

2411 Shamrock Street, City Heights, California 92105
619.281.4663 mrjohnstump@cox.net

August 23, 2021

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

RE: Special Meeting Written Testimony Politically Neutral Natural Boundaries San Diego Bay District

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

Thank you for the notice of the **Council District 8 Community Input Meeting, Tuesday, August 24 at 5:30 p.m.** Live broadcast publicly available on Zoom Webinar: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1615117202>
Participate by phone at 669-254-5252 (Webinar ID: 1615117202). Also thank you for providing a ***preliminary*** table and map for residents to review: [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Table](#) and [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Map](#). [As a small matter, I suggest that the titling of these input sessions be announced as “Current Council District ...” Thus the public will better understand that redistricting process is not going to maintain the status quo ante. Every Current Council District’s voting boundary will change to better conform to population changes and voting rights laws.

My previous letters have suggested and outcome neutral method for assigning final Council District numbers to the then adopted new Districts. As I stated in my earlier letters and testimony, the Council District assigned District One has a significant advantage in the actual operation of the City Council. Some 50 years, of experience at City Council, makes clear that District One gets to speak and vote first and thus sets the momentum for every Council decision. Randomly rotating this advantage costs nothing but provides a benefit to the disadvantage traditionally lowest numbered por and minority districts.

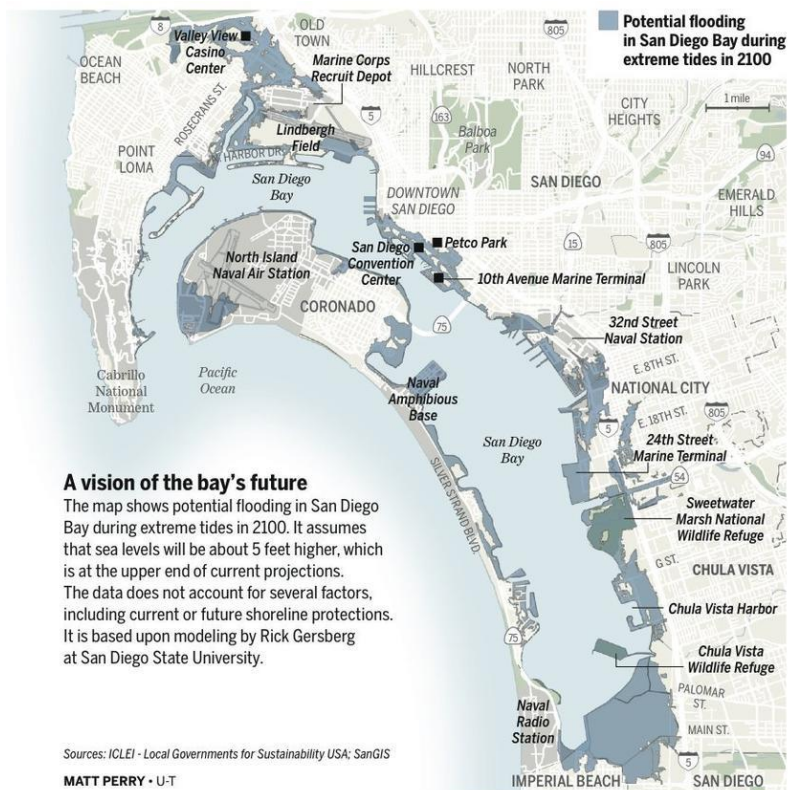
I have also recommended, to the Commission, that starting with a neutral core jumping of place for defining Council Districts based on the natural features of watershed would shuffle the political deck fairly and advance the quality of our water and air environments. The County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, establishes eleven (11) broad categories of watersheds, draining westward, for the entire region. SEE: -WEB LINK TO County of San Diego Watershed Map <https://tinyurl.com/jd76efrf> . 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. should be at the center core of all new Council Districts. 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 downhill.

My current family residences, properties, and businesses are all in the directly adjacent watershed to this San Diego Bay / Tijuana River Council District. So the boundary for the San Diego Bay / Tijuana River District should not interfere with or dilute the Chollas Creek Watershed District boundary

The San Diego Bay / Tijuana River Council District is a relatively late comer to the City of San Diego; having been annexed to the City in 1957. Current District Eight is served by two (2) distinct Elementary School Districts and two (2) distinct High School districts. I suggest that the Commission carefully look at the actual student enrollments in the area High Schools including the Coronado District; as this may give some actual insights for this area’s community of interest. Do parents seek High School enrolment in the Sweetwater or Coronado High Schools rather than Lincoln High School, just east of the I805? There is little debate that the success of a community is based on the quality of the schools available to its residents. Home values are, to a very large extent, set by the neighborhood schools; so this district’s voting parents should have significant voting influence in determining the quality of their children’s schools.

The current District’s residents are challenged by adverse conditions caused by industrial, commercial, military , and tourism activities that occur along the San Diego Bay front. The Environmental Health Coalition and others have organized significant political and environmental actions to clean up the adverse effects from these big business activities. I recommend that the current population deviation, of some 4,887 persons or -3.2%, be adjusted by increasing the participation of this District in San Diego Bay. Please extend the boundaries of this San Diego Bay Council District north between Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway. Extension North, along the Bay front might extend to the area surrounding the water quality impactors of the Airport and treatment plant.

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.



-Figure 1: Map of Climate Change Sea Level Rise projected by 2100-

In the case of the San Diego Bay Council district, I suggest that the northern boundary of the new District be the extended North along the Bay to capture the necessary deviation populations. This Northern extension will extend the district's political influence over several other significant Bay water and air quality impactors. I believe that the census tracts adjacent to the Bay to Pacific Highway should contain about the necessary number of persons to bring this district close to balance.

The current Council District contains two border crossings and there is a significant airport services because its Brown Field and the adjacent Tijuana International Airport. The district area is served by an extensive freeway system and San Diego's Light Rail trolley.

The Otay Mesa sub region, of this district has shown significant industrial, commercial, and housing growth over the past decade. Projections for the future project future housing growth; which may require future redistricting commissions to consider splitting this district or recommending expansion of the City Council to eleven (11) districts to keep the communities of interest and district populations more fairly balanced.

The current district also is within the Tijuana River watershed, which originates in northeastern San Diego County and terminates in Tijuana, Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. The water quality of the Tijuana River is a challenge for the entire Binational region. The water quality of this district can be addressed through cooperation and the realization that both sides of the national border contain one people and common challenges caused by their mutual interdependence.

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 this testimony calling for an initial politically neutral starting off re districting method based on natural features, historic residential and economic patterns. This testimony is consistent with my earlier general letter concerning principles, of August 12, 2021 and August 16, 2021, 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 August 24, 2021 and its regular meetings.

All the best,

/s/

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