August 18, 2021

To the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley is a reproductive health care provider representing 62,000 patients annually, 40,000 supporters, a staff of 150, community partners and our neighbors across the greater San Gabriel Valley including Pasadena, Glendale and Highland Park. We are speaking on behalf of this important issue because we know redistricting determines whether our communities can remain together and how they are represented.

A fair redistricting process is one that draws boundaries ensuring voices are equitably heard. These boundaries help protect under-served communities and determine how much power or influence a community’s collective voice has on those we elect to represent us. These districts determine our neighborhoods, our cities and our identities.

Time and again we have seen historical or structural racism in the process of drawing new jurisdictions. This inevitably ends in disenfranchisement of minority communities and dilutes the power of their voices. The San Gabriel Valley is one of the largest communities of Asian Americans in the entire United States. District lines were intentionally drawn to help preserve and reflect the richness and density of Asian American cultures in this area.

As an organization committed to fighting white supremacy and supporting fair representation in our community, we urge you to minimize divisions of cities, local neighborhoods and communities of interest, and specifically to invest in preserving the cultural representation of current boundaries. We urge this group to avoid partisan politics through gerrymandering and instead establish districts with reasonably equal populations. We urge you to preserve the cultural integrities of our neighborhoods and give racial and ethnic groups a fair shot at representation in their government. These communities are historically marginalized from democratic processes, so we should at least start by cementing a fair shot for all to have collective political power through non-biased maps. The greater San Gabriel Valley has a unique ecosystem of voices that needs extra attention and protection to preserve what makes the region so special to begin with.

We hope you will recognize the I-210 Corridor from Claremont to Altadena as a community that also needs special protection. Fires, wildlife, and transportation define this community in a way nearby communities cannot relate. In order for this community and others like them to be able to address serious issues and keep their collective power, they need to have one voice with one representative. The greater San Gabriel Valley, and specifically this 210 corridor tract, have unique ecosystems of voices that need extra attention and protection to preserve what makes the region so special to begin with.

We support maps created from community input and with district lines that are rooted in multiracial solidarity. We hope the commission will join us in this belief.

Juliana Serrano
VP of Equity & Advocacy
Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley