

From: [Teri](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Agriculture Representation on Commission
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 9:26:12 AM
Attachments: [11-23-2020 Redistricting Commission Letter.doc](#)
Importance: High

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Good Morning Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter from the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau in reference to having agricultural representation throughout the independent redistricting process and the person who we feel is best to represent our industry.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

My Best,

Teri Bontrager

Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
805/688-7479 – Office
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Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

November 23, 2020

Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to start this letter by congratulating you as well as those remaining applicants, who have qualified for the Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission. This is an extremely important process for the future of our County, and if executed in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth in Measure G, will ensure all residents, industries and communities throughout our region have the proper representation at the County level.

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau provides a voice for more than 500 members countywide and works with local elected officials, County departments and community leaders to develop policies and practices that benefit the agriculture industry as well as the region.

We are the leader for the largest industry in the County, an industry that employs nearly 40,000 essential workers. Our local farmers and ranchers not only provide food for the members of our community, but also residents all over the Country and throughout the world.

For this reason, we believe farmers and ranchers should have representation throughout the independent redistricting process, and there is only one applicant in the remaining pool, who has the ability to do this. That applicant is Jennifer Hardin.

Jennifer's family was one of the first to start farming the Central Coast, and her knowledge of the region and perspective will be essential to making sure an industry that spans more than a century has a representative in this integral process.

We are fully aware that there have been concerns about the current makeup of the commission, and we share those sentiments. Jennifer is a Latina, she is a farmer and her knowledge of the County is second to none. She embodies the type of commissioner in which this independent process calls for.

With this being said, the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, our members and our industry urge you to select Jennifer Hardin as a member for this commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teri Bontrager
Executive Director

From: [Jeff Havlik](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: I.V. must be separated from Santa Ynez
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 2:56:50 PM

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Tying Isla Vista to Santa Ynez is a gross example of gerrymandering. It makes much more sense for Isla Vista to be part of the second district.

From: [Julie Biggs](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: National Demographics Corporation -- Redistricting
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 6:05:17 PM
Attachments: [NDC 2020.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Attached please find a letter of recommendation for National Demographics Corporation. This should be directed to the redistricting committee Chair Glenn Morris, please.

Thank you.



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November 28, 2020

Interim Chair Glenn Morris
Members of the Redistricting Committee
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Steet, Suite 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: National Demographics Corporation

Chair Morris and Members of the Redistricting Committee:

I am pleased to strongly recommend the services of National Demographics, Inc. (NDC) to the County of Santa Barbara to assist in the 2020 redistricting of County electoral districts. I was privileged to serve as incorporation counsel and later as City Attorney for the City of Goleta from 2000 to 2008 when it was formed and organized its electoral districts. During that time, the City retained the services of NDC to prepare a proposal to present to the electorate to create electoral districts within the City to replace the original at-large system adopted upon incorporation. I worked directly with Mr. Douglas Johnson of NDC and the process moved forward in a smooth and professional manner.

Since that time, it has been my pleasure to work extensively with Mr. Johnson and National Demographics on several other districting and re-districting projects. During my tenure as a partner and Chair of the Public Law Department at Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP, I served as either City Attorney or special counsel for several public entities throughout the State of California. Among the public agencies I represented were the Cities of Yucca Valley and Banning, the Jurupa Community Services District, as well as the organizers of an incorporation attempt for Carmel Valley. Each of those entities worked with NDC as they dealt with the issue of redistricting or the establishment of electoral districts. In addition, I worked with a citizens group that was concerned with electoral district formation in the City of Redlands which had also retained NDC for assistance on a ballot issue relating to a similar districting project.

Redistricting and/or a shift from at-large election structures to election by or from districts is always challenging, economically and politically. Often there is substantial community resistance and concern. Despite those issues, in every case where I was privileged to assist NDC in redistricting or establishment of a new electoral process, NDC has provided the

expertise necessary to process such changes fairly and with sensitivity to community needs and the clients were extremely pleased with the process and standards followed by NDC.

Given the quality of service delivered, it is not surprising that NDC is relied on statewide for its expertise in assisting local governments in establishing a sound demographic basis for redistricting existing electoral systems or establishing new systems.

In the course of redistricting, it is often the case that specialized services may be needed including additional demographic information, potential district maps prepared and presented to the Council in public meetings and citizens meetings held to encourage public participation in proposing district boundaries and options. When such needs arise and are identified, NDC is careful to work within the financial and political constraints of the entity it serves and, in every case, NDC responds to and abides by the limitations imposed by the public entities it serves.

Wherever I have had the pleasure of working with NDC, the process was professional and the product excellent. From my experience with NDC, I can say with confidence that the County of Santa Barbara will be well served by retaining NDC in its redistricting efforts.

Yours truly,



Julie Hayward Biggs, Esq.

