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**From:** Chair RPPB [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:18 PM  
**To:** COSD, Redistricting  
**Subject:** [External] RPPB Official Letter of Support for a Unified District  
**Attachments:** RPPB October 20.2021 Redistricting Commission Letter Final.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Redistricting Committee,

Please add our letter into the records for consideration.

Thank you

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Brian Reschke  
Chair, Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board

The Rancho de los Peñasquitos Planning Board has been formed and recognized by the City of San Diego to make recommendations to the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, and other governmental agencies on land use matters, specifically concerning the preparation of, adoption of, implementation of, or amendments to either the General Plan or any land use plan within the Rancho Peñasquitos, Black Mountain Ranch and Torrey Highlands boundaries. The planning group also advises on other land use matters as requested by either the City or other governmental agencies.



October 20, 2021

City of San Diego Redistricting Commission

Re: Unite all of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch within District 5

Dear Commissioners,

The Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board (RPPB) voted to strongly urge the City of San Diego 2020 Census Redistricting Commission (Redistricting Commission), to make all of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch whole within San Diego City Council District 5 (District 5). Within District 5 our communities hold common interests, are geographically compact, are bound by natural boundaries, and share reasonable roadway access. Ten years ago, the southern-most sections of Rancho Peñasquitos (Park Village single-family residential neighborhood) south of SR-56 were split off from the rest of our respective communities within District 5 which has been the cause of significant dissatisfaction for our communities. It is time to rectify this problem as part of the Redistricting Commission.

The RPPB is the city of San Diego's designated community planning group and land use board for three contiguous communities consisting of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch, all of which are part of District 5 and lie north of the significant natural landform boundary of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. In this capacity, the RPPB oversees all planning, land use, and development proposals for these three contiguous communities. Its members also serve on oversight committees for all three Public Facilities Finance Plans, Landscape Maintenance Assessment Districts, and Open Space/Park and Recreation.

The following information and history are outlined to provide clarity as to why all the communities, which we have been designated by the city of San Diego to represent, should be made whole in District 5.

These three communities are part of District 5 and should be included, in their entirety, as part of the new District 5 because of the following:

- *Communities of Interest:* The existing District 5 communities of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, Black Mountain Ranch, Sabre Springs, Carmel Mountain Ranch, and Rancho Bernardo are all part of the Poway Unified School District (PUSD) which the Redistricting Commission Guidelines identify as a "Community of Interest" to be considered when drawing district boundaries. (Note: The only existing District 5 community that is not part of the PUSD is Scripps Ranch. It is part of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), along with adjacent Mira Mesa and the rest of District 6).



You have already received the results from the Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council Redistricting Committee Survey, submitted to you on July 25, 2021. One of the purposes of its survey was to ascertain the communities' desire to be in one council district that is composed of the surrounding communities connected through the PUSD. Ninety-five percent of the respondents indicated that they would like to be part of the city council district comprised of communities in the PUSD.

A common school district greatly influences the sphere of friendships and sense of belonging of both students and families within the District 5 communities. The shared activities of athletic teams and competitions, music/band participation, drama and arts programs, debate team competitions, robotics clubs, science Olympiads are important. Parent support groups are created to help their children excel in their academic and athletic interests. These common community interests, activities, and friendships stem from a shared school district and are at the core of community building.

- *Reasonable Access:* There are many access and circulation roads between the contiguous communities of District 5 which allow for easy and reasonable access among the population centers within Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, Rancho Bernardo, Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, and Sabre Springs.

The ease of access and shared circulation roads between the District 5 communities influences the places we shop, our preferences for entertainment/dining venues, the places we worship, the parks in which we recreate, the shared open space systems of Black Mountain Open Space Park, Chicarita Creek, Peñasquitos Creek, Paraiso Cumbres, Montana Mirador, Van Dam Peak, etc.

The ease of access via shared circulation roads within District 5 communities is further demonstrated by the city of San Diego's location of public services serving District 5 communities. The service area delineated for Fire Station No. 40, located within Rancho Peñasquitos, is Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, Sabre Springs, and Black Mountain Ranch. The Police Department's Northeast Division's "Retired Senior Volunteer Program" (RSVP), which helps the police department by patrolling neighborhoods and reporting suspicious activities, established the Diamond Gateway RSVP to serve Rancho Peñasquitos, Carmel Mountain Ranch, and Sabre Springs communities. Rancho Bernardo has their own RSVP program. It is important to note that the Police Department established the "Scripps Mesa RSVP" storefront to serve the contiguous communities of Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa.

