

My name is Manjusha Kulkarni. I am the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON). A3PCON is a coalition of over forty community-based organizations serving and representing the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) who make up 15 percent of Los Angeles County. Our members include groups like Little Tokyo Service Center, Thai Community Development Center, Asian Youth Center, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, and Korean American Coalition. I am also one of the co-founders of Stop AAPI Hate, the nation's leading aggregator of anti-AAPI hate incidents.

Last year, A3PCON led the AAPI Census Collaborative with nineteen AAPI partner organizations to raise awareness about the 2020 Census and response rates in hard-to-reach AAPI communities throughout Los Angeles County. This year, when it comes to redistricting, A3PCON is building on that foundational work.

A3PCON is a member of two coalitions advocating for equitable representation for communities of color in state and local redistricting: the People's Bloc and the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. These coalitions are submitting mapping proposals at the state and local levels that keep our AAPI communities of interest whole, while also respecting and supporting African American and Latinx Voting Rights Act interests.

To date, A3PCON has collaborated with partners to hold over ten workshops and multiple individual trainings that educate and inform AAPIs about what redistricting is and why it matters, collect information on our communities of interest across Los Angeles County and the state of California, and help AAPIs share their stories and maps with state and local redistricting commissions. We continue to engage our organizational members and community members, one-on-one, through email, Zoom, social media, and, when safe, in person.

In the Los Angeles area, AAPI communities of interest include but are not limited to: Little Tokyo and Chinatown near downtown Los Angeles, Thai Town in East Hollywood, Historic Filipinotown and Koreatown in mid-city, Cambodiatown in Long Beach, the San Gabriel Valley, and Little India, the South Asian community in Cerritos and Artesia. I urge you to hear what our community leaders and members have to share about how they define their communities, regardless of how an official map may define them, and to keep our communities whole.

Thank you for hearing from me and other members of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.