

Grace Chuchla

From: web.noreply
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:19 AM
To: Grace Chuchla
Subject: [Contact Information] Redistricting Maps

Kathy Goss (not verified) [REDACTED] sent a message using the contact form at <https://www.inyocounty.us/contact-information>.

The sender's name
Kathy Goss

[REDACTED]
Subject
Redistricting Maps
Comment or Question

I am writing to comment on the alternative proposals for redistricting in Inyo County.

I am not in a position to comment on the mapping of districts in the northern part of the County (Districts 1, 2, and 3), but I don't see any reason to include Independence in District 5. If I am reading the map data correctly, the adjustments in district boundaries would result in negligible changes in the populations of each district. However, adding Independence to District 5 would have the undesirable effect of diluting the voice of residents of the South County and the Tribal members residing here, leaving only one Supervisor to represent the diverse interests of this large area.

Independence and Lone Pine both have significant Tribal populations. As we have witnessed with the current Conglomerate Mesa issue, the Tribal communities of the southern part of the County have been very effective in mobilizing opposition to the proposed expansion of exploratory drilling in this environmentally sensitive area that has profound cultural, environmental, and historical significance. They deserve representation by two strong voices on the Board of Supervisors that are attuned to the needs of their respective communities.

Even though the current District 5 is sparsely populated, it is an important generator of revenues and employment, since it includes Death Valley National Park, the Coso Geothermal Plant, the never-ending dust mitigation project on Owens Lake, and the constant stream of tourists and hikers attracted by Mount Whitney, the Alabama Hills, and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Independence, in the current District 4, is at least nominally the County Seat. This community has special interests connected with the administrative infrastructure for the County, and the needs of the workers who live in or commute to Independence every day to carry out the business of the County.

Because of the concentration of population in the Bishop area, it is already heavily represented on the Board of Supervisors, with three of the five seats. But population is not the only thing that needs representation in this County. The vast reaches desert and mountain terrain in the southern part of the County also deserve representation, especially since it is this environment, threatened by over-exploitation and climate change, that is a principal resource for the County and the entire State of California.

Please leave Districts 4 and 5 as they are currently drawn. I leave it to the residents of the North County to hash out the boundaries of their supervisorial districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Goss
Darwin, CA

Contact ID
contact-5686