

APPENDIX B

AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY TESTIMONY - ASSEMBLY

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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COMMUNITY TESTIMONY

- Michelle Freridge, Executive Director at Asian Youth Center
- Sara Rohani, Staff Attorney at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
- June Lim, Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Michelle Freridge
Executive Director at Asian Youth Center

Hello, my name is Michelle Freridge. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input today on redistricting in the West San Gabriel Valley area in Los Angeles County. I have worked in the West San Gabriel Valley for 17 years, and for the last 10 years I have been the Executive Director at the Asian Youth Center. I am an adjunct professor at University of the West in Rosemead, the Treasurer of the San Gabriel Valley Bar Association, and a resident of Montebello. I am also a member of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. The Asian Youth Center, also known as AYC for short, is an independent non-partisan non profit community-based organization that works primarily with low-income, immigrant, and at risk youth and families in the West San Gabriel Valley. We have been active within the community for 32 years. AYC provides after-school and summer school programming – both academic and youth led social justice programming, as well as social services like Gang Intervention, Reentry services, and Employment Services for youth. We also provide an emergency food program that ramped up during the covid crisis to serving more than 800 families a month. Finally, AYC also provides community outreach, education, and engagement services on topics like COVID-19, Anti-Asian Hate, Language Access, Utility access, and other health, consumer and policy issues in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English.

Our community is centered in Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Temple City, San Marino, and Arcadia where Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up to 68% of the population. However, there are a significant number of Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in surrounding areas as well that are part of the same community of interest including parts of South Pasadena, the northern tip of Montebello (where I live), South San Gabriel, Baldwin Park, South El Monte, El Monte, and North El Monte. In our community, more than 50% of voting age citizens are AAPI and as such should be kept whole in the new district.

At the hearing on 9/8 , I identified the West San Gabriel Valley to include the cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Temple City, San Marino, and Arcadia. In my written testimony, I'd also like to include the cities of South Pasadena, Montebello, El Monte and Baldwin park as part of my definition of the West San Gabriel Valley.

Most of our community residents are immigrants with shared interests in and needs for representation and policies that address language access, civil rights, education, consumer protection, economic and small business development, and housing. Most households fall above the Federal Poverty guidelines but are still struggling economically because of the extremely high cost of living – especially of housing. There is also a very significant number of small business owners and entrepreneurs who have shared policy interests that impact their businesses.

The West San Gabriel Valley has been home to a growing Asian-American and recent immigrant community for since the 1970s. The Asian Youth Center (AYC) was founded in 1989

(called the Asian Youth Project and changed to the Asian Youth Center in 1990) by a United Way Task Force and local Asian-American community leaders. The task force and community leaders had identified unmet language, social service, and health needs of Asian immigrant youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. The first programs were after-school programming and parent education and support services including ESL, translation assistance, information, and referral. AYC serves these and many other community needs today.

In the 17 years that I have worked in the West San Gabriel Valley area I have seen open and active discrimination against the Asian-American and immigrant communities who make up the majority of the residents. In 2013, the City of San Gabriel made national news for its Anti-Asian discrimination. The residents elected two Asian Americans – Chin Ho Liao and Jason Pu to the City Council, unseating non-Asian incumbents. The incumbent City Council refused to seat Liao based on unsubstantiated and blatantly racist accusations of poll worker manipulation and claims that Liao did not meet the City residency requirement. The City Council decided to hold public hearings to pass judgement on the matter in a way that clearly represented a conflict of interest for the incumbent City Council Members who had lost the election. Although the Council eventually seated Liao, anti-Asian and anti-immigrant sentiment is still alive and well within the community as well as without. If the community were divided up into multiple districts that did not have an Asian-American majority, their voices would be lost in the political process and would undoubtedly result in dis-empowerment, consumer exploitation, and discrimination. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing economic barriers for low-income communities, particularly for immigrants and their families, who make up to 51% of the West San Gabriel Valley. We saw a rise of food insecurity, risk of eviction due to income loss and business shutdowns, and lack of access to reliable broadband connection that further compounded the crisis for immigrant families because of factors such as limited language capacity and lack of culturally competent services.

In the early 2021, a study by the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University of Bakersfield revealed that anti-Asian hate crimes rose by 149% in 2020. By spring 2021, exactly one year since COVID-19-related public health orders were implemented, media coverage about these incidents surged, giving rise to increasing safety concerns of Asian American communities across the nation.

In 2021, physical assaults driven by anti-Asian sentiment in the San Gabriel Valley, including those that took place in cities like Temple City and El Monte, led to demonstrations and calls to action to address rising anti-Asian harassment and violence. The recent increase in hate crimes and anti-Asian sentiment is yet another reason why it is important that the redistricting process keep the West San Gabriel Valley, a majority Asian community, together.

