

Gabriela Garzón Gupta
Civic Engagement Community Organizer - Asian Law Alliance

Good evening, my name is Gabriela Garzón Gupta and I am with the Asian Law Alliance. I will be addressing the area that contains Assembly District 25, particularly the Berryessa area of San José in the southern part of Santa Clara County. The Asian Law Alliance is a nonprofit based in San Jose that provides legal services in Santa Clara County, with a particular focus on our AAPI and low-income populations. I am speaking today in conjunction with the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

I am here today to talk about the Chinese community in the Berryessa area of North San Jose. Berryessa can be defined through the zip codes 95131, 95132, and part of 95133. Berryessa is especially notable for its high concentration of the AAPI population- over 60% of the population identifies as AAPI. Over half of Berryessa residents work in white collar jobs, and commute using the highways of 680 and 101 to get to tech-related jobs. Berryessa also has its own school district that serves 13 elementary and middle schools.

There is a strong community of Chinese immigrants and US born residents with Chinese heritage. Approximately 14% of the population of 95132 and 20% of 95131 are Chinese immigrants, while surrounding zip codes have percentages that hover at around 2-8 %. With a high concentration of Chinese immigrants, the neighborhood resources and schools reflect this demographic. There are 3 Chinese language schools in the Milpitas and Berryessa area, and Berryessa Union School district also serves a much higher percentage of ESL students who speak either Mandarin or Cantonese than the neighboring Alum Rock School District. There is also a strong religious Chinese community- Berryessa and Milpitas have 7 temples/ churches for the Chinese community specifically. For your reference, I have attached an excel sheet of notable places of worship for the Chinese community across the South Bay.

Please keep the Berryessa community intact, and keep the community with cities like Fremont and Milpitas. The Chinese community in Berryessa has much more in common with its neighbors up north in cities like Fremont and Milpitas than it does with its neighbors to the southeast, like the Alum Rock and other East San Jose neighborhoods. The Chinese communities in Milpitas and Fremont have similarities when it comes to home ownership rates, poverty rates, languages spoken, and types of jobs. Thank you.

Gabriela

In addition to submitting the testimony I shared at the CCRC's public meeting on 8/24, I would also like to share the following input from other community members within the Asian Law Alliance network, providing comments on other areas of North San Jose & Fremont. Please see the following testimony on the Centerville, Mission San Jose, & Warm Springs neighborhoods:

Community Member: Aniket Panda

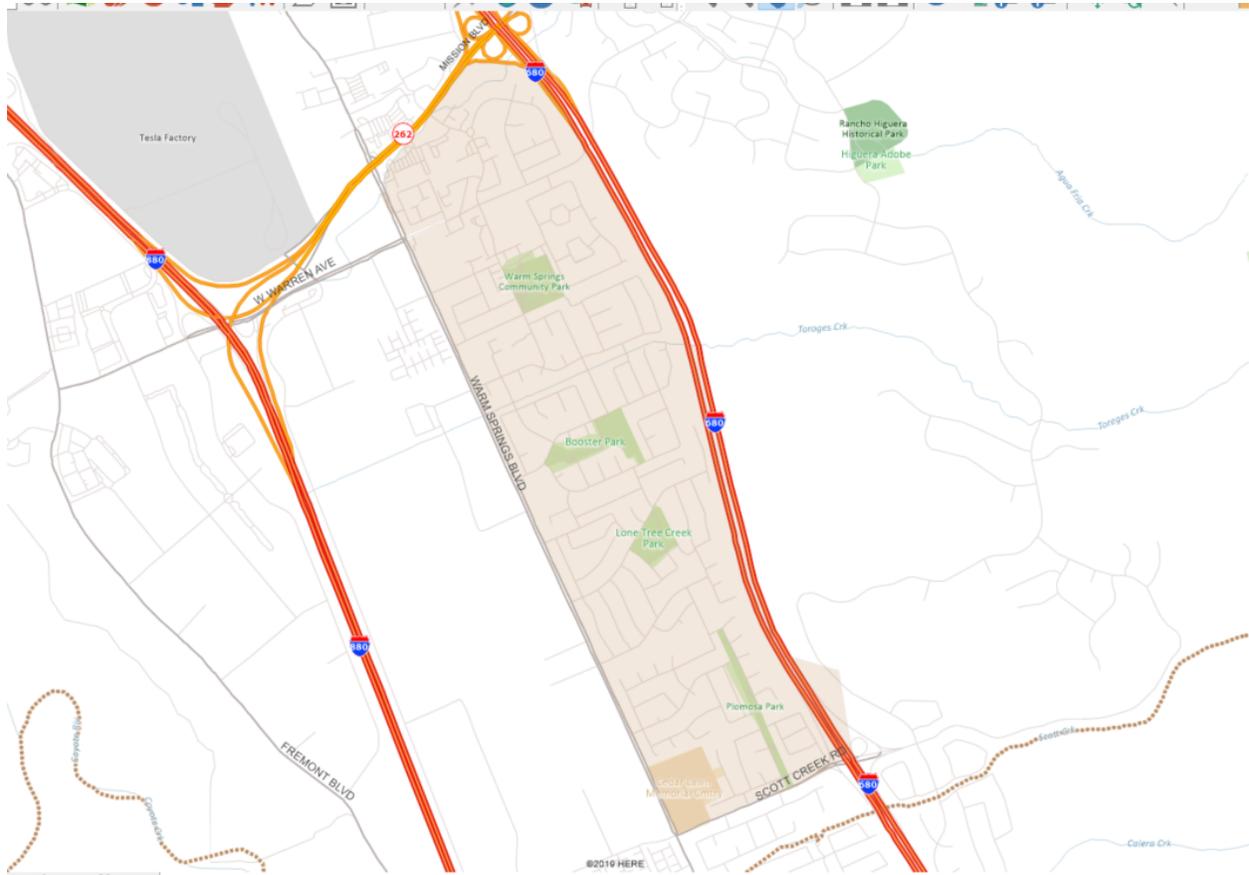
My community is the Centerville community located in Fremont, California. This community is encapsulated within the boundaries of Mowry Ave, Niles Blvd, Isherwood Way, Paseo Padre Pky, Decoto Rd, and the 880 Freeway.

