

From: **Richard Mehlinger**

Date: Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 10:25 PM

Subject: CA Congressional District Lines: A Sunnyvale Perspective

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners,

I write to you as an engaged and active citizen of Sunnyvale to respectfully urge you to keep our city a part of Congressional District 17. I've served on the board of multiple local civic organizations (though, to be clear, I write this solely on my own behalf), and I've seen how we as a city have benefited from being kept with Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino, and Fremont. CD-17 was assembled in 2010 in part to create an Asian American interest district--and it has succeeded. This is an Asian-American majority district, and keeping it together is vital to preserving Asian-American representation in the California Congressional delegation.

Furthermore, keeping Sunnyvale in CD-17 makes sense geographically, as our communities all front the tidal wetlands of the lower San Francisco Bay. These wetlands are a vital ecological resource, but they are currently threatened by sea level rise. North Sunnyvale as a whole is endangered by flooding from sea level rise, and so it is important that our Congressman be focused on this threat. By contrast, CD-18 has minimal frontage along the Bay, and CD-19 has no frontage along the Bay at all. Keeping our district together will ensure that fighting sea level rise and preserving the health of the Bay will be first and foremost in the mind of our Congressperson. We also have a natural economic affinity with the other cities currently in our district, like Santa Clara, Fremont, and Cupertino.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that Sunnyvale be kept with CD-17.

Sincerely,

Richard Mehlinger