The communities within District 5 are recognized for their quiet, suburban residential feel consisting primarily of single-family residences that include people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds and who desire to remain whole in the PUSD boundary of District 5. Our character is different from the large industrial/commercial/employer-based communities of Mira Mesa/Sorrento Mesa/Kearny Mesa, who have a much higher



residential density to serve the large employment bases located within these communities. Our legislative interests are quite different as a result.

Additionally, there are numerous shared roadway projects that have been jointly financed from the Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch Public Facility Financing Plans. The most recent shared roadway project, currently under construction, is the southerly extension of Camino Del Sur from SR-56 to Park Village Road, which will provide yet another direct roadway access between these District 5 communities to the north of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

- *Natural Boundaries:* The very broad and long Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve serves as a natural landform boundary between Districts 5 and 6. Utilizing natural landforms to determine district boundaries is one of the guidelines the Redistricting Committee is to follow when drawing district boundaries. This regional resource open space preserve is one of the largest in San Diego County, serving as the natural boundary between Districts 5 and 6. No future roadways will be built across this regional resource-based open space canyon connecting the communities of District 5 to the north with District 6 to the south. There could be no clearer or obvious boundary between these two districts.
- *Reuniting Split Communities:* Within the 2020 redistricting process, the Redistricting Committee is also charged with reuniting split communities that were divided during the 2010 redistricting mapping. The southern-most portions of Rancho Peñasquitos and Torrey Highlands that were removed from the rest of their communities and District 5 during the 2010 redistricting process need to be reunited. It is onerous for these areas to be separated from the rest of their communities and District 5 for an additional 10 years, particularly when their outlined “Community of Interests” are within District 5.

The PUSD communities within District 5 should be made whole in District 5. The SDUSD communities in this north-central area of San Diego should be made whole in District 6. We have not seen, nor heard, of any studies directed by the Redistricting Commission to its consultant that would investigate joining Scripps Ranch with Mira Mesa. We believe it is worth investigation since they share the same public school district; they are located south of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve on the west side of I-15 and south of the PUSD community of Sabre Springs on the east side of I-15; they both share a southerly boundary abutting Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and the associated land-use interests shared by that alignment. They share Fire Station 44 which serves the eastern area of Mira Mesa and the southwest area of Scripps Ranch; they share the same “Scripps Mesa RSVP” program; they have shared in joint community functions such as the “Scripps-Mesa 4<sup>th</sup> of July” fundraising and fireworks shows. They also share multiple roadways joining the two communities (Mercy Road/Scripps Poway Parkway; Mira Mesa Boulevard; Carroll Canyon Road; Miramar Road/Pomerado Road).



It has come to our attention, from viewing the 2020 Redistricting Commission website, that the Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) has submitted to the 2020 Redistricting Commission a total of three possible redistricting maps which it believes will result in creating an Asian empowerment district. Two of these proposed maps significantly affect the communities of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch which, in turn, affect all of District 5. The 2020 Redistricting Commission should understand these maps have been prepared and presented by APAC without any outreach to the affected communities of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, or Black Mountain Ranch. We are not certain who the “constituents” are which APAC refers to “reaching out to” before creating these new proposed district boundary alternatives. It is important to note that the recognized planning board or town council of the affected communities were not contacted by them.

We recognize that other interests have proposed different redistricting alignments. However, we believe our position best adheres to the commission guidelines to reunite Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch into one council district for the betterment of our community.

We trust that your deliberations will look at the geographically contiguous neighborhoods of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch, which RPPB has been assigned to represent, as being “communities of shared interests” with the rest of District 5.

- They are joined by natural landforms and separated from District 6 by the vast Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.
- The District 5 communities of Sabre Springs, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch are all part of the PUSD.
- Our District 5 neighborhoods share goals, interests, and social activities.
- The District 5 communities have similar legislative concerns and will benefit from representation by the same city council district representative.
- The communities have multiple shared roadways providing easy and reasonable access among the population centers within the District 5 communities.

On behalf of the communities of Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Highlands, and Black Mountain Ranch, the RPPB thanks you for your hard work and for your thorough and thoughtful consideration of this request to be reunited in council District 5.

Sincerely,

Brian Reschke, Chair  
Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board