

Subject: Written input for redistricting commission

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 4:56 PM

From: Ralph Achenbach [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Written input for redistricting commission

Dear Commissioners,

I had the pleasure of attending your public hearing in San Diego on May 14. At the hearing, I was elated to hear several speakers provide information about the communities of refugees residing in San Diego. However, I also couldn't help but notice that some of the information was in part vague or not entirely accurate. With this, I would just like to provide some additional background information that will hopefully serve to clarify the information you received at the hearing:

The total refugee population in San Diego is estimated to be 150,000. Refugees are forced to flee their homes abroad due to war, violence or persecution and are resettled in the US through a federal refugee resettlement program. San Diego has been receiving refugees since 1975, and currently more refugees are resettled here than in any other county or area of similar size in the US (an annual average of 3,915 over the last two years, and a total of 23,715 in the years from 1995 to 2010). San Diego's refugee population is diverse, comprising individuals and families from more than 30 different countries; all refugees, however, face similar circumstances upon resettlement and consequently share many challenges in transportation, education, health care and job opportunities, as well as accessing other mainstream services. Most refugees are also resettled in close proximity. In San Diego, refugees tend to be concentrated in largely in a few areas: South of Adams Avenue and North of University Avenue from Park Blvd in the West to I-15 in the East, then continuing from I-15 South of El Cajon Blvd and North of Hwy 94 to Hwy 125 in the East; the Paradise Hills neighborhood; the city of El Cajon. The attached maps (in JPEG format) provide an overview of these areas (SDRefugeeMapSouth) and a more detailed analysis for the two largest refugee groups, for both of whom San Diego constitutes the second largest community in the US (SDRefugeeMapDetailCentralandEast) as well as an overview of the areas in North San Diego County where refugees live (SDRefugeeMapNorth).

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Ralph

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Ralph Achenbach, Chairperson
San Diego Refugee Forum