I ask the commission to keep my community in the West San Gabriel Valley whole. It is important that we are drawn together because our civil rights and policy interests in education, consumer protection, economic development, and other matters depend on our ability to elect someone who represents our interests and our voice.

Michelle Freridge

Sara Rohani

Staff Attorney at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Dear Commission members,

Please see the following written comments that I have prepared in collaboration with the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative.

My name is Sara Rohani, and I am a Staff Attorney with Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles. I am writing to provide an introduction for the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative and to share information about the communities where our clients reside in Southern California.

Alongside Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, Advancing Justice – Los Angeles has been leading the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative, and has worked to engage organizations and community leaders in the Los Angeles region. The testimony prepared by myself and my colleagues reflects our work and engagement with members of the community – groups, leaders, organizers – to identify Communities of Interest that capture the incredible diversity of our region.

As with the Collaborative’s work statewide, our Los Angeles regional group held four series of community workshops, reaching over 100 community members. These workshops not only identified Communities of Interest but also educated attendees on the basics of redistricting and guided community members on how to engage in the process. The feedback we have collected for you today comes from a variety of stakeholders, including the voices of youth centers, community health providers, nonprofits, leaders, and community organizers. Unfortunately, one member of our collaborative, a leader from the Pacific Islander community in the South Bay, was unable to attend Wednesday’s hearing but will be submitting written testimony.

In the Los Angeles region, Asian Americans are the second largest minority group. One out of every five Asian Americans in the United States live in Los Angeles County. With the increase in hate and violence directed towards the AAPI community over the past year, we think it’s incumbent on the Commission to respect AAPI Communities of Interests.

The populations Advancing Justice – Los Angeles serves are located throughout the Los Angeles region, notably in the San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, and Gateway Cities. In the Los Angeles metro area, our communities are located most significantly in Chinatown and Koreatown.

The San Gabriel Valley area is home to several cities with majority AAPI populations – Monterey Park, Alhambra, San Gabriel, Rosemead, and El Monte. In 2010, the first majority AAPI Section 2 seat was created in the San Gabriel Valley – AD 49. This district should be protected and kept whole.

In the East San Gabriel Valley, cities such as Rowland Heights, Walnut, Hacienda Heights, and Diamond Bar are either over half or nearly half comprised of AAPI individuals.

The South Bay cities of Torrance, Gardena, Carson have large AAPI populations as well. These cities have many local AAPI owned and operated small businesses and there has historically been a strong presence of Asian Americans in elected offices and public positions. In these times, it is important to keep these AAPI communities together – we are a cohesive community with strong ties to each other. We urge the Commission to respect the AAPI communities and keep these unified communities whole.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sara Rohani

June Lim
Demographic Research Project Director at
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

My name is June Lim and I am the Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles which is a Census Information Center, an official program of the US Census Bureau that promotes the dissemination of census data to underserved populations. I am also LA born and raised--it's where I am zooming from right now. Today I will present data supporting the COI testimony you've heard from our partners in the earlier session representing the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. These include COIs in Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Thai Town, the San Gabriel Valley, Gardena, Torrance, Carson, and West Carson. I will submit to the Commission data maps and shapefiles of these Communities of Interest with my written testimony.

The AAPI and AMEMSA community in Los Angeles is large, diverse, and growing. The latest census data show that the Asian American population in LA County grew by 13% over the last decade, whereas the Pacific Islander population decreased by 9%. The Asian American population grew in all the areas in which the COIs identified by our collaborative are located. The Asian American population grew by 69% in East San Gabriel, about 20% in West Carson and Temple City, and over 10% in Los Angeles, Hacienda Heights, Diamond Bar, and South

San Gabriel. The PI community has grown in the San Gabriel Valley, it has shifted from areas, such as Long Beach, Carson, and the City of LA.

Over 60% of Asian Americans and over 20% of Pacific Islanders in LA County are foreign-born with over 70% of Asian American community members in Alhambra, Rowland Heights, and the City of San Gabriel who are immigrants. Over 25% of Pacific Islanders in the City of LA are foreign-born. The proportions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in LA County who are Limited English Proficient, meaning they speak English less than very well, are 37 and 11 percent, respectively. These county-level rates do not adequately capture the language access needs of our communities as the rates range significantly by city and by ethnic group. In some of the cities where our COIs are located, such as in Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and Rowland Heights, over 50% of community members are Limited English Proficient.

There are significant socioeconomic differences in the AAPI & AMEMSA communities that vary across cities and neighborhoods of LA County and across ethnic groups. Asian Americans in Alhambra, Long Beach, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel have disproportionately high proportions of low income households where 1/3rd to 1/2 of Asian Americans are low-income. Over 1/3rd of the NHPI community in the City of LA and Long Beach is low-income. Nearly 20 percent of Asian Americans in Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel, and early 20 percent of Pacific Islanders in Carson and the City of LA are living in poverty. In contrast, the poverty rates of AAPI and AMEMSA communities in Carson, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Temple City, Torrance, Walnut, and West Carson are below 10%.

