Preserving the Character of Our Community

November 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Proposed State and Federal Redistricting

To the members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

The Grossmont-Mt. Helix Improvement Association (GMIA) would like to express our thoughts about the proposed redistricting of our state and federal legislative districts. GMIA is an 83-year-old community advocacy organization that represents more than 7,000 households and has over 1,100 member households in unincorporated Eastern San Diego County. Our community, representing a population of 20,000 people, is a primarily semi-rural area with parcels averaging half an acre or more.

GMIA has worked with county and regional governmental entities to help resolve issues that impact our community. We share common social and economic interests with other communities and cities in our area. They include:

- · City of El Cajon
- · City of Lemon Grove
- · City of La Mesa
- · Casa de Oro (Unincorporated East County)
- Rancho San Diego (Unincorporated East County)
- Spring Valley (Unincorporated East County)
- Jamul (Unincorporated East County)
- · Crest (Unincorporated East County)
- Alpine (Unincorporated East County)

Our governmental services are already closely tied with these communities. The Grossmont-Mt. Helix area shares fire services under the San Miguel Fire District with Crest, La Presa, Rancho San Diego and Spring Valley. Our water service is provided by the Helix Water District, which also serves the city of La Mesa, the city of Lemon Grove, the city of El Cajon and other unincorporated East County areas.

We share the Cajon Valley Unified School District and the Grossmont Union High School District school with our neighboring communities. The Grossmont-Mt. Helix area is included in rustee Area 2 of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, along with La Mesa and Rancho San Diego.

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We are also part of the Grossmont Healthcare District, which covers all of East County. Law enforcement in our area is provided by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department with a station located in Rancho San Diego, which serves our area along with Casa de Oro, Jamul, Rancho San Diego, and Spring Valley.

The boundaries for the state and federal districts in our area should recognize that we are a community of interest closely aligned with the cities and communities in our area. We do not want to see our voice diluted by being included in a district with other communities that do not share our concerns.

We want to thank the commissioners for taking on the difficult task of redrawing district lines, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Respectfully,

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