



CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING AUTHORITY AND
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE EL CAJON
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Council Chamber
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

Joint Special Meeting Agenda NOVEMBER 16, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Bill Wells, Mayor

Gary Kendrick, Mayor Pro Tem

Michelle Metschel, Councilmember

Steve Goble, Councilmember

Phil Ortiz, Councilmember

Graham Mitchell, City Manager

Vince DiMaggio, Assistant City Manager

Morgan Foley, City Attorney

Angela Cortez, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bill Wells

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Angela Cortez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

1. 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts a resolution opposing the visualization maps of San Diego County released on October 13, 2021, and supporting the alternative maps prepared by the Escondido and Lakeside Chambers of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT: The Joint Special Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/ El Cajon Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency held this 16th day of November 2021, is adjourned.



City Council Agenda Report

Agenda Item 1.

DATE: 11/16/2021
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Graham Mitchell, City Manager
SUBJECT: 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts a resolution opposing the visualization maps of San Diego County released on October 13, 2021, and supporting the alternative maps prepared by the Escondido and Lakeside Chambers of Commerce.

BACKGROUND:

During its November 9, 2021 meeting, the City Council discussed concerns with the conceptual maps distributed by the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). Draft district maps for State Assembly, State Senate, and Congress are detrimental to the City of El Cajon.

During the November 9th meeting, alternative maps—prepared by the Escondido and Lakeside Chambers of Commerce—were presented. Based on the discussion, including acceptance of the alternative maps as preferred maps, the City Council directed staff to prepare a resolution opposing current conceptual maps from the CRC and supporting the alternative maps prepared by the two chambers of commerce. Attached to this report is a resolution for City Council consideration.

Staff also recommends that City residents and business operators provide public comment to the CRC by visiting the following website and instructions:

<https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/>

Scroll down and click on **SUBMIT COMMENT**

Enter the following information – Do not include personal information in attachments

Name

Organization (if applicable)

***Type of feedback you are providing:** Input on District, Input on Community of Interest, Feedback on Commission's Visualizations, or General Comment

***What would you like to share with the Commission?**

***What community is your feedback about?**

***Select the counties relevant to your input. (San Diego)**

Click **SUBMIT**

Prepared By: Graham Mitchell, City Manager

Reviewed By: N/A

Approved By: Graham Mitchell, City Manager

Attachments

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ____-21

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THE CITY OF EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING
VISUALIZATION STATE ASSEMBLY, STATE SENATE, AND
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS PROPOSED BY THE
CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AND
ENDORING ALTERNATIVE MAPS FROM ESCONDIDO
AND LAKESIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission (the "CRC") is proposing and eventually adopting district boundaries for state-wide elected office; and

WHEREAS, those state-wide offices include State Assembly, State Senate, and federal Congressional seats; and

WHEREAS, the CRC is conducting various public input sessions and is currently taking public comments on proposed maps which will help them determine the best maps to represent Californians; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2021, the CRC released conceptual or visualization district maps that include all or part of the City of El Cajon, i.e., for Assembly ("VAD_WSDC_1107"), Senate ("VSD_SESDCEC_1107"), and Congressional ("VCD_SESDELC_1107" and "VCD_SMESCPOW_1107", together, the "CRC Visualization Maps") offices; and

WHEREAS, the maps show a clear failure of CRC to understand communities of interest in east San Diego County, the result of which is to split up traditional areas within this important sub-region, thereby failing to ensure the protection of minority rights; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Cajon, at its October 26, 2021, November 9, 2021, and November 16, 2021 meetings has discussed the CRC Visualization maps and districting process; and

WHEREAS, the Escondido Chamber of Commerce and the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce have drafted alternative maps for CRC consideration and those maps have been reviewed by the City Council at its November 16, 2021 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CAJON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of El Cajon opposes each of the CRC Visualization Maps on the basis that each of the maps violates both the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act, by (a) breaking up historically connected communities, which share a common interest as rural communities; (b) separating residents in east San Diego County who have relocated in the City of El Cajon as well as surrounding communities as refugees from countries in the Middle East (e.g., from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, etc.); (c) ignoring the reality that east San Diego County is served by one public high school district, two public water districts, a single 911 fire and emergency dispatch organization, one hospital district, and other connecting factors that make sense for east San Diego County to have unified voices in Sacramento and Washington D.C., by being connected through the same assembly, state, and congressional districts; and (d) failing to meet the legal requirements for compaction in order to ensure the protection of minority rights in east San Diego County and the City of El Cajon.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of El Cajon hereby endorses the draft maps prepared by the Escondido Chamber of Commerce and the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce because they consider those communities of interest in east San Diego County described in Section 1, above, achieve proper compaction with the avoidance of gerrymandering, and are in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and the California Voting Rights Act, and better ensure the protection of minority rights in state and federal elections.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of El Cajon hereby encourages all residents of the City of El Cajon and the residents of east San Diego County to provide public comments to the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission expressing similar concerns as outlined above in this resolution.