

Waiver of Informed Consent

Title: San Diego Neighborhoods and the Local News Ecosystem: Spatial News Mapping
IRB-26-068

Conducted By:

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Introduction

Hello, you are being asked to participate in a research study about your experiences about your neighborhood and where you get information and news from in that area. This form provides you with information about the study. Please read the information below and ask questions about anything you do not understand before deciding whether or not to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You can stop your participation at any time.

Important Things to Know

Before deciding whether to participate in this study, please review the following key information:

The purpose of this study is to understand your perceptions about your neighborhood. For this study, you will be asked to:

- ❑ fill out a brief online survey about your neighborhood location, your perceptions about your neighborhood, and news and information in your neighborhood.

If you agree to be in this study, you will participate in a survey that will take no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete. There are minimal risks associated with this study that are no greater than that of everyday life. To safeguard your privacy and confidentiality, I am taking two steps:

- (1) I use only the data that you explicitly allow me to use.
- (2) Your information will be confidential

- (3) The records of this study will be stored securely and kept private. Your responses will remain confidential and all data will be stored securely. If you provide your email at the end of the survey, it will be separate from the rest of the information you provide in the survey. All publications will exclude or actively conceal any information that makes it possible to identify you as a subject. This data will only be kept for the duration of three years and will not be shared with other researchers.

What is this study about?

This is a research study about your neighborhood in San Diego and what you think about your neighborhood and your local news experience.

What We Will Ask You to Do?

For this study, you will be asked to fill out an online survey about your San Diego neighborhood and local news and information.

What are the Risks or Discomforts?

There are minimal risks associated with this study that are no greater than that of everyday life. Your information provided is confidential and if you provide your email, it will be separated from the responses you provide in the survey so it doesn't connect you personally to the information.

Are there any Benefits?

Your participation in this study will greatly help the academy and society at large to have a better understanding about San Diego neighborhoods and what is important in your neighborhood in terms of news and information.

Do I have to Participate?

Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You can stop your participation at any time by simply telling me that you wish to stop.

Will it Cost Me Anything to Participate?

There is no cost to participate in this study.

Will I be Paid or Receive any Incentive for Participating?

Those who wish to participate in the online tool/survey will have the opportunity to be placed into a random drawing for a \$50 Amazon Gift Card that will be given out to 10 individuals. One must provide their email at the end of the survey in order to be contacted if they win the drawing. The survey will open in August 2026 and will close in October 2026. Winners will be contacted via email no later than November 2. Only human entries will be accepted. One must be 18 or older to participate. The random drawing will be available for the first 5,000 human entries that complete the online survey. One has a 1 in 500 chance or .2% chance of winning the prize.

Will my Information be Private?

The information you provide for this study will be confidential and not identifiable to you personally. The data collected in aggregate from this study will be published in research articles and general white papers for the news industry.

The data from this study may be used in future research studies that may be shared with other researchers. This consent gives permission for those future studies and sharing of the data.

The email address you provide at the end of the survey is optional and will be separated from your survey information provided.

What if I have Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions about the study please ask now. If you have questions later or want additional information, call me. My name and e-mail address is at the top of this page. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, to offer input, or to share concerns about the research you can contact the SDSU Human Research Protection Program at: irb@sdsu.edu or 619-594-6622.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and have sufficient information to decide about participating in this study.

I consent to participate in the study by filling out the online survey.