

From: [Cherry Diefenbach](#)
To: [COSD, Redistricting](#)
Subject: [External] Jacumba Community Sponsor Group comments of draft maps 13 and 14 dated 11-19-2021
Date: Friday, November 26, 2021 2:39:24 PM

November 26, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

Today, I am speaking up for the disadvantaged rural community of Jacumba Hot Springs. Our tiny village is located in the southeastern part of San Diego County and we share a border with Mexico and Imperial County. More importantly, we are part of the Mountain Empire Community of Interest (COI). This COI has a commonality of concerns and resources as part of the geographically diverse Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD). This school district provides transportation, nutritional, and education resources to the rural communities of Boulevard, Potrero, Campo, Lake Morena, Pine Valley, Guatay, and Mount Laguna, as well as to the Campo, La Posta, and Manzanita Indian reservations.

Jacumba is already the dumping ground for sexually violent predators (SVPs) and massive green energy facilities which erode the safety of our community and industrialize our natural environment. What limited political voice we currently have will be vastly diminished if our community is placed into a predominantly urban supervisory district. What do the much larger communities of Chula Vista, National City, and Imperial Beach know or care about public safety power shutdowns due to Santa Ana wind events which impact rural residents' ability to keep the lights on in our homes, as recently occurred over the 2021 Thanksgiving weekend. What do they know or care about winter snows that routinely cause the closures of rural schools and businesses? What do they know or care about whole areas of our COI that have limited or no cellular coverage? Urban centers, with their abundant mass transit opportunities and broadband redundancy, are also likely to be unsympathetic about the backcountry's current lack of reliable broadband capability and transportation alternatives, or the costly impact that the proposed vehicle miles travelled (VMT) taxes would have on our rural way of life.

Jacumba residents are strongly opposed to all versions of IRC draft Map 14 because it would place our town and our sister communities of Boulevard, Campo, and Potrero into what is essentially an urban district with Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and National City, which are 70+ plus miles away. Do commissioners really believe tiny rural communities will have effective representation from a geographically-distant county supervisor who will be more attentive to the needs and concerns expressed by the urban voters who elected them? We also do not support draft Map 14 because it would arbitrarily split the Mountain Empire COI, which shares fire protection and school resources into two different supervisory districts.

The unincorporated areas of the county do not have elected mayors or city councils to represent their interests. Instead we rely entirely on our county supervisor to help us solve problems and obtain scarce resources. All the versions of IRC draft Map 13

dated 11/19/2021 would keep the Mountain Empire COI area intact under a single district supervisor in a largely non-urbanized district. **Under the banner of fair voter representation, Jacumba requests that commissioners adopt a version of draft Map 13.**

Sincerely,

Cherry Diefenbach

Chair, JCSG