From: [Kendall James](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Selection of Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:02:23 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission:

My name is Kendall James, I am a resident of Santa Barbara County. As you begin the interview process of forming a complete commission, I'm writing to emphasize the importance of the commission to reflect the **demographic, geographic, and political diversity** of Santa Barbara County. Women of color must be represented, our Hispanic/Latino, Black, Native, and Asian population must be represented.

I understand and heard the commission bring attention to the fact that the candidate pool is overwhelmingly white, male, and 60+, so it may be more difficult to choose a commission that is representative of our diverse communities, regardless, this should not inhibit the formation of a diverse commission that is representative of the County. I urge you to be mindful about why this is the case and think about what systems are set up that discourage people of different ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, and ages from feeling like they have a role in decision making for their community. There are many candidates who have been included on your slates, such as Jannet Rios, James Hudley, Lata Murti, and Amanda Ochoa, along with others, who are representative of the County's diversity that are not yet represented on the commission.

I'd also like to bring attention to Cheryl Trosky's concerning letters submitted to the SB Independent regarding disapproval of COVID safety measures and the "oppressive lockdown." It's hard to imagine someone who is resistant to making the sacrifice to stay home during a pandemic because there is "no joy in the experience [of grocery shopping]" would work hard to ensure the people who are living in our County, especially our underrepresented community members, are fairly represented and made a priority in these redistricting efforts.

Inclusivity matters. Representation matters. We need a commission that prioritizes this.

Thank you for your time,
Kendall James

From: [Pam Gates](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:25:52 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello – I have been following the news about redistricting in Santa Barbara. I have been very disappointed so far in the apparent lack of policy and planning that would guarantee that the final committee members selected truly represent the demographic make-up of our county. I will continue to closely watch this process and strongly encourage the current 5 members to interview and select additional members to form an inclusive committee made up of qualified persons who will fairly represent the actual diversity of our county. Thank you.

Pam Gates
Santa Maria resident

From: v.conner@strategicvitalityllc.com
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Opinion piece for SBCRD
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 4:38:40 PM
Attachments: [SBCRD OPED EconAlliance .pdf](#)

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached opinion from EconAlliance for consideration prior to your meeting. Thank you!

Victoria Conner, Initiatives Director
EconAlliance

Victoria Conner, Principal
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From: Joe Halsell, President, EconAlliance Board of Directors
Word Count: 549

The independent redistricting commission of Santa Barbara County is the first of its kind for California counties. San Diego County is the only other County with an independent commission; however, their team consists only of five members and two alternates, as opposed to our county's eleven members. More members allow for more opportunity for the diverse communities, industries and voices of all residents to be heard and represented.

According to Measure G, the ordinance approved by voters in 2018 and providing the guidelines for this independent redistricting process: members of this commission shall, as closely as possible, reflect the ethnic, gender, age, and geographic diversity of Santa Barbara County. Moreover, Measure G is written in a manner that emphasizes political party preference as a secondary consideration for selecting members.

We at Econ Alliance, a nonprofit organization that began as a grass roots effort of a diverse group of North County economic and community leaders interested in increasing family-wage jobs through innovation and support, agree with the language and goal set forth by Measure G.

With all facets of life being politicized in these polarizing times, we believe using the given criteria other than political party affiliation will create the most cohesive and independent body possible—resulting in an independent and diverse commission where geographic diversity, life and work experience and knowledge of the region take precedence over partisan ideals and motives. This is the goal of Measure G.

Of the current five members chosen by random drawing on October 13, four of them are male, all of them are white, and two of them are educators. It goes without saying that there should be more than a 1:4 ratio of women to men. Also, Santa Barbara County is 43.8 percent white, 46 percent Hispanic, 6 percent Asian, and 2.4 percent African American. We would like to see a more accurate ethnic representation of our County on the commission.

Of the remaining 37 members from the top 45 most qualified applicants, many of them are associated in some way with education. The residents of Santa Barbara County need commissioners to represent a wide array of demographics, professions, industries, and geographic areas of the county. No commissioners who were chosen on October 13 are involved in agriculture, a vital and extensive industry in Santa Barbara County. The voices of farmers and ranchers must be heard on this commission. We also need representatives from a diverse range of professions and regions, who have extensive experience in various communities and a resume that exemplifies their commitment to the overall success of our County.

If these representatives are selected, we can ensure problems with the last redistricting process and the current makeup of county lines are corrected for the greater good. For example, District 3 is geographically inflated to include areas from Guadalupe to Isla Vista. The city of Guadalupe has been disenfranchised for the past ten years and drowned out by the areas with more political influence. Guadalupe is

unique from the southern parts of the district and possesses considerably different needs.

To create the most diverse, cohesive commission possible, residents should be chosen from all areas of the county, all backgrounds, and all industries, and political affiliation should play only a secondary role in determining the additional members of this independent commission.