

From: **Emily Pham**  
Date: Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 11:49 AM  
Subject: San Gabriel Valley Community of Interest  
To: <[VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov](mailto:VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov)>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is Emily Pham. I'm a resident of Temple City. I've lived in the community for 13 years, and in the San Gabriel Valley for 21 years. I am an Outreach Associate of Active San Gabriel Valley, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to creating a more sustainable, equitable, and livable San Gabriel Valley (SGV) region.

I believe the San Gabriel Valley is an integral part of Los Angeles County. The SGV stretches from Pasadena east to Pomona, and is the largest majority Latinx and Asian American region in the country. Residents speak languages such as Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. The San Gabriel Valley should be united to advance environmental and social justice, and to keep our Latino and Asian communities together.

As a woman of color, I have always felt at home in the San Gabriel Valley's sizable Asian and Latino ethnoburbs. There is no shortage of business districts tailored to the Valley's diverse populations, as well as hubs that foster its communities of color, ranging from parishes with church services in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese; ethnic grocery stores; to the 626 Night Market. The unique cultural makeup of the SGV is one that our communities cherish.

I grew up in a San Gabriel Valley where after Vietnamese mass, it was a ritual to buy pan dulce, obanyaki, or bánh phồng tôm from the local grocery stores on our Sunday errands. Still after these 21 years, I have young cousins continuing to drink up the rich multiculturalism of the San Gabriel Valley, enrolled in public school English-Spanish dual immersion programs, and also falling in love with the rich culture of this region.

Through my work with ActiveSGV, I strive to continue serving the San Gabriel Valley's diverse communities by making environmental justice and health equity more accessible to its unique populations. Our multilingual community outreach seeks to fold all members of the SGV into conversations about their environment and political agency, no matter their racial background or language abilities. As such, I want to uplift my voice to preserve the multiculturalism of this unique region and to uphold the shared communities of our Latino and Asian populations of the SGV in this year's redistricting process.

I recognize El Monte's crucial role as part of the Western San Gabriel Valley, east of the 710 to the 605, and between the 210 and the 60. El Monte is an important Latino and API community, sharing a community of interest with cities such as Alhambra, San Gabriel, Temple City, Rosemead, and Monterey Park. I would not like this community of interest to be grouped with cities like Sierra Madre, Bradbury, Walnut, and Diamond Bar because they are higher-income, and do not share similar economic and social interests with working class communities in the San Gabriel Valley.

At the assembly level, I would like AD 49 to remain as an Asian majority district. I prefer the cities of El Monte and South El Monte to be kept whole, but understand if the majority Asian district requires the splitting of El Monte. More API residents live in the northern portions of El Monte, north of Garvey Avenue.

At the congressional level, I encourage the commission to keep the Western San Gabriel Valley together in the same congressional district, while maintaining a connection to the San Gabriel Mountains. Current districts 27 and 28 generally do a good job of empowering the foothill communities. This is accomplished by placing the foothill communities in the same congressional districts as the San Gabriel Mountains.

It is important that the San Gabriel Valley remains united because we care about many common issues, including the climate crisis, the housing crisis & homelessness, healthcare, education, immigrant rights,

civil rights, and divestment from policing and incarceration. This community of interest celebrates its Latino and Asian culture, and also shares similar environmental justice concerns.

Our cities are park-poor, suffer from polluted air due to freeways, experience extreme heat, and live with higher than average rates of diabetes, asthma, heart disease and other chronic health issues. Residents struggle to have their basic needs met, including housing, with many multi-generational families renting rather than owning. Major corridors such as Garvey Avenue and Valley Boulevard contain region-defining mom-and-pop businesses, restaurants (ie: pho, taco, boba, ramen shops), and Metro bus lines, many of which run through the El Monte Bus Station, the largest bus station west of the Mississippi. Families utilize the few green spaces we have to recreate in, such as the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, the Rio Hondo River, the San Gabriel River, and Whittier Narrows Park.

By keeping the San Gabriel Valley region together, our representatives can be champions for progressive policies to protect our unique Latino and Asian community, our health, and our planet for years to come. Thank you.

Emily Pham  
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