

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [COSD, Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Map 13a Harmon Grove  
**Date:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:50:42 PM

---

I am a native San Diegan and a resident of Harmony Grove for the past 25 years. Sadly, we have been in a constant battle to retain the rural community here in Harmony Grove, trying to fend off sprawl development in a very high-risk fire zone with very limited ingress and egress routes available for evacuation in the inevitable event of wildland fires. Just 7 years ago 30 of my neighbors lost their homes in the Cocos Fire, which revealed serious vulnerabilities our community has with fire and evacuation issues. As a retired police officer that has had extensive experience in dealing with public safety issues arising out of wildland fires, I strongly disagree with any so-called paid fire expert that opines that Harmony Grove can safely accept any more suburban-type development without placing hundreds of residents in grave danger when future fire events occur. These kinds of mercenary “experts” are misleading at best, and should bear legal responsibility if their opinions lead to disasters such as we witnessed in Paradise, California just a few years ago.

Additionally, our community has successfully preserved thousands of acres of open space/habitat, which surrounds and infiltrates our light development footprint. This is some of the most sensitive, and now, rare habitat in the United States. It is the last major rural/preserved area west of the I-15 in San Diego County, which is critical to species that only exists in coastal zones, of which our area is considered a part of.

None of the proposed maps, in their current state, support our community in our efforts to maintain a safe and healthy community in which our residents and many recreational visitors can thrive. Our opposition is attempting to bifurcate our communities of common interests (Harmony Grove, Eden Valley, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, and several coastal cities) in order to diminish our opposition to further community degradation via sprawl development. Map 13a comes closest to our goals to remain united in one district, but this map (amended) pushes our region into the new East County District 3, of which we have very little in common. The individuals and organizations that have advocated for this current configuration are sprawl developers or their associates. They are using this process to further their profits and undermine local residents who have invested in their neighborhoods with financial, political, and philanthropic support.

Our communities recognize the need for additional housing, but further sprawl growth is not the answer to our future. Jamming in more suburban housing in an area with topography and habitat that creates dramatic and uncontrollable wildland fires is a recipe for disaster. As such, we have much more in common with our communities to the west of us, west of I-15, where heavy coastal development has awakened residents to the need for careful and thoughtful planning for future development and wildland fire safety issues. Map 13a would be very appropriate if our community of Harmony Grove and our neighboring communities were included in the coastal District 4. District 3 should include communities east of I-15 since their interests and goals are much more closely aligned with communities in far east county.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnard

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]