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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
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You've received a new form based mail from
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Values:

First Name :
V.O.C.E.S. of Fallbrook

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eComment :

V.O.C.E.S. of Fallbrook is a community-member grassroots organizing group dedicated to bringing Latino working families, and students together to address the needs of Fallbrook residents. Latino community members have organized to support each other in Fallbrook for decades and V.O.C.E.S. was created in 2019 as a means of carrying on the work of so many of those people who came before us.

For past few months, Fallbrook residents from greatly diverse backgrounds have been consistently expressing the profound desire for the greater Fallbrook area (Fallbrook, Bonsall, Rainbow), with a combined population of over 56,000 people, to be included in the North County Supervisorial District 5 along with Escondido, San Marcos, Vista and Oceanside. Map 13 A at this point is the map that best represents the interests of North County, respects the communities of interest and so we stand in support of that map - 13 A, preferably v. 1-6 or v. 5, with respect to District 5. We urge a further working of the boundaries to include to include tribal lands to the east.

Greater Fallbrook has long shared a history with Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos and Escondido and points east since the 1880s. The California Pacific Railroad, built in 1882, coming from San Diego ran north to Oceanside then turned inland to Fallbrook allowing North County to get their agriculture products to market. These North County agriculture communities regularly worked together. Founded in 1914, the Chamber of Commerce of Northern San Diego County included Fallbrook, Vista, Oceanside and Escondido to help these communities cooperate on shared resources. The original packing and shipping companies for all of north county agriculture were housed in Fallbrook and Escondido. The communities of interests shared by these cities and communities are historical, strong, wide-ranging and obvious.

Today many issues still bind the communities of Fallbrook, Escondido, San Marcos, Vista and Oceanside and contribute to these communities identifying together. We share Fire Protection services, hospital services and we have Fallbrook high school students who are involved in internships at Palomar Hospital, we are in the same Palomar Community College district and send our children to Cal State San Marcos. We are in some of the same sports league divisions, and share social activities such as the Escondido World Marketplace/Swap Meet and other family social sites.

Historically, these cities and areas have worked together to address similar issues, such as homelessness, gangs, affordable housing, access to quality healthcare, traffic, transportation, equal treatment and immigration. We in Fallbrook depend on the cities of Escondido, San Marcos, Vista and Oceanside to provide many of those resources.

Even with this strong Latino presence for generations, Fallbrook Latinos, which is about 49% of the population, had been unable to elect preferred representatives in local jurisdictions because of the continued practice of at-large elections. In 2018 and into 2019, Fallbrook residents worked diligently against established recognized leadership to implement the California Voting Rights Act requirements and change the practice of at-large elections, which effectively nullified Latino voters, to by-districts elections, which allowed the Latino neighborhoods to elect a representative of their choice. As a result, for the first time in history, voters in Fallbrook were able to elect preferred representatives in 4 local jurisdictions and we are now working on the 5th jurisdiction.

This is what all of North County Latinos have faced in the effort to gain representation at the County level as well. By taking Escondido out of the North County Supervisorial district, the former supervisors effectively diluted and silenced the Latino voters in that city and reduced the ability of the other communities of Fallbrook, San Marcos, Vista and Oceanside to influence county-wide elections. And unfortunately there are people today who would like to continue that practice by ignoring those communities of interest and keeping Escondido out of North County.

Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido, and Fallbrook have similar demographics, including at least 35% Latino, with Fallbrook, Vista and Escondido at or close to 50%. We understand that we don't have a Latino majority in North County (Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, Fallbrook, Valley Center and eastward) but with our diversity, we have the ability to form alliances with other communities of color, LGBTQ and other like-minded groups in north county and have an influence over County elections.

The County Board of Supervisors is the only overall form of government we in Fallbrook and other unincorporated communities have. The majority of people in San Diego County have their elected city officials they can rely on for human services and infrastructure. We only have one county representative and we have to rely on that person's ability to speak for us in such a way that our concerns are properly and effectively presented so our needs are met. Our Latino voters in the greater Fallbrook area must be joined with Escondido, San Marcos, Vista and Oceanside to have a voice and have some influence. And tribal lands to the east must also be joined in District 5.

We have had members attend the IRC meetings and are greatly concerned about commissioners making comments such as things have "worked just fine" with Escondido not being part of District 5 or that if people don't speak up it means "they are happy with things as they are". These are not comments of an "independent" commissioner. People of color and marginalized voters have not been listened to in the past and if they don't speak up today, it is for that reason - it is not because they are happy with things as they are. And if things have worked just fine in the past, then 1.) we would not have had the racially polarized voting we have experienced throughout modern history, 2.) South County would have had a different supervisor elected years ago and 3.) we would have been able to elect a supervisor who better represents North County as well. We implore you all to step back and remember what the federal and state Voting Rights Acts are all about - ensuring that protected class voters' ability to elect a preferred candidate is not impaired.

Other groups are purporting to speak for Latinos and other BIPOC in North County, stating they know what is best for us but it is obvious that they do not. We are speaking for ourselves and we ask you to please listen to our voices. WE SUPPORT MAP 13A.

We have often heard the phrase that you all "will not be able to make everyone happy" at the last few meetings. As a protected class, we are not requesting to be made happy - our request is to be heard, to be recognized, to be given full and proper consideration, and treated fairly under the law. We appreciate that you have an enormously difficult job and as it comes to a close, it is only getting more difficult. But at the same time, what an awesome opportunity to right a decades-old wrong! In 2 weeks your job will be done and ours will just begin and will continue for the next 10 years. We look to you to create the path that will allow us get to a more fair and just county election process by adopting Map 13 A preferably v. 1-6 or v. 5, with respect to District 5 with further working of the boundaries to include geography east to include tribal lands.

Thank you for your attention.
V.O.C.E.S. of Fallbrook Members

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