

Jugraj Shoker
Volunteer - Chinese Progressive Association

Hello, my name is Jugraj Singh, and I am the President of Santa Clara University's Sikh Student Association with the Jakara Movement. I would like to provide input on the Punjabi-Sikh community of interest in Santa Clara County. I am also calling in as a member of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

Our organization works primarily with Punjabi in the Bay Area, and throughout California. We have been active within the community for 20 years, organizing and empowering the Punjabi-Sikh and other marginalized communities, to advance their health, education, and economic, social, and political power.

I was born and raised in Sunnyvale, California. I attended Homestead High school and am now a sophomore at Santa Clara University. I grew up extremely involved with my local community.

My Community primarily lives in San Jose in Berryessa, Evergreen and Silver Creek neighborhoods. An important Landmark is the San Jose Gurdwara. Most of the community in Santa Clara live within District 1, 2 & 3, the neighborhoods surrounding Silicon Valley gurdwara. We are spread out in Sunnyvale & Cupertino.

Punjabi is our ethnic background whereas Sikh is a religious background. Our community has many educated folks working in the corporate field, but we are primarily made up of families who come from blue collared backgrounds.

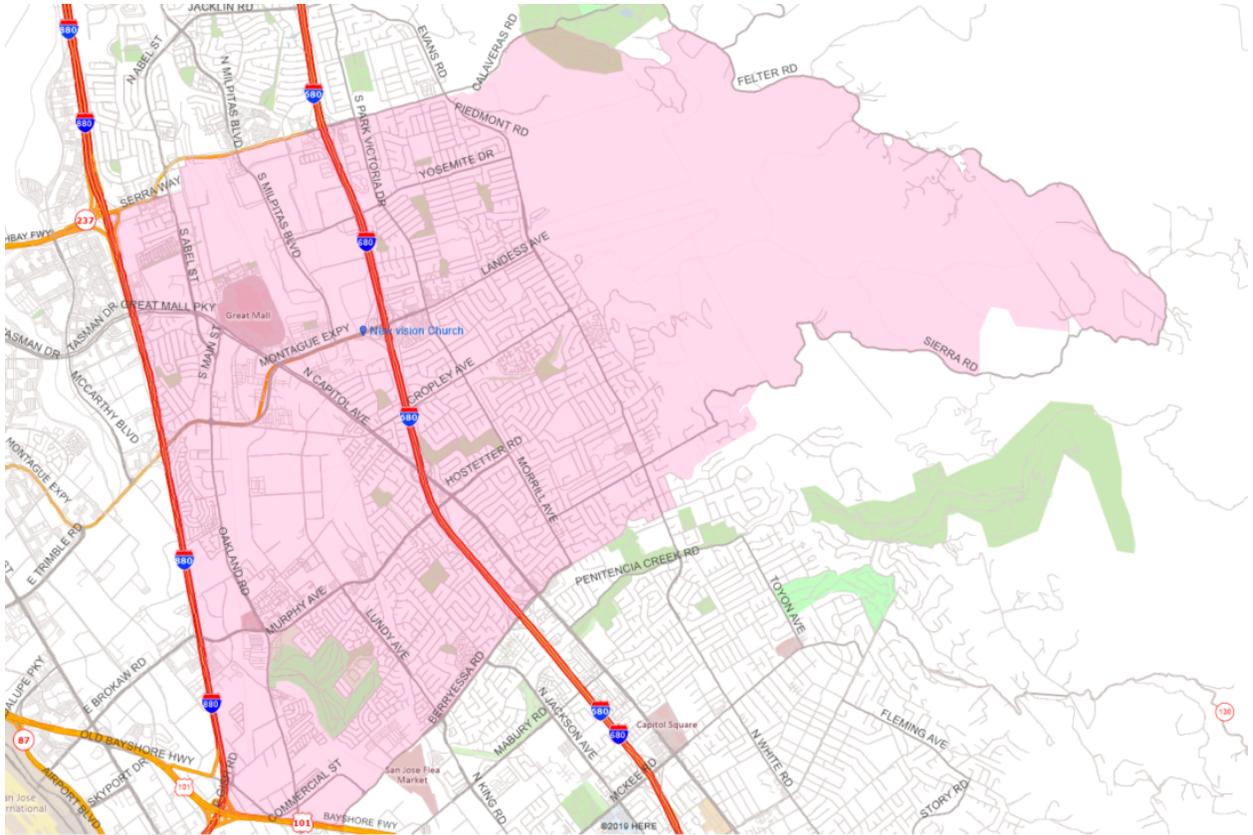
Punjabis have been living in California for over 120 years.

Punjabi-Sikhs are the largest South Asian community with the lowest English proficiency rate in the South Bay, and we need language accessibility in our neighborhoods. We also need senior services, transportation, and housing affordability resources. Many of our elderly feel alienated and are codependent on their children because of a lack of resources & language barriers.

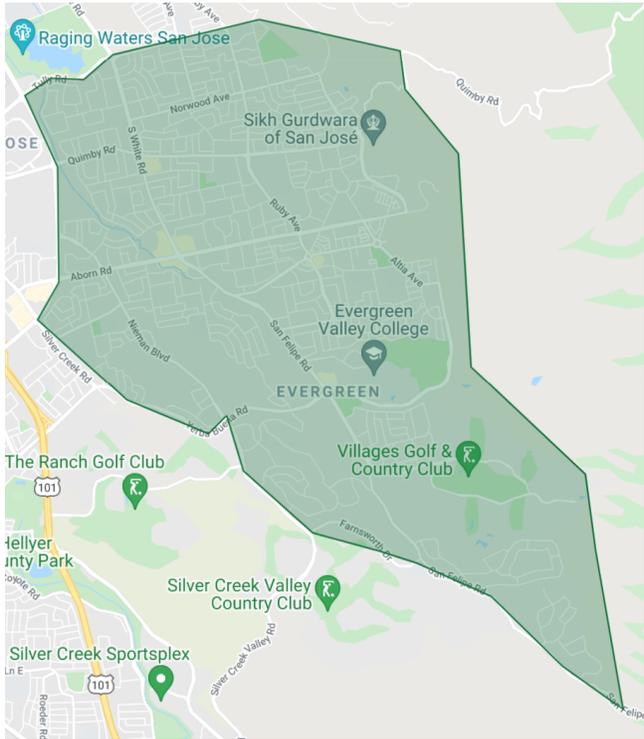
Per the Sikh Coalition, 67% of the Punjabi-Sikh youth meet racism and prejudice in their schools and seniors often face hate crimes due to Islamophobia & anti Asian-American hate.

I am calling today to ask the commission to respect the integrity of the Punjabi community. Of the areas I just identified, I am asking the commission to recognize 4 main concentrations of Punjabi COIs in the South Bay (Berryessa, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale & Cupertino, & Evergreen & Silver Creek). Doing so would allow us to receive the necessary services through our vote. Otherwise splitting us dilutes our voices and representation.

Thank you for hearing from me today.



Screenshot of boundaries of Berryessa COI



Screenshot of boundaries of Evergreen COI