

From: **Evelyn Lin**
Date: Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 9:22 PM
Subject: Redistricting Public comment - written testimony on redistricting
To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear Redistricting Committee:

San Francisco's Chinatown is a truly unique community in California. This community is bounded by Broadway in the north, Kearny in the west, Powell in the east, and Bush to the south. Crucial community centers in this community include Portsmouth Square, Willie Woo Playground, and the Chinatown YMCA. Chinatown is also bound together by rich cultural activities centered around Asian holidays like Lunar New Year, Autumn Moon Festival, and various culturally significant events .

Current state processes and mapping, such as CalEnviroScreen 3.0, excludes Chinatown and fails to recognize the community's great needs. Chinatown faces some of the state's highest rates of poverty, housing burden, and linguistic isolation. As one of the most linguistically isolated communities, Chinatown's residents rely on community based organizations for access to resources and to meaningfully participate in government processes. Chinatown also faces serious pollution burdens as its roads are popular points of access to the Financial District and other San Francisco communities.

According to the American Community Survey, Chinatown has approximately 14,820 residents with a 71% immigrant population. Chinatown's reported race and ethnicity reveal a majority of Asian residents (81%). 63% of the community is linguistically isolated with the majority of households (81%) speaking an Asian language. Additionally, 69% of Chinatown residents have a high school degree or less. Only 4% of the housing in this neighborhood are single-family homes. The majority of housing in Chinatown are Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings. The majority of families that live in SROs live in Chinatown.

The median household income in Chinatown is \$21,219, the median household income for San Francisco is over \$112,000.

San Francisco Chinatown has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of anti-Asian violence even before March 2020. A walk through some of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares reveal this impact as many stores are shuttered. Language barriers are high for communities that are mostly first generation immigrants trying to obtain permanent living wage employment, and the aging population continues to be a heavy burden for many working families. High cost of quality child care and after school programming are needed to unite the community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Lin