

**From:** AEMAdmin@sdcounty.ca.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** Potter, Andrew; Fang, Angela; Donnelly, Liberty; Temple, Nicole; Flores, Lauren; COSD, Redistricting; Hall, David; Lau, Chim; Villa, Nicole; Van Wagner, Keith  
**Subject:** IRC eComment

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<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/redistricting/IRCecomment.html>.

Values:

First\_Name :  
Kathy

Last\_Name :  
Kassel

E-mail :  
[REDACTED]

Phone :  
[REDACTED]

eComment :

I am Kathy Kassel, President/CEO for the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce. I have some very serious concerns regarding the maps proposed for the County of San Diego's redistricting. Breaking up the unincorporated areas of East County does not meet needs of my community. The IRC needs to be aware of the many areas of common interests our unincorporated neighboring communities have with Lakeside.

- Lakeside, Santee, Ramona, Alpine & El Cajon Fire & paramedic services, assist each other with calls EVERY Day
- After the devastating Cedar Fire in 2003, a more comprehensive safety plan was made with all the unincorporated fire districts & sheriff's collaborating to work together to be better prepared for the next fire
- Each of our communities have Sheriff Sub-stations, but our main Sheriff Station with our Captain's office is in Santee
- Splitting up East County could have devastating consequences to our safety.
- All our East County High Schools are in one School District and is headquartered in La Mesa.
- East County has 2 community colleges, The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. Both in El Cajon, but your map would split them
- Unincorporated areas do not have municipal trash service. Individuals must contract for their own trash services.
- Lakeside's water is provided by 3 different water districts all in East County.
- I am struggling to find any community of interest with Hillcrest or any of the other coastal communities bundled with Lakeside. How would these communities understand about the struggles of an egg rancher, a Dairy farmer, a winery owner, a General Contractor, Aggregate business, trucking industry or an equestrian business
- There is a Backcountry Economic Development Coalition, that includes Lakeside, Ramona, Alpine & Julian because we all have the same business interests, tourism industry and challenges of being unincorporated

- Lakeside has many hiking/biking & equestrian trails that connect with our neighboring communities
- For years I have developed strong relationships with my fellow chambers, weekly/monthly meetings with Spring Valley Chamber, Ramona Chamber, East County Chamber, Santee Chamber, La Mesa Chamber & Alpine Chamber, because of our common interests & challenges. These connections & relationships have benefited Lakeside's businesses & our community.
- According to past redistricting maps, it appears communities of interest have stayed together, with the required minor changes made along each District's border, small expand/contract line changes. I am curious as to why IRC is not doing the same this year, why the major boundary changes when the population growth is around 6%, not a significant increase. Over the years, the existing Districts have grown into communities, developed bonds, combined resources, and collaborated on like minded interests. Breaking any of them up is not in the best interest of the County of San Diego.
- I have concerns when PANA & BIPOC, "community interest groups" with political agendas have presented maps that are being used, while the IRC is required to keep politics out of the equation  
Please go back to the drawing boards, make the necessary changes along existing boundaries and keep East County whole!

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kathy Kassel  
President/CEO  
Lakeside Chamber of Commerce

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