

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Communities of Interest.docx

Date: 2020-12-08
First Name: Diana
Last Name: Sharp
Title: NA
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: New_Braunfels
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Please find attached my written testimony for the public input hearings on redistricting. Thank you.

Diana Sharp

[REDACTED]

I live in New Braunfels, Texas which is part of the beautiful Texas Hill Country in Comal County. In addition to the beautiful hills and wildlife that populate this area, the Edwards Aquifer plays an integral part in the environment and geology of the region. Since the Edwards Aquifer is an artesian aquifer that holds water under positive pressure and this pressure is relieved through outlets such as the numerous clear springs in the area, rare species exist in and near these springs that cannot be found elsewhere (www.texashillcountry.com/edwards-aquifer-information/amp/). Preserving the Aquifer not only protects the flora and fauna but helps preserve drinking water for millions.

New Braunfels is the seat of Comal County, covers 44.9 square miles and has an estimated population of 90,209 (2019), but is experiencing rapid growth and is the third fastest-growing city in the United States. The town was founded in 1845 by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels Germany. Many Germans came and settled in this area but there are also many Hispanic residents in the region as well. There are also many residents who moved here to retire, predominantly, from Houston and San Antonio. The city does a good job of trying to preserve its heritage as this does increase the tourism appeal. Close to New Braunfels are the towns of Canyon Lake, Bulverde and Garden Ridge.

The topics that are of particular importance to this area specifically are: preserving the beauty and ambiance of the environment. Vulcan Quarry has plans to open in the Bulverde area and protracted legal battles are ensuing due to the projected encroachment upon the delicate environmental balance. Another concern for residents of this area is growth. While growth in an area can be a good thing for the area's economy, residents in this area feel that growth should be planned and controlled to preserve the resources that make this area special and unique. Due to rapid growth, infrastructure such as roads and mass transit options would be an area of interest to the residents.

For the aforementioned reasons, New Braunfels and the surrounding Comal County, should be considered a "Community of Interest" and this should be taken in account when drawing electoral districts in an effort to help this community elect representatives whose policy proposals align with their specific interests.

Sincerely,

Diana Sharp

New Braunfels, TX