In closing, the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative asks the Commission to respect the integrity of the communities of interest presented today. Thank you for your time.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TABLES

2020 Asian American & NHPI Population

Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS			NHPI		
	# of Asian Americans	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020	#NHPI	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020
Alhambra	43342	52%	-2%	93	0.1%	35%
Arcadia	37396	66%	11%	44	0.1%	144%
Diamond Bar	33313	60%	13%	92	0.2%	-7%
East San Gabriel	12760	56%	69%	16	0.1%	100%
Hacienda Heights	22633	42%	12%	80	0.1%	3%
Monterey Park	40880	67%	1%	57	0.1%	111%
Rosemead	32931	64%	1%	25	0.0%	47%
Rowland Heights	29915	62%	2%	70	0.1%	-3%
San Gabriel	25417	64%	5%	28	0.1%	-26%
South San Gabriel	4572	58%	14%	9	0.1%	350%
Temple City	23576	65%	18%	23	0.1%	-38%
Walnut	19348	68%	3%	25	0.1%	-31%

Data: 2020 Decennial Census PL 94-171; 2010 Decennial Census PL 94-171

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Foreign-Born

Geography	% Asian Americans	% NHPI
Alhambra	74%	*
Arcadia	68%	*
Diamond Bar	65%	*
East San Gabriel	68%	*
Hacienda Heights	69%	*
Monterey Park	69%	*
Rosemead	72%	*
Rowland Heights	74%	*
San Gabriel	73%	*
South San Gabriel	70%	*
Temple City	66%	*
Walnut	65%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B05003

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)

Geography	% Asian Americans	% NHPI
Alhambra	52%	*
Arcadia	45%	*
Diamond Bar	38%	*
East San Gabriel	48%	*
Hacienda Heights	49%	*
Monterey Park	54%	*
Rosemead	62%	*
Rowland Heights	53%	*
San Gabriel	57%	*
South San Gabriel	51%	*
Temple City	47%	*
Walnut	35%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B16004

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Low Income & Poverty

Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS		NHPI	
	% Low-Income	% Poverty	% Low-Income	% Poverty
Alhambra	40%	19%	*	*
Arcadia	24%	10%	*	*
Diamond Bar	22%	8%	*	*
East San Gabriel	25%	12%	*	*
Hacienda Heights	23%	10%	*	*
Monterey Park	39%	17%	*	*
Rosemead	49%	18%	*	*
Rowland Heights	32%	11%	*	*
San Gabriel	41%	17%	*	*
South San Gabriel	38%	17%	*	*
Temple City	27%	9%	*	*
Walnut	20%	7%	*	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table C17002

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

LA SOUTH BAY & WESTSIDE COMMUNITY TESTIMONY

- Romeo Hebron, Executive Director at the Filipino Migrant Center
- Rose Ibanez, Carson Community Member & Resident
- Mele Faiva Manu-Blagojevich, Founder & Executive Director of *The Tongan Community of Southern CA*
- June Pouesi, Executive Director at the Office of Samoan Affairs Inc.
- June Lim, Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Romeo Hebron
Executive Director at the Filipino Migrant Center

Dear CA Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is Romeo Hebron. I'm the Executive Director for the Filipino Migrant Center and am also part of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative. I'm here today to talk about keeping Carson and West Carson whole, which is important to me personally as a Carson resident and also for my organization, which provides free services and programs for low-income Filipinos across Southern California.

As a city with a high concentration of Filipinos, Carson (and especially West Carson) is significant for us because of the people we serve. Many of these residents are low-income, immigrant renters who often reside in overcrowded living conditions with multi-family and intergenerational households facing food insecurity. These are essential and frontline workers who commonly work multiple low-wage jobs as caregivers, food service, retail, or are in warehouses or manufacturing. These workers often experience wage theft and mistreatment on the job which can then negatively impact the whole household.

During the pandemic, workers and their families have been put at extra risk because their employers have not provided the proper training and PPE needed to keep workers safe. Additionally, there is limited English proficiency which makes it difficult for them to understand certain policies or advocate for different needs, both in the workplace and in accessing a variety of social services such as filing for unemployment, applying for food stamps, immigration related services, or even assisting their children with college resources.

The multitude of needs faced by Carson's Filipino residents are exactly what the Filipino Migrant Center seeks to address. We provide services for youth through senior citizens around workplace rights and immigration, we connect them to legal resources, systems navigation, and also conduct college access workshops for students & their families. Most importantly, we provide leadership training and capacity building so community members can be empowered to advocate for themselves and build a strong base of civically engaged residents.