The Centerville community gets its name from Centerville Jr. High School and the Centerville train station. This is a mainly residential area that is great for families. The elementary school (Parkmont) and the high school (Washington) are both great schools. People here are very interested in having good quality schools. They care about having the things that make great suburbs, like clean communities, outdoor spaces, areas for kids to play, etc. I'd say that outdoor spaces are great meeting points for community members. Lake Elizabeth, Quarry Lakes, Alameda Creek are all big points of interest.

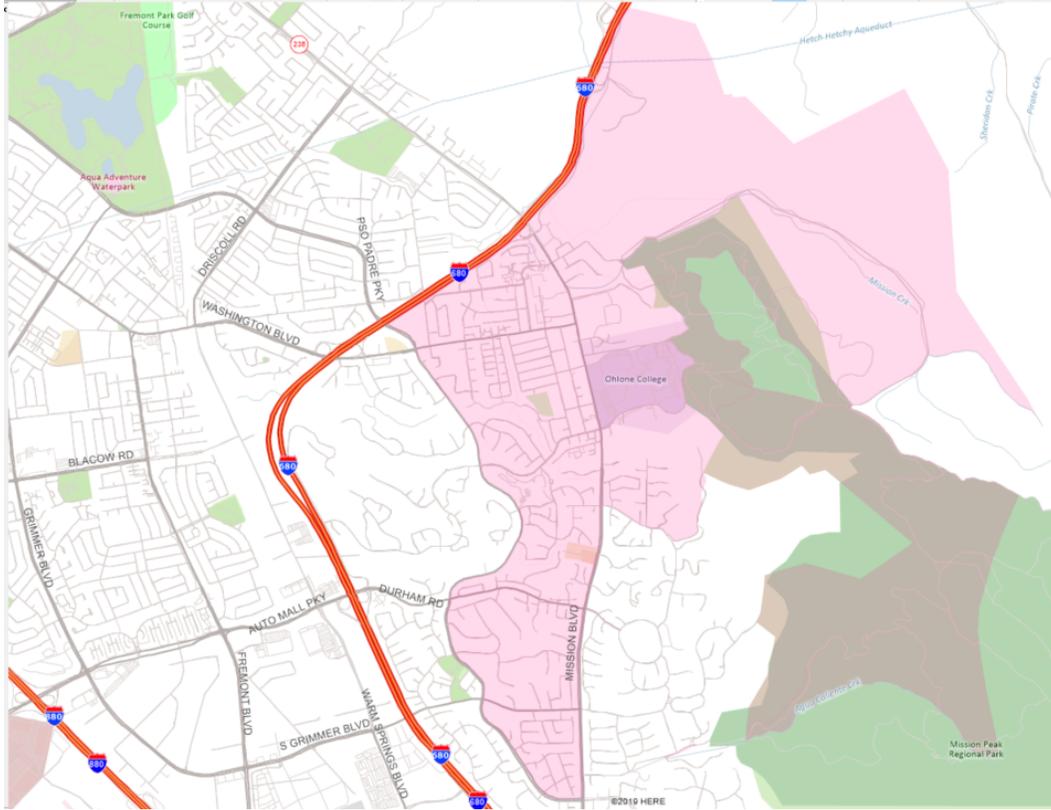
The Centerville community is really similar to other neighborhoods in Fremont, such as Niles or Mission. The city of Fremont has a pretty solid identity as a great suburb for families. Racially, Fremont has a large Asian population but is pretty diverse throughout. Even though neighborhoods like Mission have become predominantly Asian, the Centerville community still has that diversity which is pretty notable. There are many different parts of Fremont which have concentrations of Indian food and grocery shops.

