

JOHN STUMP

2411 SHAMROCK STREET, CITY HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA 92105
619 281-4663 mrjohnstump@cox.net

September 13, 2021

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

RE: **SOUTHEASTERN** – Politically Neutral Natural Boundaries

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

Thank you for the notice of the **Council District 6 Community Input Meeting, scheduled for: 5:30PM, Tuesday, September 14, 2021.** Broadcast publicly available on Zoom [**SEE: Information in Footer Below**]

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 simply drop a Tic Tac Toe grid onto, 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/ SD Bay** and the **San Pasqual Watershed** 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**

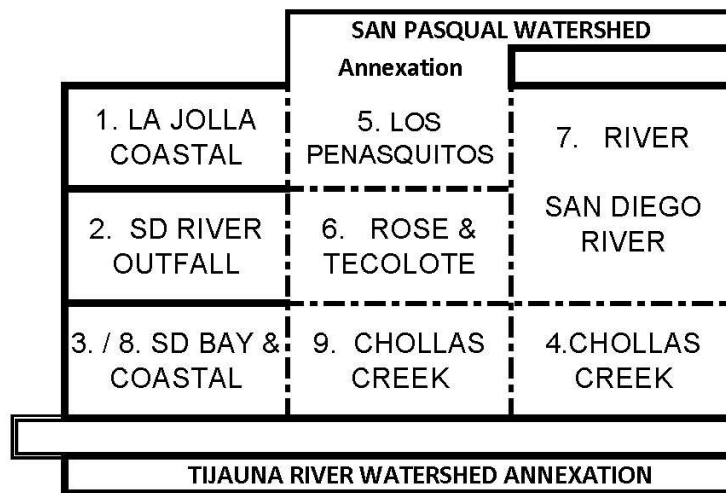


FIGURE 1 – A MODIFIED TIC TAC TOE GRID SHOWING CITY ANNEXATIONS – The ACORN



FIGURE 2 – PICTURE OF AN ACORN

Our City **ACORN** is a beautiful natural irregular shape, but 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 Tijuana River San Diego Bay annexation – current District 8.

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.

“**FIGURE 1 – A MODIFIED TIC TAC TOE GRID SHOWING CITY ANNEXATIONS – The ACORN**”, above on Page 1, has dotted lines separating Districts to demonstrate that some Districts must lose population and others must gain population to be within “**General rule for deviation**” presented by Deputy City Attorneys Bell and Steinman’s slide presentation: **Redistricting Principles: Population Equality and the Voting Rights Act** (Deputy City Attorneys Jennifer Berry and Kathy Steinman, Slide 10, April 15, 2021, [Redistricting Principles: Population Equality and the Voting Rights Act \(sandiego.gov\)](#)). In addition to Population Size, other factors, of arguably more importance govern the setting of boundaries for New Council Districts.

Voting Rights and fair and equitable representation of Communities of Interest must be considered in arriving at new Council district boundaries. The Commission’s past hearings have had extensive testimony calling for a Pacific Islander and Asian - Pan Asian District formed from within current Districts’ 5 and 6; including moving and including the Asian student populations at the University of San Diego, now in **D 1**.

There has been little discussion necessary concerning the Hispanic populations in current Districts D8 and D9 as they are clearly majorities in these Districts. Current District 4 has traditionally been considered a Black or African American community of interest District, since the Mayor Wilson administration.

Race and Ethnicity in San Diego, California (City)

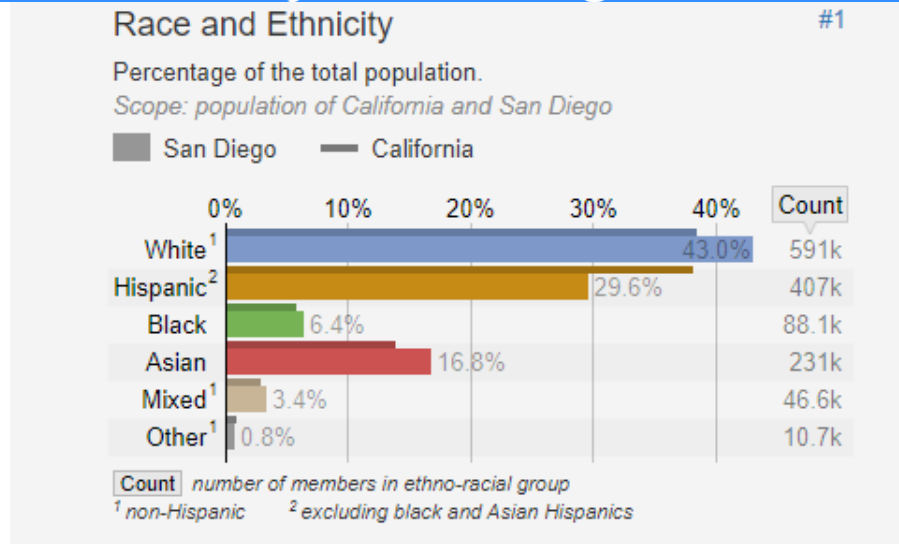


TABLE 2 – GRAPH OF RACE AND ETHNICITY CITY OF SAN DIEGO
[The Demographic Statistical Atlas of the United States - Statistical Atlas](#)

Concentrated areas, within the City with racial, ethnic or other community of interest populations exceeding six percent (6 percent) should be given careful consideration for as a possible Council District focus. [100% / 9 Districts = 11.11; 11.11% / 2 = 5.55% or @ 6 Percent]. Of course, compactness, continuity, and other defining factors must be considered.