We hope that the commission will continue to recognize this community of interest and keep Carson and West Carson whole so we can continue providing free services for the community and build their capacity to make positive change in the issues they face in their daily lives. Thank you, Commission, for your time and consideration today.

Rose Ibanez
Carson Community Member & Resident

Good afternoon, my name is Roselyn Estepa Ibanez.

I am a member of AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative, and I am calling in today to talk about the city of Carson and West Carson area. I am a resident of City of Carson for over 47 years. attended LAUSD schools. Both my daughters were raised here and as a resident of the City, I was appointed to the City Planning Commission and on the Community Civic Engagement Board.

My husband, Florante Ibanez, and I are co-authors of *Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay*. In our book – it highlights the history of the Filipino American community and the major waves of immigration. Since the 1910s, many were single Filipino men who worked in the U.S. military, farm workers, cannery workers or students attending colleges nearby. After WWII, many Filipinos joined the U.S. military and brought their families here. Today, there are over 25,000 Filipino families, seniors, and youth who all call Carson their home. Carson is one of the major cities of the County with a large Filipino American population. And with the continuing immigration and continuing growth of the Filipino community more are settling their roots and raising their families in the City and expanding to west Carson area. Many Filipino Americans still send money back home to the Philippines, supporting their families as well as providing for natural disaster relief.

In 2012, the City unveiled the Jose Rizal Monument in the International Sculpture Garden. Jose Rizal was a Philippine national hero. At the time, Consul General Mary Jo Aragon stated, "The construction of such monument would be the realization of the long-felt interest of the Filipino Community in Southern California which hosts the largest concentration of Filipinos outside the Philippines."

The City holds an annual June 12th Philippine Independence Day and October is recognized as Filipino American History Month. During the month of October, my husband and I have put out a cultural and educational display at the Carson Library. We held presentations on our book with the authors of *Hawaiians in Los Angeles*, showed a film on the Debut, a realistic Filipino American immigration story and showed the documentary on Delano Manongs *Forgot Heroes of the United Farm Workers*.

Last year, we donated to Cal State Dominguez Hill, Archives and Special Collections, some of our Filipino American documents - community programs, flyers, reports, newspapers, magazines, books, and other materials during the period 1938-2020. These documents are

important to the Filipino community because we can inform our communities of the rich history and pass it on to others and future generations to come.

Because our interests are better served when we are united and to maintain and promote our culture and history, it is important that Carson and West Carson remains intact.

Mele Faiva Manu-Blagojevich
Founder & Executive Director of *The Tongan Community of Southern CA*

Hello, my name is Mele Faiva Manu-Blagojevich, and I am the founder and Executive Director of *The Tongan Community of Southern CA*. I would like to provide input today on the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Lennox. I am also writing as a member of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

The Tongan Community of Southern CA began in early 2020 as a response to the pandemic, providing food services & later COVID testing and vaccine sites to the Tongan community through my local church. Our mission is to serve the greater Tongan community across the Los Angeles area, connecting them with resources and mutual aid. Since last year we have reached thousands of community members from various parts of Southern California including Long Beach, Orange County, San Bernardino, San Fernando & Riverside.

In the case of Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Lennox, the Tongan community has a rich history of immigration. Many of our community members arrived here in the early 1970's. We are a relatively small community that has been historically shut out of public resources due to a lack of language access. Our community is strongly connected through churches across the Hawthorne, Lennox & Inglewood areas.

The main churches I'd like to identify are the Tongan United Methodist Church in Lennox, the Church of Latter Day Saints in Inglewood, the Tongan United Methodist Church in Hawthorne, and the 7 Day Adventist church in Hawthorne. Many members of these congregations live across these 3 cities. I myself live in Hawthorne but travel into Inglewood for church.

I am writing to ask the commission to keep these 3 cities, Hawthorne, Inglewood, & Lennox together. They act as a major hub for our faith based organizations and provide much of the support for the Tongan community.

Thank you for hearing from me today.

June Pouesi
Executive Director at the Office of Samoan Affairs Inc.

Hello My name is June Pouesi, and I am the Executive Director for the Office of Samoan Affairs of California, Inc. (OSA). I am writing to you today to provide public comment on the Samoan Community in the Western Long Beach & Carson areas.

I am asking the commission to keep the City of Carson and parts of West Long Beach whole. The boundaries of the Samoan community in West Long Beach start at Anaheim St. and the 103 Hwy, moving east to Orange Ave. The boundaries continue north to the 91 Highway and West to the 710. It runs along the 710 to the 405, and includes the Westside neighborhood running along the train tracks back to the 103.

