

OPINION

Our readers write: Issue of Feb. 3



(Courtesy)

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Redistricting process not politically motivated

For the most part, Harvey Levine’s Jan. 27 column provides an informative review of the political implications of the recently completed State and County redistricting processes.

However, his rhetorical question about whether Rancho Bernardo got a “bad deal in redistricting” by being included with Poway in the newly redrawn County of San Diego District 2 and whether this will “correct itself” turns to opinion and unsupported innuendo when he concludes that independent redistricting was no less political than before and resulted in the “usual gerrymandering”.

I served on the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission (COSD IRC). The COSD IRC was in no way politically motivated nor engaged in gerrymandering as Levine seems to imply. Our process followed federal, state, and local law, which disallowed consideration of political parties, incumbents, or candidates in drawing district boundaries.

Districts were created to reasonably balance population, ensure adherence to the Federal Voting Rights Act, and to respect communities of interest, existing neighborhood planning areas, and jurisdictions.

All groups and individuals were heard and their concerns considered. We held 49 public meetings, orchestrated an outreach effort targeting underserved populations, developed and circulated 35 draft maps, listened to and considered hours of public testimony, and received and reviewed over 3,500 written comments. That and the Census data were the inputs used to define the new district boundaries.

Characterizing the COSD IRC as being politically motivated, engaged in gerrymandering or failing to consider community planning areas or the concerns of marginalized communities is simply not true.

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Poway

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