



CUSD Feedback &lt;feedback@carmelunified.org&gt;

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## Trustee Areas

2 messages

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To: "feedback@carmelunified.org" &lt;feedback@carmelunified.org&gt;

I usually lean toward at-large elections. Let the cream rise to the top. One can't argue this has not served CUSD well, based upon the quality of education our children received. And I have the deepest respect for all CUSD trustees over the past few decades who made that happen. But that doesn't mean I don't think representation for distinct communities could not be improved.

Before Mid Carmel Valley was developed as it is today, the 93924 zip code area, including Cachagua, Jamesburg and Carmel Valley Village was a community clearly set apart by distance from the Greater Carmel Area. Any plan that does not respect that historic community identity is not worth considering. Of the Trustee Area (TA) maps shown on the District website, only Map 5 comes anywhere close to that. It is however flawed in that it divides the Village and places Santa Lucia Preserve in TA 5, instead of where it should be in TA 4. Simply make the 93923-24 zip code line the boundary between TA 4 and TA 5. If TA 5 is in this configuration, I believe Upper Valley residents will be satisfied. This map also recognizes the natural barrier of the Ventana Wilderness between Cachagua and Big Sur. Other TA maps that show Cachagua and Big Sur in the same TA are puzzling, to say the least.

Generally, I believe the methodology required in this process serves to diminish historical community identity. It is trying to put a square peg into a round hole. The "Draw Your Own Trustee Area" feature contains too many built in parameters that only discourage participation. Though one of the main goals of the Voting Rights Act was to minimize "gerrymandering", the maps presented are more like some of the infamous gerrymandered maps throughout our nation's history.

Here is my suggestion based upon geography, historical community identity and common sense:

TA 1: Carmel within city limits plus Hatton Fields and Mission Fields.

TA 2: Unincorporated Carmel Woods, Pebble Beach, High Meadows, North and South Carmel Hills and Flanders Drive Area.

TA 3: Highway 1 at Carmel River Bridge to District Boundary past Big Sur. Includes Carmel Meadows, Carmel Highlands, Carmel Riviera, Mid Coast and Big Sur.

TA 4: All areas east of Highway 1 from Carmel Valley Road to Carmel River Bridge, including Rio Road east and Carmel Valley Road east to the 93923-24 zip code boundary at Farm Center Hill, Includes Eddy Road, Carmel Valley Ranch and Santa Lucia Preserve.

TA 5: Carmel Valley Road from 93923-24 zip code line at Farm Center Hill east to District boundary past Tassajara Road. Laureles Grade north to the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District boundary. Includes all of Jamesburg, Cachagua and Carmel Valley Village.

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Carmel Valley Village