June 24, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260,
Sacramento, CA 95814,

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the city of Cudahy, which resides within the southeast communities in Los Angeles county, I am submitting the following comments for consideration by the Commission.

California's redistricting process is meant to be one that centers fairness—without the influence of special interests, politics, or political connections. It is also meant to draw district lines that connect local communities with similar demographics, lifestyles, resources, and infrastructure. Many times these processes do not result in fairness to working class or immigrant communities, and communities of color, particularly when several barriers exist that can limit local participation from communities like mine.

The Southeast Los Angeles communities are predominantly immigrant and working class with distinct interests and particular needs. Cities such as Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, South Gate, Florence-Firestone, and Walnut Park are home to residents that have been historically underrepresented and under-resourced. They share many struggles including the Exide contamination, pollution from major highways such as the I-710, I-105, and I-5, and face obstacles when it comes to gaining equitable health, home, and education access.

Our Southeast Los Angeles communities are incredibly resilient but they need district lines to be fair, equitable, and to include them together as a unified voice. For these reasons, I urge the Commission to consider Southeast Los Angeles as a community of interest that should be preserved in the redistricting process. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Alcantar
Vice Mayor