



September 29, 2021

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM) would like to offer some input towards the current redistricting process. APIFM was established in 2007 (as Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance) to ensure that the wider Asian American Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community is served and represented in efforts to address community health, food and environmental justice issues. We work towards a world where Asian and Pacific Islander communities – and all communities of color – have full power to access good health and a healthy environment.

As a coalition member of Nature for All, APIFM uplifts AANHPI voices in efforts to protect nearby wilderness areas such as the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains. Through HikeAPI, APIFM invites AANHPIs to access nature for physical and mental well-being through guided hikes, and introduce community members to the importance of conserving these precious natural resources. Programs like Nature for All and HikeAPI, help to introduce the diverse AANHPI community, especially those who are lower income, limited English proficient and live in park poor areas, to the San Gabriel Mountains and remind residents that this gem, which comprises over 70% of the public open space in LA County, is nearby and accessible to everyone.

Placing the highly populated communities closest to the Angeles National Forest in the same congressional districts as their federal public land is important. It means that they will have a member of congress who can address issues of forest management on their behalf with agencies like the US Forest Service. Their member of Congress can also seek more federal resources for wildfire risk mitigation, bilingual signage, or transit to trails.

Existing congressional districts 27, 28 and 29 do an excellent job of giving voice to communities adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains. We recommend that these districts remain intact for 2022 with the following adjustments: add the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument gateway city of Azusa to the 27th and include the Western San Bernardino National Forest in the same district as Rancho Cucamonga.

We believe the foothill cities from Pacoima to Rancho Cucamonga form a powerful community of interest based on their shared traits and their close relationship with the San Gabriel Mountains. This community of interest anchors districts 27, 28 and 29. This community of interest needs to be in the same congressional districts as the object of this interest: the national forest land to their north. Common issues include Fire and



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fuels management and wildfire suppression; sections of high severity fire zones; tourism; watershed management and flood control; recreational quality and availability. The foothill communities share historic ties with the national forest, homes adjacent or near the forest, chaparral ecosystems, steepening slope, wildlife management, and a major visual feature and scenic backdrop.

The 27th is designed well and logically connected to a large AANHPI population in the district's southwest. Some of these communities are park poor and benefit especially from having the national forest nearby. They would surely want a member of Congress who could argue on their behalf for transit to trails. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Heng Lam Foong
Director

