

Tiffany Ng
Civic Engagement Director - Chinese Progressive Association



Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is Tiffany Ng and I am the Civic Engagement Director at the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) in San Francisco. Established in 1972, CPA serves, educates, organizes and empowers the low income and working class immigrant Chinese community in San Francisco to build collective power with other oppressed communities to demand better living and working conditions and justice for all people. In the past few months, we participated in training and meetings with the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative to share about our communities of interest. CPA provides strategic services and holds program activities from a few specific neighborhoods that include Chinatown, Excelsior and Oceanview, Merced & Ingleside Heights (OMI).

Chinatown is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods and serves as a major community hub that connects people from across San Francisco to community services, language resources and job opportunities. Chinatown residents are primarily immigrant, low-income and elderly. As of 2017, the median household income in Chinatown is \$31,700¹. Many Chinatown residents and their families live in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) residential housing and are challenged with finding affordable and livable housing. As general boundary markers, SF Chinatown begins North along Broadway moving south to Pine St, with Eastern & Western boundaries of Powell & Kearny.

San Francisco's OMI neighborhood has experienced drastic population shifts. Between 1980 and 2010, the neighborhood's Black population dropped from 61 to 14 percent, while the Asian population grew from 11 to 54 percent. Now, the neighborhood consists largely of immigrant families, including many monolingual Chinese seniors, who grapple with food insecurity due to lack of access to healthy and locally grown produce, and affordability, particularly those who are working minimum wage jobs and struggling to hold onto San Francisco housing. The general boundaries of the OMI neighborhood begin with Holloway Ave to the north, extending to the 280 freeway to the East & South as well as Brotherhood Way & Junipero Serra Blvd to the West.

¹ <https://statisticalatlas.com/neighborhood/California/San-Francisco/Chinatown/Household-Income>

The Excelsior neighborhood shares many similar demographic traits and interests with the OMI neighborhood and they are actually part of the same Supervisorial District 11 and share political power in San Francisco. For example, both OMI and Excelsior residents have concerns about affordability, food security, and access to adequate health care services. During the pandemic, the Excelsior and OMI neighborhoods opened up their own COVID19 testing and vaccination sites. Since there is less access to grocery stores in the OMI neighborhood, many OMI residents shop in Excelsior's many grocery stores and restaurants. Excelsior's boundaries can be drawn starting North along Silver Avenue, with Eastern & Western boundaries of University St. & Mission. Its Southern boundary follows Geneva Ave and includes John McLaren Park.

In closing, I am asking that the Commission unite Asian American communities in the Excelsior and OMI neighborhoods, while respecting the integrity of Chinatown. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

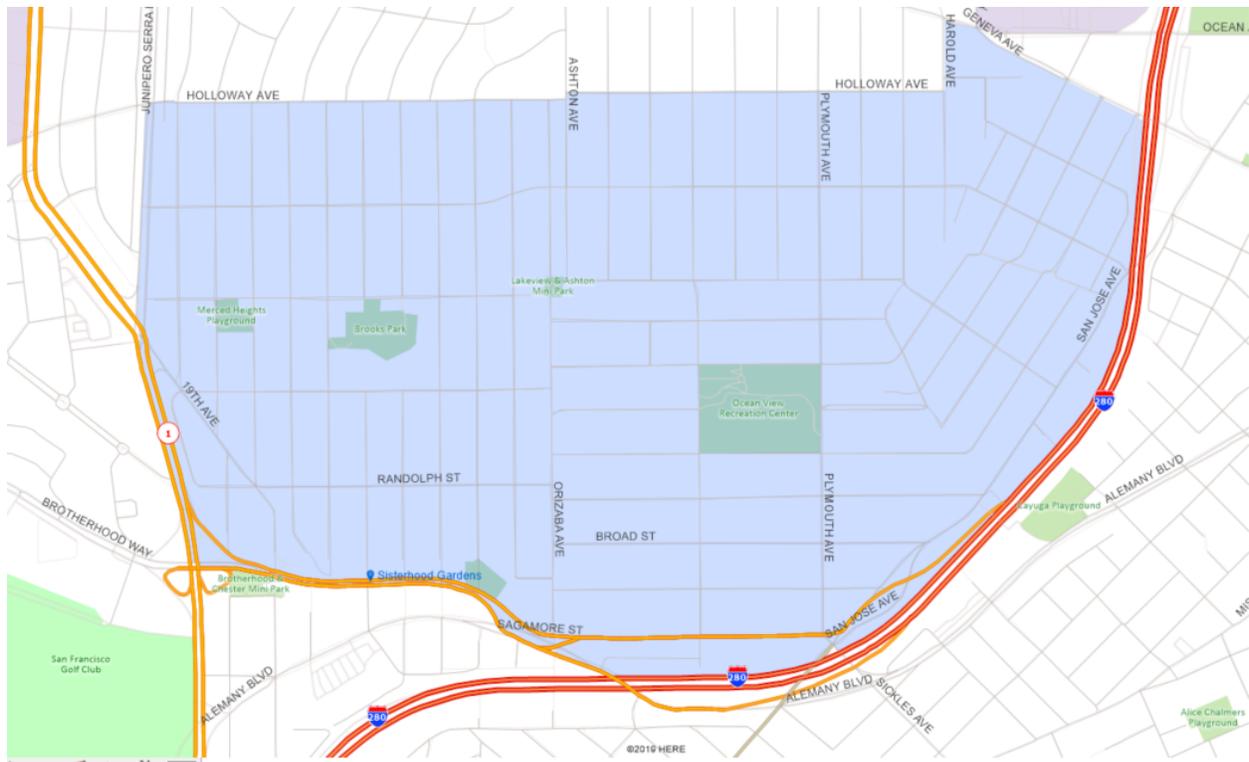
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Screenshot of boundaries of SF Chinatown COI



Screenshot of boundaries of Excelsior COI



Screenshot of boundaries of OMI COI