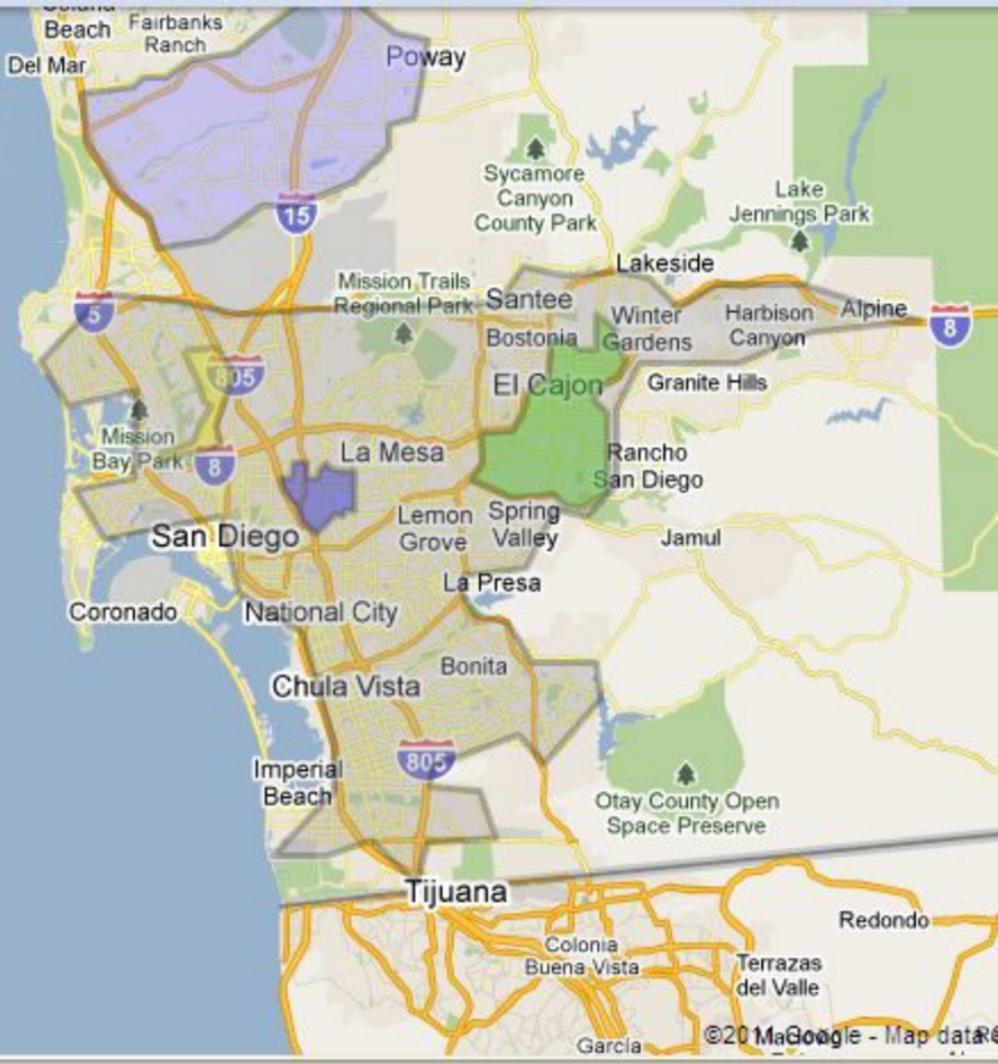


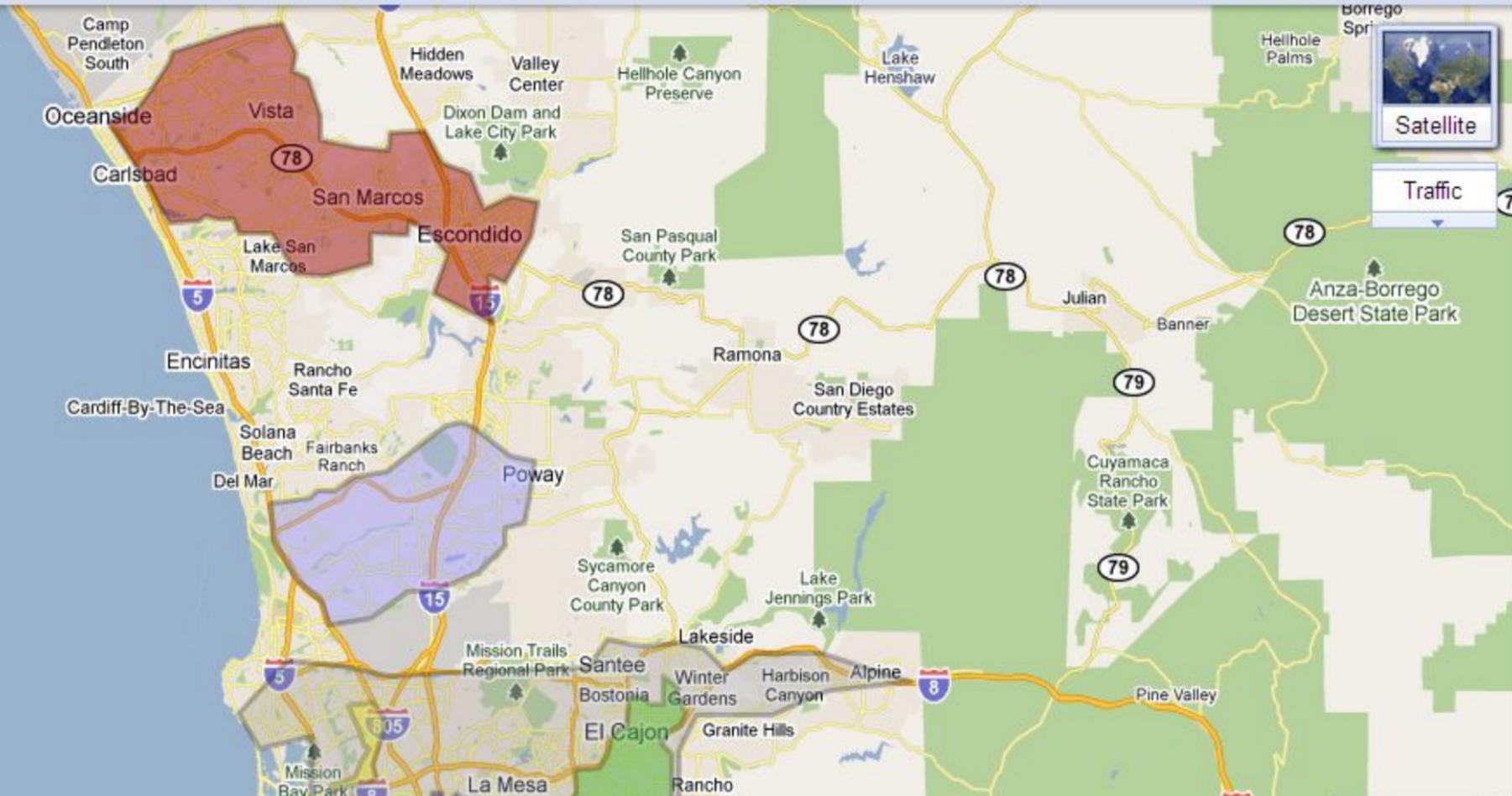
www.SDRefugeeForum.org <<http://www.SDRefugeeForum.org>>

[www.Facebook.com/SDRefugeeForum](http://facebook.com/SDRefugeeForum) <<http://facebook.com/SDRefugeeForum.org>>

"Serving all those who seek refuge in San Diego"

**JOIN US FOR WORLD REFUGEE DAY ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19
AT THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS IN BALBOA PARK:
www.RefugeeDayEvent.org** <<http://www.RefugeeDayEvent.org>>





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SDRF Redistricting - Refugee Communities

General contours of the areas within which SD's refugee communities reside

0 views - Public

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