



Korean Community Center of the East Bay

September 14, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Yeri Shon and I have been an Alameda County resident for over 25 years. I am Chief of Program Integration and Community Impact at Korean Community Center of the East Bay (KCCEB). KCCEB is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Bay Area community for 44 years. I am also calling in as a member of the Asian American Pacific Islander & Arab Middle Eastern Muslim and South Asian State Redistricting Collaborative.

Our organization provides the following services: social services and health access navigation support, case management for low-income seniors, immigration legal services, health promotion programs, and mental health services. Over 80% of our clients are Asian Americans residing in Alameda County that are low-income and limited English Proficient. Also, due to our long-time physical presence in the City of Oakland, a significant number of our clients have been Oakland residents.

I am calling to ask the Commission to keep Oakland's Koreatown Northgate (known as KONO), which extends from 20th to 35th Street along Telegraph Ave, together with Temescal, which is a neighborhood also centered around Telegraph Ave and located immediately north of KONO. This combined area is very diverse with various Asian American communities working and operating businesses - who would have similar immigrant experiences and common interests when it comes to small business support, language access, labor protection, and neighborhood safety.

Furthermore, this area is also a hub for many Korean small businesses that have been rooted in the community for many decades.

I also want to ask that the Commission maintains Oakland's Chinatown, Uptown, and the close perimeter surrounding Lake Merritt in one district. The boundaries for this COI are 980, Grand Ave, 880, and Lakeshore Ave. These areas combined have over 10 large senior housing complexes with significant Asian senior residents, including Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese immigrant seniors, and more. Many of the senior community members we serve can be found here in close proximity to Lake Merritt & Chinatown. With a large Asian elderly population in this area, there are shared needs and challenges, such as language access and culturally fitting community resources and programming. As these issues can be improved by policymaking, it would be best that this COI is kept together.



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Overall, I am asking the commission to keep these two COIs (1st KONO & Temescal, 2nd as well as Chinatown, Uptown, Adam's Point, and the Merritt neighborhood) unified, seeing them as important neighborhoods for the Korean and greater AAPI community. Thank you for your time, and effort in this work to support our communities to thrive.

Sincerely,

Yeri Shon
Chief, Program Integration and Community Impact