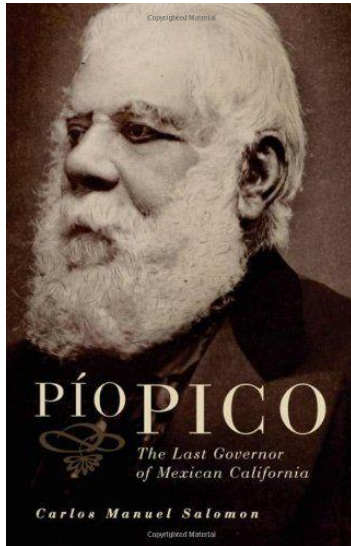
SOUTHEASTERN CHOLLAS CREEK DISTRICT:

Current District 4 is under in total population, located within the Chollas Creek Water Shed, and is jurisdictionally constrained by National City, Bonita, Spring Valley La Presa, Lemon Grove, and La Mesa. Current Council District Four (**D 4**) shares a City of San Diego Chollas Creek boundary with current District Nine (**D 9**) and current Council District Three (**D 3**).



FIGURE 3 – CHOLLAS CREEK WATERSHED AND D4 & D9 AREA - Source: Groundworks.org

Both the adjacent current Council District Four (**D 4**) and current Council District Nine (**D 9**) are significantly under populated to the equity goal, -5.8% and -5.6% respectively or about 8,600 person. In order to bring both adjacent current Council District Four (**D 4**) and current Council District Nine (**D 9**) into population equity, it is a classic case of “**ROLLOVER**”. Current Council District Four (**D 4**) is going to have to gain population from current Council District Nine (**D 9**); then current Council District Nine (**D 9**) is going to have to “**ROLLOVER**” into current District Three (**D 3**). Current Council District Six (**D 6**) may need to capture some of the Camino Del Rio South adjacent Census Tracts or Block Groups that are North of El Cajon Boulevard and in current Council District Nine (**D 9**). In summary, when there are two adjacent under population Council Districts the balancing of one Council District causes a cumulative need to balance in one or two adjacent Council Districts.



From the earliest days of western settlement of San Diego and our City, persons of mixed or mulata races populated the City. Pío Pico, our last Mexican Governor was of African, Native American and Spanish ancestry and a Catholic. He served the State and the Cities of San Diego and Los Angeles.

Current Council District Four (**D 4**) has a significant Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations, in decreasing respective numbers. District boundaries should recognize these racial and ethnic communities of interest and take into account when and where there is a strong presence of any racial or ethnic group. When final mapping is done racial and ethnic data should be considered by Block Group, not Zip Code or Census Tracts only. Less than detailed analysis could dilute communities of interest.

D4 is served by the SR-94, SR 15, and I 805 Freeways. The Metropolitan Transit System trolley serves the current D4 area with the “**ORANGE LINE**”.

FIGURE 4 Jacket Cover Pío Pico Currently, **D4** and **D9** share high School attendance areas and some major parks, like the Sunshine Berardini Field are shared in both Council Districts.

My family strong ties to current Council District Four (**D 4**) as we have several family houses in the District, attend Church at St. Rita’s Catholic Church, and both my wife and her brother attended Gompers Middle School and Lincoln High Schools. Many family members are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. My wife’s family were forced out of their first home when it was taken by I 805 Freeway intersection between Imperial and Oceanview Boulevards – [Many displaced residents felt that the routing was a Robert Moses styled racially motivated redevelopment action].

The current **D4** community has a strong economic spine along the Euclid / 54th Street corridor with shopping Centers at Imperial; Market; Federal; and University. These community shopping centers compliment the current **D4** regional College Grove Shopping Complex. The 54th /Euclid marketplace shopping centers need concentrated political efforts to regain and reach their full economic potentials.

Of late the residential settlement of this area for Blacks, African Americans, and refugees has been along 54th East San Diego and Redwood Village neighborhoods and to the East into Spring Valley. These additions of Africans Americans suggest that research on areas to expand current District Four (D 4) should look North along 54th street, toward Crawford High School and San Diego State University. I was intrigued by the UCSD Asian coalition students’ presentation concerning transferring UCSD to current Council District Six (**D 6**). This proposal made me wonder if the same factors could strengthen racial

communities of interest for current Council District Four's (D 4) Black/African-American population by adding SDSU. To District Four (D 4)? I believe that, with the addition of the recent African refugee population, from the Crawford high School attendance area, there is a sufficient Black / African-American community of interest, in current Council District Four (D 4).

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

1. That the actual population numbers be applied to a hypothetical new "SOUTHEASTERN CHOLLAS CREEK DISTRICT";
2. That analysis of racial and ethnic characteristics be done at the BLOCK GROUP level; not mere CENSUS TRACTS, ZIP CODE area, or Subdivisions/Community names;
3. That Current Council District Nine (D 9) be the donor Council District. Any population additions should recognize that the Council District Nine (D 9) is a majority Hispanic District; so that its donations should not tip any receiving District;
4. Current Council District Four (D 4) boundaries remain much the same. Care must be taken, in adding population; so as not to dilute the current communities of interest;
5. Expansion, of the Council District's boundaries, should explore gaining more of the 54th / Euclid corridor to assist in the revitalization of the community serving shopping centers along this major street.
6. That an inventory and mapping be done of area Churches, Mosques, and Temples; Social Services facilities; and gathering places to refine and better define communities of interest;
7. That school attendance data be mapped to identify where students live and their racial and ethnic characteristics. Identification of where students live might provide insights on communities of interest; and
8. Explore the impacts of transferring the San Diego State University student population to Council district Four (D 4) to strengthen the Black /African American community 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 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 14, 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)