REDISTRICTING
Victoria Dela Cruz

(Commissioners - thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Victoria Dela Cruz. I am with the National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns-Inland Empire, one of the partners of the Brown and Black Redistricting Alliance. My ethnic background is Filipino and I immigrated to the US in 1973.

I live in the community where the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Rialto and Bloomington are contiguous to one each other. Freeway 10, Freeway 15 and freeway 210, Haven Ave., Sierra Ave., Baseline Ave., Foothill Ave. and Riverside Ave. are the highways and main streets where my community is located. There is a significant minority population in my community - Vietnamese, Filipinos, Igbo and Hispanic/Latino and many of them are college-educated professionals. We meet each other at our community churches, bring our families to the wide array of dining and entertainment centers, and see others in the schools we bring our children to.

As my community’s minority population continues to grow, one of the big challenges it faces is proportionate representation on the different levels of government. By keeping this community together, leaders from my community’s minority population can come forward and translate their particular community’s needs into public programs.

Although we are a diverse community, we respect each other’s cultural backgrounds and ethnological differences. With the growth in housing and warehouses in the area, we face challenges such as narrow roads and traffic, including big rigs. However, as a community, we were able to come together and address these issues.

Therefore, I would like the Commission to keep our community together.)