

From: Dai Nam Studio

Date: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 10:46 AM

Subject: Comments

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for giving me the time yesterday to call in and listening to my comments. I was the last caller and I believed you weren't able to hear my full testimony, so I wanted to send it in writing to make sure you have. I really appreciate your attention and time.

My name is Stephanie Nguyen, live in the City of Westminster in Orange County. I heard that my last comments got muffled so I am sending in my comments. Please allow me to share with you all my complete comments via email since I was only able to have a limited time to speak.

The October 4, 2021 visualizations map for where I live and there were no connections to my family and community. I lived in Los Alamitos for most of my life then we moved to Westminster to help my elder parents. My elder parents have lived in Westminster for over 15 years to be closer to their doctors even though they continue to walk every morning in Huntington Beach on the soft sand to not only exercise with their group of friends but also easier on their aging knee and weak legs. Even though we moved back to Westminster, I kept my children in the Los Alamitos School District because they have built a strong connection to not only the school but to their childhood friends.

I am a proud Vietnamese American mom who takes great pride in making sure my two children have the opportunity to not only be able to continue to stay connected with their previous neighborhood and childhood friends in Los Alamitos but we have participated and enjoyed the many annual cultural festivals like the Moon Festival in Fountain Valley, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Huntington Beach and the Tet Parade in Westminster throughout the years. Many Vietnamese American families in our Los Alamitos neighborhood and friends in Huntington Beach, especially in Huntington Harbor, join us at these

various festivals throughout the years. We all believe that it is important to make sure our children keep their Vietnamese heritage. Our Vietnamese American community is growing because we now have Vietnamese Supermarkets, Churches, Temple, Senior gathering centers in Garden Grove, Westminster, Midway City, Fountain Valley; our school systems crossover within Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster and Garden Grove while Seal Beach, Rossmoor and Los Alamitos share the same school district. Our cities have been in the same district because we share similar values, pride, school systems and shared cultural activities.

After seeing the maps of the visualizations released on October 4, 2021 I felt the need to reach out again since the maps do not connect our communities together. As a proud Vietnamese American I want you to know our strong community bond we have here with our community. The Vietnamese American culture has a strong sense of community, shares educational values and a very different economy. One that is very diverse to other Asian Americans cultures. This is a key to note when drawing a community of interest map even though it is against the norm.

Your map pg 13 of the So. Cal. Visualizations Part 1 (10/4/21) mistakenly put Garden Grove in with Buena Park, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Stanton and Costa Mesa. These are not communities I feel connected to at all for my family. Any map configuration should group the Vietnamese American community together and not grouping Asian Americans as a whole. Korean Americans in Buena Park are very different in language, food, and culture to Vietnamese Americans. Everyone living around here knows that Anaheim and Santa Ana are very similar and are largely Latinos. I believe that the Latino community should have their own community of interest by connecting Anaheim and Santa Ana together while I support that our Vietnamese American community should have its own district. Please note that Vietnamese American community values and community connections of Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, Rossmoor and Los Alamitos are much more similar.

I noted that not a single Westminster area visualization map on pages 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the So. Cal. Visualizations Part 1 (10/4/21) released on October 4th connected the communities of Garden Grove, Westminster and Fountain Valley to Huntington Beach and Los Alamitos. How can this be? My kids attend local schools here in the community and I want to see them continue their education in our local school district while our friends and family from Huntington Beach and Los Alamitos are able to join us at our weekly visit to the temples, Vietnamese grocery stores and restaurants.

As you continue to look at our areas, please make sure you connect and link our communities together that have strong shared values. Please keep Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Midway City, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Rossmoor together to keep our families, friends and culture together. We have been connected for the last ten years and it has truly been a blessing for all of us.

Thank you again for your time in reading my comments and all that you are doing.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nguyen