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City of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission  
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202 C Street, MS 2A  
San Diego, California 92101

RE: **SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT** - Special Meeting Testimony Politically Neutral Natural Boundaries

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

**PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

Thank you for the notice of the **Council District 2 Community Input Meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.** Live broadcast publicly available on Zoom [**SEE: Information in Footer Below**]

As a small matter, of style and to conform with legal voting rights standards, I suggest that the titling of future input sessions be announced as "Current Council District ..." Thus the public will better understand that the 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 the voting rights laws. As the Commission is well aware, there have been sufficient population changes to require adjustments in every District and the population shifts, in some areas, are sufficient to suggest an emerging new community of interest for the Pan Asian populations.

Emerging communities of interests, like the Pan Asian community and population growth will by necessity require changes to current Council District boundaries. Like the Mother Goose children's rhyme said of an overcrowded bed – *"There were ten in a bed and the little one said "Roll over, roll over" So they all rolled over and one fell out There were nine in a bed and the little one said "Roll over, roll over" So they all rolled over and one fell out..."* ; whenever there is a change in the bed population someone needs to "rollover".

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. At your Commission's last input hearing, another member of the public supported and testified that Council District numbering should be changed; as it is a biased advantaged to the wealthy and disadvantages the poor and persons of color. Randomly rotating this advantage costs nothing but provides a benefit to the disadvantage traditionally lowest numbered por and minority districts.

**POLITICALLY NEUTRAL NATURAL BOUNDARIES**

I have also recommended, to the Commission, that starting with a neutral core jumping off place for defining Council Districts based on the natural features of watersheds. A natural boundary starting off place 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/id76efrf> . 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.

#### SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT:

Current Council District 2 is largely defined by three natural features – the changing meandering and engineered outfall of the San Diego River and two great rocks.

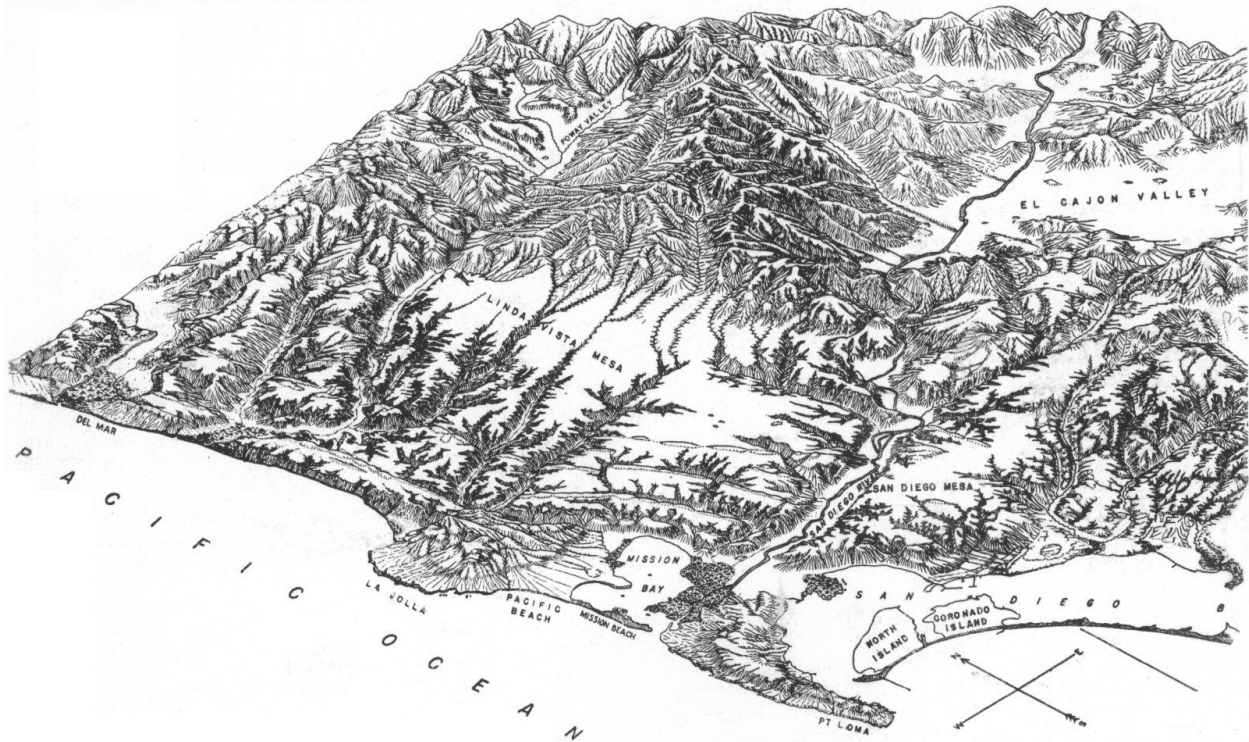


Figure 1.

“Physiographic drawing of the San Diego area, looking toward the northeast. (Hertlein and Grant, 1944)”

(THE GEOLOGY AND TECTONIC SETTING OF SAN DIEGO BAY, AND THAT OF THE PENINSULAR RANGES AND SALTON TROUGH, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Dr. Monte Marshall Professor Emeritus of Geology and Geophysics, San Diego State University, page 1 [Geology of San Diego Bay and Region \(geology-guy.com\)](http://geology-guy.com) )

The San Diego River is the defining natural watershed feature of our City, County and region. The outfall, to the Pacific Ocean, has changed since “...discovered in Alta California by the Portuguese navigator, who was working for Spain, Juan Cabrillo, in 1542.” (IBID, page1). Originally, the San Diego River outfall emptied to the San Diego Bay. Later, the outfall was engineered to drain the swamp; create the Mission Bay recreation park; and to provide a direct ocean outfall north of Ocean Beach.

The two great rocks – Point Loma and Mt. Soledad – a Broad Topped Hill and a Lonely Mountain, respectively.; set the course for the San Diego River. The residential areas surrounding Point Loma and upward to Mt. Soledad are the boundaries for the current District 2. Current District 2 is from the Bay to the lonely Mountain.

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 this current District 2 has a population deviation of some **-4.5%**. The surrounding current Council Districts all have excess populations – current District 1 = **+8.2%**, current District 3 = **+5.2%**; and adjacent current District 7 = **+3.4%**. Current Districts should be balancing donors to current District 2.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

All of the current District 2 communities of interest should remain in the new **SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT**. Roseville, Point Loma, Spanish Landing; Talbot; La Playa; Fleetridge; Sunset Cliffs; Ocean Beach; Mission Bay; South Mission; Bay Park; Pacific Beach; Liberty Station; Morena; and Sports Arena should remain in the new **SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT**.

Additional population for this **SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT**. Should be gained from the San Diego River area to the West. Observation of the current District 2, as portrayed in the [2020 Census PRELIMINARY Population Map](#); shows a notch in the District's middle, along the San Diego River. My request and recommendation is that the balancing population be added from this notched out area.

Care must be taken as the populations in current Districts 7; 6; and 5 need to be balanced and provide for the emerging Pan Asian community of interest. Also, current District 4 needs to gain population as it is under populated by some **-5.8%**.

When the *West Chollas La Mesa District* (current District 4) is considered my likely suggestion will be to expand it to include the City of La Mesa border area; so it includes all of its Euclid/54<sup>th</sup> Street Business corridor, with its some 5 shopping centers and transportation routes. African American students largely attend that corridor's Crawford High School.

**CONCLUSION:**

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.

I believe that the cleanup 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. A **SAN DIEGO RIVER OUTFALL DISTRICT** balances both the watershed and outfall.

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 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 1, 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 and Nine