Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Naida Castro. Chairperson of the National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns-Inland Empire (NEFFCON-IE), one of the partners of the Brown and Black Redistricting Alliance. I am of Filipino descent and have lived in the United States for more than 45 years.

I live in District 31 which currently includes only part of Upland and Fontana. I would like to see the district line to include the entire Cities of Upland and Fontana. There is a growing number of Asians in north Upland and south Fontana in addition to the Hispanics/Latinos. We actively participate and interact with the different ministries in our parishes and have organized various multicultural events celebrating our diverse cultural histories. We have also been challenged by the rapidly rising cost of homes that add stress to the overall rise in the cost of living in my entire community. We also have observed a gradual increase in the number of homeless individuals on the eastern part of my community. The lack of affordable housing in my community is also making it difficult for young Hispanic/Latino and Asian families to find homes that will make their commuting westward, where their work is located, more manageable and less time-consuming. I believe that including northern part of Upland and southern part of Fontana together would also improve overall real estate by eliminating possible redlining.

However, in spite of these challenges we have learn that when we, as a community come together and organize ourselves, we speak with a larger voice and our local authorities are more inclined to listen to our appeals.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Commission to keep my community together.