The Mission San Jose & Warm Springs neighborhoods (see maps) share multiple similarities with that of Fremont, both noting sizable Chinese & South Asian populations. The majority of residents in these areas are homeowner and immigrant communities who commute to work in the Silicon Valley (Santa Clara, Sunnyvale). These communities are drawn together by key landmarks such as the Warm Springs BART station and the Mission San Jose. The boundaries for Warm Springs can be described as following North along the 680 hwy to Mission Blvd. The eastern boundary is Warm Springs Blvd and the southern boundary is Scott Creek Rd. The boundaries for Mission SJ start with the Southern boundary of Paseo Padre Parkway, & Mission Blvd. It travels up Pso Padre Parkway to the 680 Hwy and extends back to Mission Blvd. This neighborhood includes the foothills and Ohlone college. We are asking the commission to keep both the Mission SJ & Warm Springs neighborhoods with Fremont, Milpitas & Santa Clara.

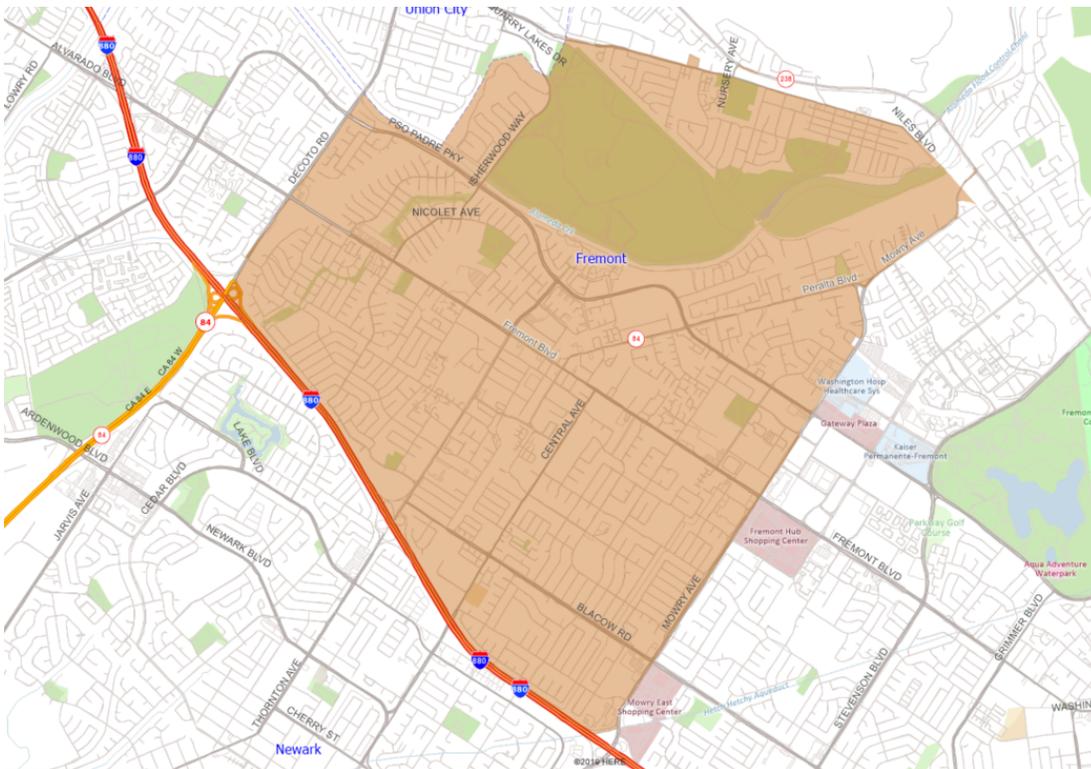
Due to its large size, if the commission does have to draw boundaries through the city of Fremont, we are asking the CCRC to consider drawing the line through Mowry Avenue, keeping the Centerville neighborhood whole with Union City & Newark. While Fremont has many shared characteristics across the entire city, we believe drawing the lines this way will be best for AAPI communities on either side of the line. Neighborhoods like Mission SJ & Warm Springs have strong connections with Berryessa and Milpitas, while the Centerville neighborhood has more in common with Union City & Newark. Thank you so much for your consideration.



Screenshot of boundaries of Warm Springs COI



Screenshot of boundaries of Mission San Jose COI



Screenshot of boundaries of Centerville COI