

**From:** [AEMAdmin@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:AEMAdmin@sdcountry.ca.gov)  
**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  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 2:24:22 PM

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Values:

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Marlene

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Best

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[REDACTED]

Phone :  
[REDACTED]

eComment :

November 23, 2021

To the San Diego County Independent Redistricting Committee,

The City of Santee appreciates the difficult work the Committee is tasked with. We urge the Committee to continue to honor historical ties of communities of interest in eastern San Diego County as you draft new Supervisorial District boundaries. The Santee City Council recently passed a resolution supporting the strong bonds between our neighboring cities and unincorporated communities that affect the daily lives of our citizens and businesses alike. Your support in keeping our community of interest together in the future will help to ensure regional services, public safety, coordinated economic development and strong historical relationships that can better the lives of people in our region in the foreseeable future.

Santee shares regional services with other overlapping agencies, jurisdictions and projects that have a focus on east county. These are provided through local utilities such as Water Districts that cross corporate boundaries. The Advanced Water Treatment Project sponsored by a JPA traverses the City of Santee and as well as El Cajon, Lakeside and other county areas. These projects are different than for instance, desalinization plants on the coast.

Educational services are provided by Grossmont Union High School District for Lemon Grove, La Mesa, El Cajon and Santee as well as surrounding areas such as Lakeside, Alpine, Rancho San Diego and Jamul. Many east county residents attend college at a Grossmont Cuyamaca College campus, staying near their homes. Partially this is due to fewer transportation options from mass transit to highways. The region together can focus and fight for improvements. Divided, our voice is muted in the debate over future transportation enhancements and our citizens will continue to have fewer choices than in more urban corridors.

The cities of Santee, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and El Cajon participate and fund dispatch and fire training agencies that know and focus on our region. Santee and Lakeside provide ALS ambulance service to CSA 69 for both city and noncity residents. Faith based organizations, service groups and other nonprofits focus their efforts on supporting the needs and causes in this part of San Diego County which are completely different from south, central or north county regions.

Most areas of east county, from Ramona and Poway to Descanso and Pine Valley, are challenged with the impacts of Wildland Urban Interface, cool zones for citizens, and wind impacts creating Public Safety Power Shutoffs. These are larger issues in this community of interest due to climate differences from more coastal communities that

some draft maps have the region paired with. It would be hard to relate these issues to citizens in Hillcrest, Kearney Mesa or Coronado.

Economically speaking the business community is supported by the East County Economic Development Council and the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce and other local Chambers that work well together on joint activities. Services from these agencies focus on the unique workforce and business ownership demographics of east county. This includes the various tribal and ethnic communities that are so different from other areas of San Diego County. Gillespie Field is a job creator for Santee, El Cajon and other cities and unincorporated communities in our region.

Historically the eastern part of the County grew along transportation routes, sources of water and agricultural opportunities. Over time these ties have evolved into a lifestyle, though the influence of tourism, government uses and population growth have increased development. We appreciate the opportunity to maintain these relationships with a County Supervisor who can share this background and give voice to the voters of the region, not have their voice diminished by becoming a small part of a denser more urban/coastal area with different issues, concerns and priorities.

Thank you again for your hard work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene D. Best  
City Manager  
City of Santee

Submit :  
Submit

[City of Santee Published Documents link](#)