

From: **Phil Chin**
Date: Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Redistricting Considerations
To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear **Voters First Action**,

San Francisco's Chinatown is a truly unique community in California. This community is bounded by Broadway in the north, Kearny in the east, Powell in the west, and Bush to the south, although there is some spill-over north and west. Crucial community centers in this community include Portsmouth Square, Willie Woo Playground, and the Chinatown YMCA, the Chinese Historical Society of America, Donaldina Cameron House, a host of Chinese language schools, as well as numerous service organizations such as Self Help for the Elderly. Chinatown is also bound together by rich cultural activities centered around Asian holidays like Lunar New Year.

Current state processes and mapping, such as CalEnviroScreen 3.0, excludes Chinatown and fails to recognize the community's great needs. Chinatown faces some of the state's highest rates of poverty, housing burden, and linguistic isolation. It is also one of the most transit-dependent communities with very low automobile ownership and well over 80% of residents relying on public transit for mobility. As one of the most linguistically isolated communities, Chinatown's residents rely on community based organizations for access to resources and to meaningfully participate in government processes. Chinatown also faces serious pollution burdens as its roads are popular points of access to the Financial District and other San Francisco communities.

According to the American Community Survey, Chinatown has approximately 14,820 residents with a 71% immigrant population. Chinatown's reported race and ethnicity reveal a majority of Asian residents (81%). 63% of the community is linguistically isolated with the majority of households (81%) speaking an Asian language. Additionally,

69% of Chinatown residents have a high school degree or less. Only 4% of the housing in this neighborhood are single-family homes. The majority of housing in Chinatown are Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings. The majority of families that live in SROs live in Chinatown. The median household income in Chinatown is \$21,219, the median household income for San Francisco is over \$112,000.

San Francisco Chinatown has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of anti-Asian violence even before March 2020. A walk through some of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares reveal this impact as many stores are shuttered. Some business owners estimate as many as 30% of businesses have closed since the pandemic.

It is a neighborhood that is under tremendous pressure from gentrification since rents have been so astronomically high in San Francisco and some property owners are renting SRO rooms to tech employees as a "crash pad" further depriving low-income seniors of affordable housing. It is a community under duress and the last thing it needs is to be deprived of responsive representation. Thank you for your consideration!

Wishing you the best,

Phil Chin