

From: [mark baker](#)
To: [COSD, Redistricting](#)
Subject: [External] COMMENTS... Agenda Item 8
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Attachments: [Letter to IR Commission \(12-02-2021\).docx](#)

County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission
(Dec. 02, 2021)

I want to thank the Commissioners for their work on this project and the results of the Nov. 19, 2021. **Draft Map 13A v.1-6** reflects that you all listened to the concerns and comments offered up by the citizens of San Diego County.

Thank You.

While Draft Map 13A v.1-6 is almost a finished product, I would strongly recommend the Commission to make one more revision and that is to keep East County communities East County and San Diego City communities San Diego City. In specifics I would encourage the communities of Tierrasanta, Allied Gardens and San Carlos be assigned to the new District 2 and the City of El Cajon be reassigned to the new District 3.

The communities of Tierrasanta, Allied Gardens and San Carlos aligned better as Communities of Interest with the other communities of San Diego City and the City of El Cajon traditionally and today align more as a Community of Interest with other East County communities such as Santee, Rancho San Diego, Mt. Helix, and Lakeside.

I strongly recommend this one slight revision to **Draft Map 13A v.1-6** and I think we will be there with a product that most represents the **Communities of Interest for San Diego County.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Baker

Lakeside resident (17 yrs./San Diego County native)
Current Director of the Lakeside Fire Protection District
Former member of the Lakeside Community Planning Group.
Fire Chief (retired), Lakeside Fire Protection District.

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With almost fifty years of experience in the fire service, fighting fires, rescuing people, and saving lives, I have found that the most direct and easiest route to solving a problem is usually the simplest. **Don't over complicate the process!**

In reviewing the redistricting criteria being utilized by the Commission as outlined in Section 21552 of the California Election Code, one can easily come to the determination that the City of San Diego should be redistricted such that there are two Supervisorial Districts within the boundaries of the City. Then the next Supervisorial District should be defined by the preponderance of the Unincorporated area of the County. The final two Districts should be divided amongst the remaining 17 cities, probably along some logical north/south division.

The conundrum comes when needing to conform to the County Charter also. One of the three division of the Unincorporated Area could include in some form or fashion the isolated area/s of East Otay Mesa, Bonita, Lincoln Acres, or Rancho Santa Fe. The remainder of the Unincorporated Area could be divided into relatively equal halves and combined with bordering cities of **like** Communities of Interest.

As I said earlier, look for the easiest most probable solution first and see if that works. And in this case, I believe the **current** Supervisorial District lines meet the second possibility. I know that there will need to be some minor adjustments to the District lines as a result of population growth, but the **existing division lines** seems to meet or exceed the given criteria. Additionally, outside of comments that the Commission just wants to draw new lines, there does **NOT** appear to be any non-compliance of the existing boundaries with the criteria being utilized other than population equity, which can easily be addressed.

For the residents of the Unincorporated Area, we do NOT have a city council to represent us. The Board of Supervisors are our local representatives! The Commission needs to recognize that and NOT dilute the residents of the **Unincorporated Areas voice** by minimizing that through combining the County areas with **NON**-Communities of Interest. The previous recommendations and draft maps are unacceptable to the residents of the Unincorporated Area of the County.

Back to **NOT over complicating** the redistricting process, it appears that the current divisional lines are in preponderance in compliance with the criteria, **thus please utilize them** as a base map and make the minor readjustments to account for population growth, thus **keeping the historical and traditional Communities of Interest intact**.

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