

From: campoplanninggroup@nym.hush.com
To: [COSD, Redistricting](#)
Subject: [External] Comment letter from Campo Lake Morena CPG, Attn. to David Bame
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Attachments: [IRC from Campo Lake Morena CPG.pdf](#)

**From: Billie Jo Jannen, Chairman
Campo Lake Morena Community Planning Group**

**To: David Bame, Chairman
San Diego County Independent Redistricting Commission**

November 11, 2021

Dear Commissioner Bame:

Thank you for attending the Nov. 9 meeting of the Campo Lake Morena CPG to discuss IRC process and maps. The group voted unanimously to support the Map 9 concept and provide the comments below.

We were pleased to see the improvements in your map proposals from the first and second iterations you issued. Maps 9 and 11 both address most of our initial concerns and keep more communities of concern together. We supported Map 9 because it included more of the economic centers we primarily do business in, as well as our gateway communities of Jamul and Alpine.

Why is the Rural Populace a Community of Concern?

The rural populace is politically impotent for most purposes. We don't have the numbers to defend ourselves at the polls, and this has been well-demonstrated by decisions from the urban majority that have done great harm to rural residents.

Large projects that harm our communities have been forced on us year after year, and in some cases, turn entire towns into little more than industrial and social dumping grounds for an urban populace that has the power to do anything it wants to us. Look out at the horizon and take note of how many wind turbines you can see along the coast. Check the sex offender map and see where they send those people. *Urban dwellers have the numbers and money to push back on these things. We do not.*

The state legislature targets us for special costs, such as the fire tax levied exclusively on rural property owners to cover the cost of catastrophic fires. We will be the first to suffer the worst impacts of VMT taxes because we don't live near the big job centers and LOCAL jobs are killed off by regulation, industrialization and political philosophy coming to us from the urban majority. *If it is unacceptable to do these things to other communities, why is it acceptable to do it to us?*

Every one of our rural communities is under threat daily from impairment of our water supply because we depend solely on groundwater. We've been told time and time again that *we will never have access to imported water*. I would challenge any one of you to describe how the groundwater system of aquifers and fractured granite "pipes" works in the backcountry. Most urban dwellers can't. It is vital to our survival and commercial and political interests present a constant threat to its viability. If you have not looked at a map of the water authority line, you should do that. It should be a consideration when determining what is rural and what is not. *Bad maps would condemn our rural minority to a supervisor who only understands imported urban water delivery.*

Existing District 2 vs. Proposed Maps

The population differences between the prior (2011) districts are small enough that this project really required little beyond the simple boundary adjustments implied in your mission statement.

District 2 was already within 5 percent of ideal population. Our racial balance between white and non-white populations is nearly equal – with far more power accruing to racial minorities than any but District 1. East County school districts, fire districts and planning areas were kept whole within it, as were East County tribes and economic players like the Chaldean community, whose members own hundreds of businesses throughout the East County and backcountry. We were also kept whole with business interests and relationships in our nearest economic centers: El Cajon, Lakeside, La Mesa, Spring Valley, Santee, Jamul and Alpine.

In every 2021 map proposal, other than 9 and 11, we are cut off from all of our usual commerce centers and thrown into a district with which we have almost no commonality. No one has explained why it was so important to create special representation for the wealthy urban coastal population – which already has many layers of conscientious representation – in favor of taking away the last bit of representation that many Mountain Empire residents had left. The bulk of your proposed maps are harmful to us because they:

1. Break up cities and communities
2. Break up fire districts.
3. Break up school districts
4. Break up planning/sponsor groups
5. Break up social and economic interests
6. Break up reservations
7. Disenfranchise our substantial minority populations
8. Disenfranchise our rural population as a whole
9. Break up communities of interest

A Fair and Representative District

It's vital for several reasons to recognize the importance of keeping school districts and fire districts with the communities they represent. Doing this automatically encompasses the tribal governments from Jamul and Alpine, out to to the edge of the county, and keeps tribes and communities in the same supervisory district where they attend school and have fire service.

That also automatically places planning areas neatly into supervisory district borders, because **county ordinance already requires that planning area boundaries be drawn inside their school districts for community planning and balloting purposes**. Adjusting to match school districts and fire protection districts will avoid a cascade of problems that most of your proposed maps would cause, including the havoc of developing ballots for the fragments of coherent communities that would have to vote in different supervisory or planning districts.

In our region, the school districts would include Jamul- Dulzura Union, Alpine Union and Mountain Empire Unified. Fire districts would include Alpine Fire, and Rural FPD. **Only maps 9 and 11**, of all the map proposals, keep most of these districts together with their communities.

Outside of its neighbor communities along the I-8 and SR 94 corridors, the backcountry has the most social, employment and business commonality with the East County cities: Lakeside, Santee, La Mesa and El Cajon, including the Chaldean community. The latter spans both incorporated and unincorporated El Cajon. Due to commonality of interests, Ramona and Poway, along with their fire

and school districts, are logical inclusions as well. They are accessed via direct roads from both El Cajon/Santee and Descanso/Pine Valley, promoting economic and social commerce.

Map 9

The group voted to support the Map 9 concept, as it is inclusive of fire district, school districts and planning areas, as well as El Cajon, Lakeside, La Mesa, Spring Valley, Alpine and Jamul.

However, we are baffled about the exclusion of Santee and inclusion of a chunk of San Diego in a primarily rural district. Santee is part and parcel of the intimate group of East County cities and includes rural/semi-rural areas. **Please adjust for this if at all possible.**

Also, please check school/fire district boundaries between north and south rural supervisory districts and do any fine-tuning needed to maintain integrity for both rural regions.

Past Redistricting and Local Disenfranchisement

Southeast rural communities already know what disenfranchisement feels like. In 2001, we were blatantly gerrymandered for openly political purposes. Down here along the border, our entire purpose on the map was to provide a skinny little border corridor connecting the wealthier urban interests of Chula Vista and El Centro. The 2011 maps doubled down on this to engulf every community on the SR 94 corridor, well north of the initial thin line, thus adding to the congressionally disenfranchised territory.

Along the way, our state districts were also changed to resemble the 2011 congressional district with exactly the same results.

This link shows the progression of redistricting in California from 1991 through 2011 for both state and federal districts, and here, the gerrymandering of the backcountry is clear for all to see:

<https://statewidedatabase.org/gis/districtscomp.html>

Our representation since 2001 has ranged from non-existent to actively harmful. Over the years, our “representatives” in Congress and Sacramento have supported *actions and policies that have directly impaired our public safety, caused unnecessary deaths and imposed untold millions in property damage on their constituents.* We are helpless to do anything about it at the ballot box.

If you pursue the map alternatives that remove the last of our accountable representation, you will be giving the last vestiges of our shrinking clout to people who already have abundant representation, including city governments.

Please design these districts to recognize the backcountry as the community of interest it is, and that treats the voices of rural voters with respect and fairness.

Sincerely,



Billie Jo Jannen, Campo Lake Morena CPG