

[REDACTED]

From: Victoria MacKenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 12:40 PM
To: COSD, Redistricting; Anderson, Joel
Subject: [External] Oppose the Redistricting for the Backcountry
Attachments: Redistricting Karen.pdf

Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached opposition letter to the proposed redistricting of the backcountry communities. This letter is from our Board President and fully endorsed by our Board Members.

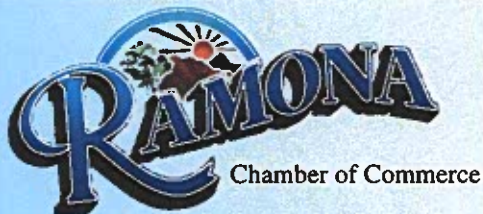
Thank you,

Victoria MacKenzie



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The Board of Directors of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce has unanimously authorized me as its President to forward these comments to the Independent Redistricting Commission regarding the pending redistricting of the County of San Diego Supervisor districts.

We believe that it is essential to the continued viability of the Ramona business community and Ramona itself that the community of Ramona not be separated between two different supervisor districts and that they retain commonality of representation with our sister communities that share our values, culture and environs.

The community of Ramona has, since its inception, operated as a singular community within the boundaries of the Ramona Municipal Water District and Community Planning Area. We have developed common interests and intentions for Ramona moving forward, efforts which will be impeded by an arbitrary division of the community of Ramona into two supervisor districts.

Ramona as a unified community has developed lasting relationships with our sister communities, forming a Backcountry Coalition including the communities of Ramona, Fallbrook, Alpine, Valley Center and Borrego Springs. These communities form the San Diego Backcountry, which shares concerns of infrastructure, healthcare access, social services, parks and recreation, schools and agriculture. We also enjoy a burgeoning wine industry, which benefits from the singularity of representation on the County Board of Supervisors.

The Commission should ensure that the ultimate redistricting map enhances, enriches and supports the entirety of the Ramona community. Any approved map which divides Ramona would cause the doubling of the efforts of all non-profit and community organizations having to address two supervisors on the same issue(s).

Such a division would dilute the ability of Ramona to pursue common issues and would divert attention from issues of importance to Ramona and the collective backcountry, including open space, agricultural issues, winery ordinances, infrastructure issues and shared history.

Dividing Ramona or separating Ramona from its sister communities of Poway, Lakeside, Alpine, Fallbrook, Valley Center and Borrego Springs would dilute these like-minded communities in pursuing issues unique to them. The fear is that in a diluted status, issues of critical importance to Ramona and the Backcountry would be overwhelmed by the larger urban centers. Ramona and its sister communities are like-minded and should enjoy an undiluted representative pursuing the interests unique to the rural community.

The Ramona Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that in the final analysis, the IRC retain Ramona as a unified community and continue to lump like-minded sister communities of Poway, Lakeside, Alpine and Valley Center as into the same Supervisor district.

Sincerely,

Karen Domnitz – President, Ramona Chamber of Commerce