

From: AEMAdmin@sdcounty.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: Friday, December 3, 2021 11:11:59 AM

You've received a new form based mail from
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/redistricting/IRCEcomment.html>.

Values:

First_Name :
Josue (Josh)

Last_Name :
Franco, PhD

E-mail :
[REDACTED]

Phone :
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eComment :
Dear Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input.

According to Common Cause's "Redistricting for Community Empowerment: A Legal How-To Guide" (<https://www.commoncause.org/california/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2021/05/Local-Redistricting-2021-Legal-Guide-ACLU-and-Common-Cause.pdf>), there are five criteria:

1. Contiguity.
2. Maintaining neighborhoods and communities of interest.
3. Minimizing the division of a city or census designated place (for counties).
4. Following natural and artificial boundaries.
5. Geographical compactness (only where it does not conflict with preceding criteria).

In exercising these criteria, I want to emphasize the latent concepts of togetherness and separateness.

- Togetherness means "the state of being close to another person or other people".
- Separateness means "to cause (two or more people or things) to stop being together, joined, or connected: to make (people or things) separate".

Public comments can be categorized into four categories:

- 1) Low Togetherness-Low Separateness.
- 2) Low Togetherness-High Separateness.
- 3) High Togetherness-Low Separateness.
- 4) High Togetherness-High Separateness.

I recommend the Commission prioritize public comments that are "high togetherness" solely and then "high togetherness AND low-separateness" and de-prioritize public comments that are "high separateness".

"High separateness" comments seek to cleave themselves from communities by "othering" other communities. This reasoning should not prevail because togetherness appears to be the latent concept of five criteria: contiguity, maintaining neighborhoods and communities of interest, minimizing the division of a city or census designated place, following natural and artificial boundaries, and geographical compactness.

In a county with a dynamic, and evolving, population, newer communities will demonstrate a higher sense of togetherness because of their shared common experiences. Recognizing their participation in the Commission's process is important for welcoming and being responsive to their requests for representation.

Sincerely,
Josue (Josh) Franco, PhD

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