

August 26, 2024

Dr. Lawrence Wilder, Chairperson  
Fresno County Committee on School District Organization  
Fresno County Office of Education  
1111 Van Ness Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Proposal to transfer school district territory out of Sierra Unified School District and into Clovis Unified School District

Dear Chairperson Dr. Lawrence Wilder and Members of Fresno County Committee on School District Organization:

As a Ventana Hills resident, I regret that I am unable to attend the public hearing on September 5th regarding the proposal to transfer school district territory from Sierra Unified School District (SUSD) to Clovis Unified School District (CUSD). However, I would like to submit my input and testimony in writing.

My family and I chose to live in the Ventana Hills community because of its close proximity to the City of Clovis and its unique two-acre lot development. The area's alignment with Clovis's values and its access to urban amenities were significant factors in our decision to settle here.

The Millerton area, which is set to see an increase in urban development, is becoming more integrated with the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area rather than the Fresno County Foothills. Recognizing this shift, County Service Area No. 34 (CSA 34) was established to manage essential urban infrastructure like streetlights, storm drain gutters, and sidewalks. A considerable portion of this area is already within CUSD's jurisdiction.

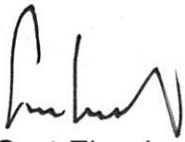
This petition aims to align the remaining area under CUSD's oversight, creating a consistent boundary that matches the established community defined by CSA 34. Additionally, CUSD owns a site within CSA 34 and has plans for a new elementary school on this property. This future school site would be approximately 2 miles from most residences within the reorganized area, a significant improvement compared to the current nearest Sierra Unified School District elementary school, which is at least 9.1 miles away.

Such a reorganization would streamline school boundaries, reducing travel times and distances for students, thereby enhancing their safety and reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMTs)—one of our state's goals in reducing greenhouse gases and accidents on roads. It would also facilitate better access to extracurricular activities for students whose parents commute to the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan

Area, thereby providing them with more opportunities to engage in these activities.

Our community occupies a unique geographical position. We are surrounded by CUSD district boundaries and located at the very bottom edge of SUSD district boundaries. From both a logistical and student success perspective, it only makes sense for our students and families to be part of CUSD, where we truly belong. My address already lists Clovis, and our mail comes from the Clovis post office, unlike the majority of SUSD families who receive mail from Friant, Auberry, Prather, or Tollhouse.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter and my request to approve this transfer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curt Fleming', with a stylized, cursive script.

Curt Fleming