

Dear ICRC member,

As a NW Austin resident, I am deeply concerned about proposed changes made to District 10 after September 28. There are many reasons I believe the September 28 map is best for our area, but please let me mention just one: WUI.

WUI stands for “Wildland Urban Interface” and when I look at the September 28 map, I see that most of District 10 is in the WUI. This is excellent. Why? Because all of us who live in the WUI face significantly increased risk of loss of life and property due to wildfire hazard risks. Urban areas have spot fires, but wildfires claim the lives of more than a quarter *million* people worldwide each year.

So what does this have to do with a District map? Ultimately, the September 28 map has done an excellent job of allowing those of us with significant threat from a natural disaster to work together to have our voices heard towards the goal of safety and prevention.

We are the “Bastrop” of Austin—a beautiful area at high risk due to topography for devastating loss from potential wildland fires. Our topography makes us so much more vulnerable than Tarrytown, Rosedale, or Brykerwoods. Think of a match burning when it is held parallel to the floor, and how long it takes for the fire to spread. Now think of that same match pointed down so that the stick is at an angle. The wood is consumed quite rapidly, as anyone trying to light birthday candles knows! Hillsides are like tipped matches and we who are in District 10 of the September 28 map are at much greater risk from the rapid spread of fire up a slope.

Thus, for the safety of our residents and property, and for mitigating significant financial risk for Austin (e.g., costs of fighting and containing wildfires), I strongly support returning to the September 28th map so that we may put our collective needs and strengths together to make a difference for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Marie Walker