

From: AEMAdmin@sdcounty.ca.gov
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Potter, Andrew; Fang, Angela; Donnelly, Liberty; Temple, Nicole; Flores, Lauren; COSD, Redistricting; Hall, David; Lau, Chim; Villa, Nicole; Van Wagner, Keith
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Dear Commissioners,

As Chairman of the Barona Band of Mission Indians, I represent the Barona Reservation community near Lakeside. Thank you for your service to our County.

I write today to express concerns I have with the current versions of the draft maps for the County Supervisorial districts. I respectfully ask that you keep the Native American communities of Barona, Capitan Grande, Viejas, Jamul, Sycuan, Campo, La Posta, and Manzanita in the same district. Our communities are linked to the rural unincorporated communities of East County such as Lakeside, Crest, Alpine, Harbison Canyon, Dehesa and Descanso.

Not only do we live, work, go to school in rural East San Diego County, but several of us are economic engines in the rural communities. As a small portion of the overall San Diego County population, keeping the Native American communities together helps us protect our interests, including natural and cultural resources. Moreover, Interstate 8 is a key mode of transportation and economic development for the rural East County portion of our region. A prominent Caltrans sign along the side of Interstate 8 near Alpine identifies that portion of the interstate as "Kumeyaay Highway." We share common concerns of fair representation as rural East County communities do with regard to access to fire protection, access to services such as healthcare, education, and economic opportunities outside of major cities. For far too long our people have been separated, we ask that you end that cycle as you draft additional maps. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Raymond J. Welch

Chairman

Barona Band of Mission Indians

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