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City of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission

c/o: City Clerk Redistricting2020@saniego.gov; LJFleming@saniego.gov; CityClerk@saniego.gov; DFuentes@saniego.gov
202 C Street, MS 2A
San Diego, California 92101

RE: Initial Principals and Comments City Of San Diego Redistricting

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

Congratulations on your appointment to this most important Commission. Thank you for your service to our City. I have some initial principals and comments concerning the processes for accomplishing your important work. They follow:

- A. "So the last shall be first, and the first last." MATTHEW 20:16. Please consider a district number neutral process. I suggest that your processes, to determine the nine Council Districts, be neutral as to the District number until you have followed the law and guidelines to form appropriate Districts. Only after that outcome neutral process; then assign District numbers randomly or by draw. Past practices have numbered the richest District NUMBER ONE and the poorest DistrictS Last, as Numbers 8 and 9. Please use different processes to assign District numbers and discontinue the top-down approach. Our City started along the San Diego River in Old Town and only later did it develop by the Bay in New Town. Coastal development was much latter. I suggest, because our Council elections are based on even and odd numbering that a random draw assignment be made for even and odd districts.

The numbering of Districts has some real practicable priority effects, for example District One is called on first to speak at Council and to Vote. Like the discredited law of **primogeniture**, the First Council District gets to announce its Budget priorities or express its opinions first. For initial Commission development and discussion purposes I suggest that draft districts be alphabetically designated until a random draw is held.

- B. Natural geographical features like water sheds should be used as initial jumping off definitional boundaries for Council Districts. Use of watersheds do not follow any artificial political or incumbents' donor or constituency interests. From time out of mind, the indigenous Kumeyaay peoples lived and organized along our City's nine (9) natural watersheds - Tijuana, Chollas, SD Bay Florida/Switzer, San Diego River, Famosa Slough, Los Peñasquitos, Mission Bay, La Jolla, and San Dieguito. The Bay and Coastal water quality is largely determined by the quality of water that flows into them from the water shed above them. Improving watershed conditions uphill determines the Bay and Beach qualities.

I believe that clean up and renovation of the City's water sheds would be advanced if each Council District had, at its core, a significant watershed to steward. The Coast, Beaches, and Bays are resources we all share in common; so organization based solely on a Beach or Bay approach favors some and excludes others.

Thank you for considering these initial principles and comments concerning the City-Wide processes. I look forward to discussing the development of a Chollas Creek focused district at your next scheduled meeting.

All the best,

/s/

John Stump, resident, property owner, and taxpayer in current Districts Four and Nine