



November 17, 2021

**Subject: SLO County 2030 Redistricting Map**

Dear Chair Compton and SLO County Board of Supervisors,

As the largest business organization in San Luis Obispo County, representing nearly 1,300 members that employ approximately 35,000 individuals throughout our County, the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce respectfully submits our support for the proposed SLO County 2030 redistricting map.

Through months of work, members of a dedicated taskforce, our Legislative Action Committee, and our Board of Directors brought their experiences as business leaders who live in different districts, work in different industries, and have a wide range of political perspectives to the table to craft the proposed **SLO County 2030 map**. This map meets the legal requirements and takes into account the challenges and opportunities faced by each of the quique, vibrant communities throughout our County. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the thought process behind the choices made in drawing the map.

As with the stated goal of redistricting, we wanted to ensure that our map would keep communities of interests together. There are four specific communities of interest that we prioritized in the SLO County 2030 map. The first and most significant of the examples is the Cal Poly community - both the off campus students and other neighbors who live near the campus, and those who live on campus itself. This community of interest has had 5th District Supervisor as its representative for the past decade and so we adjusted the Western line of District 5 across Santa Rosa/Hwy 1, to include the area that includes a significant amount of student housing, to ensure that the community of interest is not bifurcated.

Additionally, the communities of Santa Margarita, Garden Farms, Creston and Shandon share similar interests as small, rural, independent communities and were able to bring Shandon into District 5 to keep these communities together in one district.

The North Coast communities from ragged point to Los Osos share common industries, assets and face similar challenges and should be kept together in District 2.

Finally, Oceano should be included with the communities to the South and East of it to ensure that their agricultural interests and roots are represented by the same Supervisor in District 4.

Agriculture, as a major industry spread throughout the entire county and a significant part of our County's culture and history, requires that every supervisorial district to have a significant operational agriculture in its boundaries. To achieve this, we pulled the second district border East along the Highway 46 and 41 arteries to ensure that we grew the agricultural influence in the Second District while respecting the geography and infrastructure that allows all parts of the district to be easily accessed.

Similarly, we strove to ensure that each district contained a mix of more urban, incorporated cities and unincorporated, less densely populated areas as experiences of each type of resident are important to keep in mind for a variety of decisions that Supervisors are entrusted with.

This helped drive our approach to the City of SLO. After considering many ways to divy up the County's most populous city, we chose to look at the commercial, residential and Cal Poly communities of interest and are proposing that the Cal Poly Community of Interests as mentioned before be represented by District 5, the business/downtown/industrial interests in the south of the city be represented by District 3, and the almost entirely residential portion Northwest of the 101 in District 2.

The same approach - prioritizing communities of interest over municipal boundaries as directed by law - drove our consideration of the City of Atascadero. We drew dividing lines that split Atascadero into two communities of interest, the ranchettes and larger residential lots in the West going into District 2, while the downtown and more commercial areas remain in District 5.

Finally, we considered two of the most significant opportunities and challenges facing our County over the next decade: the planned closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and changes to the type of uses allowed at the Oceano Dunes. Each of these changes deserves to be a top priority of the supervisor representing the area so it is essential that they remain in separate districts that have historically represented the areas.

Thank you for considering the business community's perspectives in this essential and nuanced decision.

Sincerely,

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