Mesa and Sorrento Valley are not.

Your consideration to keep Kearny Mesa in either Council District 6 or 7 is appreciated.

Respectfully,
Sandra Stahl