This year, 2021, our agency has reached its 45th year of services to our community. OSA was originally founded in 1976 in San Francisco by members of the Samoan community there, It came about because of the language and cultural barriers, discrimination, lack of access to services and resources as well as being treated condescendingly as 2nd class citizens. As a result, the Samoan people were voiceless and invisible to the powers that be that made decisions that impacted their quality of Life. OSA moved its Headquarters to the city of Carson, CA in 1989. In that same year, although OSA targeted specifically Samoans, its Board members, at the request of OSA Administration, approved the expansion of its services to the general public at large who were at risk, economically disadvantaged, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, creed and belief. OSA continues to provide services to those residing in Carson and the surrounding cities in Los Angeles County.

In light of the redistricting matter that is being discussed , I am submitting my input regarding the Samoan Community on the topic of Redistricting. The City of Carson, before it became incorporated, was comprised of portions of unincorporated areas in Long Beach, Wilmington and Torrance. In this time of pre-incorporation of Carson, Samoans had already moved to the area as it was affordable at that time. It was close to the Long Beach Shipyard where those who retired from the Armed Forces found employment.

Because Samoans came from non-technological, non-complex tropical islands throughout the world, the bulk of the population were in the Labor/Blue collar occupations that were labor intensive types of employment. They were unskilled, finding jobs at the various warehouses as material handlers while others worked as orderlies and in maintenance in the Convalescent and Residential care facilities work.

The Carson/Long Beach area constitutes the largest concentration of Samoans in the continental USA. In regards to Redistricting, Samoans lack representation in the owner/leadership of the political arena, in corporations, companies, small businesses both

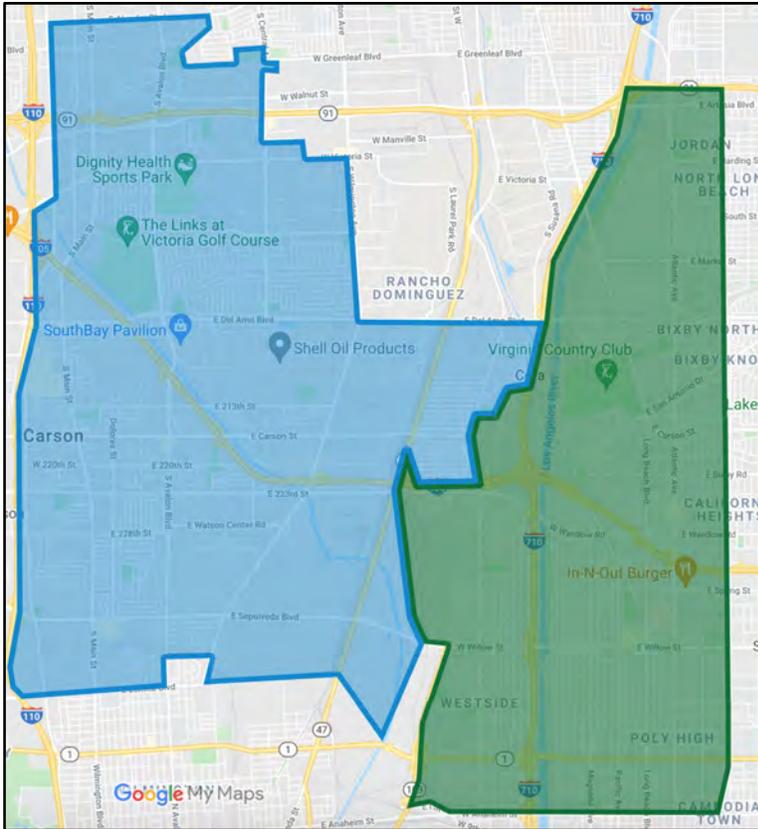
technical, retail, health services/products and educational related and other endeavors of commerce. Although Samoans have been in the Los Angeles area from the mid 1950s, the level of education, social economic standing is among the lowest.

When the Samoan community first arrived in the Los Angeles area, our community's biggest priority was establishing a strong church community. Today, the Samoan community is still held together through our many places of worship. Some of the main church within the Carson area include the United Samoan Church (Carson), Samoan Congregational Christian Church, South Bay Samoan Congregational Church, Assembly of God (Carson), Saint Philomena Church, Church of Latter Day Saints (Carson), Samoan Methodist Church, and Carson Christian Center.

As for Long Beach churches, the main ones are Samoan Congregational Church, Second Congregational Church on Cedar, Samoan Congregational Church on Market, Samoan Latter Day Saints Ward on Orange St., Samoan Methodist Church, and the Holy Innocents Catholic Church.

