

**From:** [Ernie Cowan](#)  
**To:** [COSD, Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** [External]  
**Date:** Friday, November 26, 2021 9:08:04 AM

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David Bame  
Chair, San Diego County Independent  
Redistricting Commission

**RE: Strong Preference For Redistricting Map Numbers 13A – Harmony Grove**

My name is Ernie Cowan, and I am a long-time resident, Chamber of Commerce Director, and former Mayor of Escondido.

I am writing to urge that the community of Harmony Grove remain in the correct physical relationship with its adjacent urban land uses as part of your redistricting effort. Harmony Grove is less than two miles from SANDAG-defined Regional Job Centers and Regional Mobility Hubs in Escondido, as represented in Redistricting Map Number 13A. The Harmony Grove area shares a boundary line with the City of Escondido and many of our friends there consider Escondido to be their social, cultural, and economic hub.

The 100% occupancy of the 742-home Harmony Grove Village (HGV) community—the literal CENTER of Harmony Grove—only further solidifies this condition. HGV is an official “Village” in the county’s General Plan, and as such is intended to accept the highest populations, densities and mix of land uses.

Further, Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove could not be more different places, as this public services comparison shows:

Harmony Grove schools are in Escondido Union School District  
Harmony Grove Water Service is provided by Rincon Del Diablo in Escondido  
Harmony Grove Fire Station is in Harmony Grove  
Primary ingress-egress is via Interstate 15

Elfin Forest schools are in Rancho Santa Fe and San Dieguito districts  
Elfin Forest Water comes from Olivenhain Water District  
Elfin Forest Fire Station is in by Elfin Forest  
Primary ingress-egress is via Interstate 5

Map 13A demonstrates that Elfin Forest will orient toward “the coast,” which, given the above information and its five-mile westerly separation from Harmony Grove, could be supported. Harmony Grove clearly orients its activity “Inland” (easterly) and is a supporting population hub to the SR-78 and I-15 Corridors. Just ask any resident of Harmony Grove where they are from, and the answer you get will be, “Escondido.”

I strongly urge you to keep Harmony Grove as shown in your Map 13A and NOT allow it to be INCORRECTLY associated with Elfin Forest or any other “coastal” community.

Thank you.

Ernie Cowan

