



CALIFORNIA BLACK CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING HUB

September 24, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via electronic transmission

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the California Black Census and Redistricting Hub, a coalition of over 30 Black-led and serving community organizations dedicated to uplifting the voices of Black residents and families throughout the State of California, **attached are regional/local community of interest (COI) maps and summaries of the COI testimony and recommendations that we have identified. Specifically, we have included::**

- regional/city maps in PDF format highlighting Black CVAP (based on 2020 pre-adjusted census data) in key areas
- Summaries of key issues, trends, and desires of the Black community residents to whom we spoke
- A link to an online document (bit.ly/blackhubcoimaps) with easy access to our COI maps for ongoing reference as you deliberate

Methodology for COI Collection

Over the course of 3-4 months, we listened intently to the redistricting aspirations and concerns in historic and emerging Black communities. We focused on 5 regions (Bay Area, Central Valley, Los Angeles, Inland Empire, and San Diego) across 13 counties:

1. Alameda
2. Contra Costa
3. Fresno
4. Kern
5. Kings
6. Los Angeles
7. Riverside
8. Sacramento
9. San Bernardino
10. San Diego
11. San Joaquin
12. Solano

13. Tulare

We worked with our 30 coalition members, holding monthly training sessions from January 2021 to April 2021 to prepare our coalition members to educate community residents about the redistricting process and the types of information that the commission was asking to receive from California residents. From May 2021 to July 2021, our coalition members held 51 conversations with over 400 Black community residents and leaders across the state of California. During these sessions, our coalition members asked these community members the similar questions asked in the Statewide Database COI tool:

- How would you describe your community?
- Where are the boundaries or borders of your community? Where does it begin and end?
- What unites and brings your community together?
- Are there any nearby areas your community should or should not be in a district with?

Based on these responses and community feedback, our coalition partners drew COI boundaries in the Statewide Database COI tool, live, on the spot, as community residents were in attendance in accordance with the COI information we received. During these sessions, community residents are also submitted narrative, which we compiled and transferred to the commission through the Statewide Database COI tool.

Hub Partners Participation in COI Input Meetings

In addition, we worked with community residents that participated in these COI conversations to uplift their COIs to the commission through live testimony during the commission's COI input meetings. Overall, 35 community residents appeared before you to give their COI testimony. In addition, members of our team synthesized and summarized those community resident testimonies in 3-minute testimonies during the last input meeting in each zone. We did our best to present the issues, trends, desires, hopes, dreams, and fears of community residents as we engaged them over the last several months.

Identified COIs

During our COI dialogues, we identified several communities of interest that we have shared with the CA Citizen Redistricting Commission through the Statewide Database COI tool and through oral and/or written testimony. These communities include all or parts of the following:

- **Inland Empire:** City of San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana, Victorville, Moreno Valley, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Hemet, Corona, Ontario, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside
- **Los Angeles:** South Central, Leimert Park, Inglewood, Compton, Watts, Gardena, Hawthorne, Skid Row, Long Beach, Altadena, North Hollywood, Palmdale, Lancaster, Northwest Pasadena
- **San Diego:** City of San Diego (esp. City Heights and Southeast San Diego), Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, El Cajon, South Bay
- **Central & Sacramento Valley:** Bakersfield (esp. Southeast), Fresno (West/Southwest, Old Fig), Stockton, Hanford, Lemoore, City of Sacramento
- **Bay Area:** Oakland (especially East and West Oakland), Antioch, Pittsburg, Baypoint, Richmond, San Pablo, Rodeo, Vallejo

Conclusion

Our hope is that the attached maps and narrative, oral and written testimony, and shapefiles submitted through the COI tool help give the commission a deeper sense of the importance of the communities of interest uplifted by our coalition partners and the community leaders and residents they have engaged. As you begin to redraw Assembly, Senate, and Congressional districts, please keep these voices and information in mind. Black communities have been an important and integral part of the story of the State of California. Please do your part in ensuring they continue to do so by protecting their representation and political voice throughout the State.

We look forward to participating in the next stages of the process by submitting district maps and commenting on the commission's draft maps as the process continues. Thank you for all you are doing.

Sincerely,



James Woodson
Redistricting Lead & Policy Director
Black Census and Redistricting Hub

On Behalf of Black Hub Coalition Partners:

A New Way of Life Reentry Project
African American Network of Kern County
Alliance San Diego
AME Church -- Fifth Episcopal District
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Black American Political Association of California
Black Women For Wellness
Black Women Organized for Political Action
BLU Educational Foundation
Building Blocks for Kids - Richmond
Central Valley Urban Institute
Community Coalition
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement
Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce

Lift Up Contra Costa
Los Angeles Black Worker Center
Los Angeles Community Action Network
Oakland Rising
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Pillars of the Community
RYSE Center
Safe Return Project
Social Justice Learning Institute
Special Needs Network
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)
Starting Over, Inc.
The Community Action League
Time for Change Foundation