As part of a report in conjunction with EPIC and Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Communities of Contrast (2014)¹, I'd like to share the following data to provide some insights on the characteristics of the Samoan community. The Samoan community today is the 2nd largest Pacific Islander group in the nation, historically seeing lower educational achievement. This brings attention to our community's need for educational resources. Our population also has similar needs in terms of healthcare and public health, seeing overwhelmingly high rates of COVID over the past 2 years. Socioeconomically, we've seen high levels of poverty and low income levels across Samoans over the last 20 years. Occupationally our community works across the industries of Retail and Trade, Healthcare, and Accommodation & Food Services. Household wise, Samoan communities statistically held a household average of 4.0. As a small community, it is critical that we are kept together in the new 2021 Redistricting boundaries in order to leverage our political needs.

Redistricting must take into account at-risk peoples, to allow for them to effectively participate in decision making in public affairs. The Samoan community has historically been shut out of engaging with local government on all levels. It is important that this small area of Carson/Long Beach remain intact in order to leverage our political power.



Samoan Long Beach COI

June Lim
Demographic Research Project Director at
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

My name is June Lim and I am the Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles which is a Census Information Center, an official program of the US Census Bureau that promotes the dissemination of census data to underserved populations. I am also LA born and raised--it's where I am zooming from right now. Today I will present data supporting the COI testimony you've heard from our partners in the earlier session representing the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. These include COIs in Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Thai Town, the San Gabriel Valley, Gardena, Torrance, Carson, and West Carson. I will submit to the Commission data maps and shapefiles of these Communities of Interest with my written testimony.

The AAPI and AMEMSA community in Los Angeles is large, diverse, and growing. The latest census data show that the Asian American population in LA County grew by 13% over the last decade, whereas the Pacific Islander population decreased by 9%. The Asian American

population grew in all the areas in which the COIs identified by our collaborative are located. The Asian American population grew by 69% in East San Gabriel, about 20% in West Carson and Temple City, and over 10% in Los Angeles, Hacienda Heights, Diamond Bar, and South San Gabriel. The PI community has grown in the San Gabriel Valley, it has shifted from areas, such as Long Beach, Carson, and the City of LA.

Over 60% of Asian Americans and over 20% of Pacific Islanders in LA County are foreign-born with over 70% of Asian American community members in Alhambra, Rowland Heights, and the City of San Gabriel who are immigrants. Over 25% of Pacific Islanders in the City of LA are foreign-born. The proportions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in LA County who are Limited English Proficient, meaning they speak English less than very well, are 37 and 11 percent, respectively. These county-level rates do not adequately capture the language access needs of our communities as the rates range significantly by city and by ethnic group. In some of the cities where our COIs are located, such as in Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and Rowland Heights, over 50% of community members are Limited English Proficient.

There are significant socioeconomic differences in the AAPI & AMEMSA communities that vary across cities and neighborhoods of LA County and across ethnic groups. Asian Americans in Alhambra, Long Beach, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel have disproportionately high proportions of low income households where 1/3rd to 1/2 of Asian Americans are low-income. Over 1/3rd of the NHPI community in the City of LA and Long Beach is low-income. Nearly 20 percent of Asian Americans in Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, and San Gabriel, and early 20 percent of Pacific Islanders in Carson and the City of LA are living in poverty. In contrast, the poverty rates of AAPI and AMEMSA communities in Carson, Diamond Bar, Gardena, Temple City, Torrance, Walnut, and West Carson are below 10%.

In closing, the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative asks the Commission to respect the integrity of the communities of interest presented today. Thank you for your time.

LA SOUTH BAY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TABLES

2020 Asian American & NHPI Population

Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS			NHPI		
	# of Asian Americans	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020	#NHPI	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020
Carson	25663	27%	9%	1690	2%	-29%
Gardena	16441	27%	5%	393	1%	-5%
Hawthorne	7139	8%	22%	723	1%	-24%
Lawndale	3458	11%	3%	230	1%	-39%
Lennox	233	1%	44%	110	1%	-41%
Long Beach	65439	14%	5%	4465	1%	-16%
Torrance	56231	38%	6%	700	0%	12%
West Carson	8194	36%	19%	273	1%	-13%

Data: 2020 Decennial Census PL 94-171; 2010 Decennial Census PL 94-171

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Foreign-Born

Geography	% Asian Americans	% NHPI
Carson	65%	11%
Gardena	56%	*
Long Beach	53%	14%
Torrance	50%	12%
West Carson	65%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B05003

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)

Geography	% Asian Americans	% NHPI
Carson	32%	10%
Gardena	35%	*
Long Beach	30%	9%
Torrance	32%	9%
West Carson	36%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B16004

