Dear Commissioners,

My name is Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt, and I am president of the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). I am a resident of the City of Santa Maria and the County of Santa Barbara.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, Officers and members, we are advocating for the cities of Santa Maria, Guadalupe and ideally Lompoc, as Communities of Interest. We believe the Santa Maria Valley, including the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, are important Communities Of Interest in California’s Central Coast, and should be kept together, ideally united in the same districts as the Lompoc Valley.

We are a community of interest because:

- We are an agricultural, working-class, and farmworker community facing disparities in housing, education, and healthcare with unique economic needs.
- We are a community of immigrant families with a much larger share of Latinx residents, immigrants, and Spanish and indigenous language speakers than the surrounding region.
- We are an environmental justice community who has been disproportionately impacted by pollution from oil and gas, agricultural chemicals, and groundwater depletion.

We appreciate your careful and important consideration in this matter.

Yours Truly,

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.