

From: **Diane Velez**  
Date: Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 1:52 PM  
Subject: Re: San Gabriel Valley Community of Interest  
To: <[votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is Diane Velez and I'm a resident of Baldwin Park, CA. I've lived in the community for over 26 years. I am a Program Director at 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 Latino and Asian American region in the country. Residents speak languages such as Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. We need to keep our Latino and Asian communities together in the San Gabriel Valley, to advance environmental and social justice.

The community of Baldwin Park is fastly growing and evolving as new homeowners are purchasing single-family housing units, students are attending hybrid model education and a new mayor has stepped in for the first time in a generation. As a first-generation college graduate with aspirations of one day owning my own home in the San Gabriel Valley, I see the value in the redistricting process when done with community input and intention.

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.

Baldwin Park remains park-poor, suffers 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 in El Monte, 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.

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**Diane Velez**

Pronouns: She | Her

Healthy Communities Director