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Low Income & Poverty

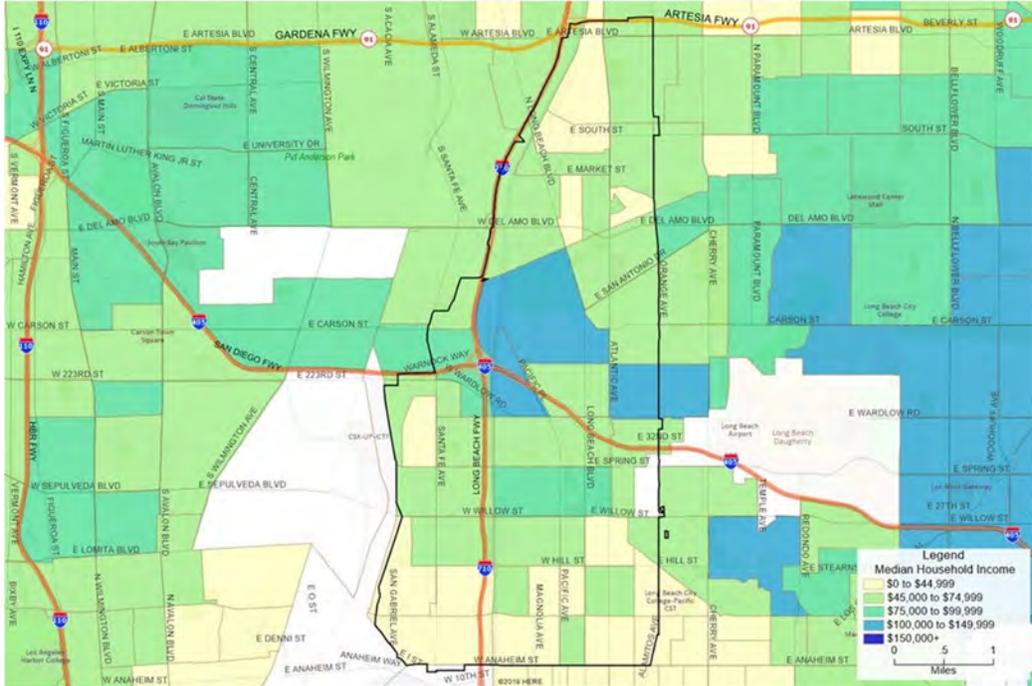
Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS		NHPI	
	% Low-Income	% Poverty	% Low-Income	% Poverty
Carson	18%	7%	31%	18%
Gardena	32%	9%	*	*
Long Beach	36%	16%	36%	14%
Torrance	18%	7%	17%	6%
West Carson	15%	6%	*	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table C17002

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

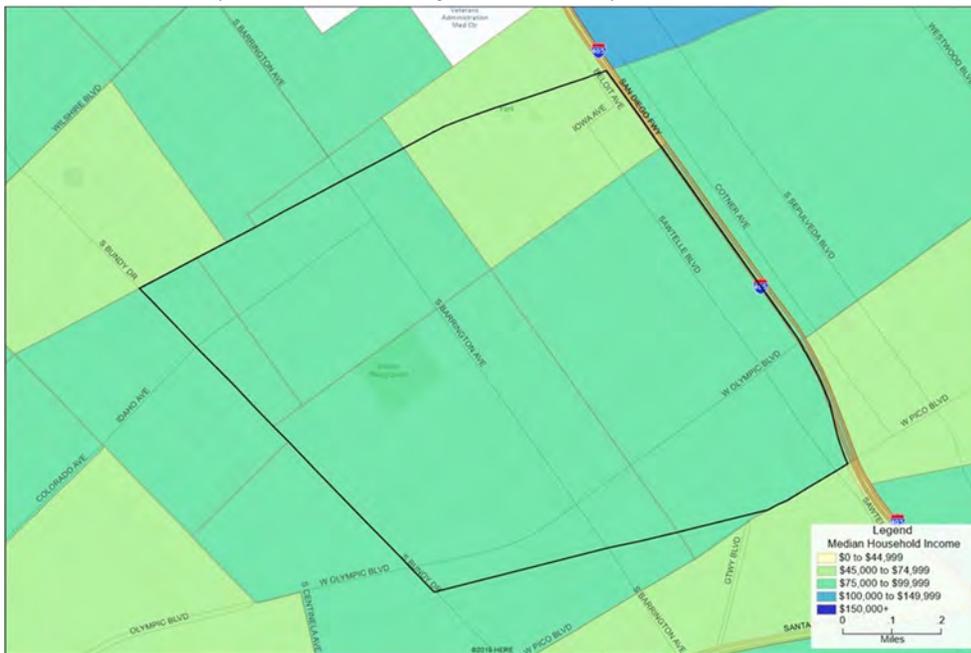
LA SOUTH BAY HEAT MAPS

LONG BEACH PACIFIC ISLANDER COI – June Pouesi, Office of Samoan Affairs Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP3062

SAWTELLE JAPANESE AMERICAN COI – Collected in Community Workshop Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP3062

VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN COI – Collected in Community Workshop

Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP3062

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY TESTIMONY
PROVIDED BY THE *PEOPLE'S REDISTRICTING ALLIANCE*
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE *ORANGE COUNTY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TABLE*

- Hina Ahmad, Program Manager at the South Asian Network
- Fayaz Nawabi, Policy & Advocacy Manager at the Council on Islamic-American Relations - Greater Los Angeles
- Caroline Nguyen, Garden Grove Resident & Member of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
- Vincent Tran, Community Engagement Coordinator at VietRISE
- Orange County heat maps generated by the People's Redistricting Alliance

Hina Ahmad
Program Manager at the South Asian Network

Date: October 4, 2021

Zone: J (Orange County)

Area: Buena Park, Artesia, Cerritos

Name: Hina Ahmad

Organizational Affiliation: South Asian Network (People's Redistricting Alliance)

Community of Interest: South Asians

Direction: Keep the South Asian community in Buena Park, Cerritos, and Artesia whole

Introduction:

Hi, my name is Hina Ahmad. I am writing on behalf of the South Asian Network. Our organization provides culturally and linguistically sensitive direct services to the South Asian community in the areas of healthcare access, civil and immigrant rights, and gender based violence. In addition we are a member of the People's Redistricting Alliance, a coalition of 16 community-based organizations established to promote a greater community voice in statewide and local redistricting processes here in Orange County.

Who my community is:

My community of interest is the South Asian community. It is diverse in culture, language and faith, and is integral to the community at large. Our community gathers in times of celebration and times of advocacy. They are a community that shares resources across the board. The South Asian community is also diverse in its socioeconomic status, education levels, and immigration status. Many South Asians immigrated to this country, seeking asylum, seeking opportunity, and have since built strong ties with local communities. The South Asian community in Southern California is bound together by a shared history and geography.

Where my community is located:

My community is located near the many faith based institutions that serve the region, including the Buena Park Gurdwara on Orangethorpe and Knott and "Little India" in Artesia. These communities have south South Asian grocery stores, clothing stores and restaurants close together, creating a unique gathering place for community members. These religious and cultural institutions/community centers are what make Artesia, the "Little India" of California! The South Asian Network is also in the heart of Little India, and we provide citizenship, public benefit, mental health and food assistance to our community, primarily in Artesia, Buena Park and Cerritos.

My community is similar to the following neighborhoods:

My community is similar to other neighborhoods in the region in that it is diverse in its language capacities, faith, socioeconomic status, countries of origin, education, immigration status, and more. The temples and places of worship in Buena Park, Artesia, and Cerritos have continued to embrace the community around them and provide resources to their neighbors, regardless of ethnic backgrounds or religious affiliations. These communities should be kept together in the same interest. With common interest, the communities in these cities continue to care deeply for one another.

My community is different from the following neighborhoods:

My community is different from neighboring communities because of its size. Artesia, Buena Park and Cerritos have a very large South Asian population and a unique area in which community members are able to be themselves and express their culture.

What makes my community special is:

Its diversity and it's very specific needs. It is important that the voices and needs of the South Asian community are heard and understood by elected officials. South Asians are often perceived as affluent professionals. Yet many South Asians are living in poverty, hiding in the shadows, fearful of alienating immigration policies, unable to access resources due to limited language capacities. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted what many South Asians know - we need in language resources to access support like healthcare access, financial support, public health education, community and mental health support, and so much more.

In conclusion:

It's important that the South Asian community be taken into consideration in the new district maps. Our communities work together to support one another, share resources, and advocate for needs. It's important that these communities be kept together, to empower their voices, and to continue building these strong ties.

Fayaz Nawabi
Policy & Advocacy Manager at the Council on Islamic-American Relations -
Greater Los Angeles

Date: October 5, 2021

Zone: J (Orange County)

Area: Artesia/Cypress/Cerritos/Buena Park

Name: Fayaz Nawabi

Organizational Affiliation: Council on American-Islamic Relations (People's Redistricting Alliance)

Communities of Interest: AMEMSA and North African communities

Direction: Keep Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos, and Buena Park whole in an OC district

Introduction:

Hi, my name is Fayaz Nawabi, and I'm writing on behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA). As part of our organizing and advocacy, we are a member of the People's Redistricting Alliance, a coalition of 16 community-based organizations established to promote a greater community voice in statewide and local redistricting processes here in Orange County.

Who my community is:

My community is Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian, North African, immigrant and refugees that live in Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos and Buena Park. My community also consists of low/middle income families, minimum wage workers, renters with some homeowners here and there.

My community is located:

My community is in Artesia, Buena Park, Cypress, and Cerritos. The current political district boundaries divide our community. We would like to see our community be kept intact and together. Artesia in particular is a major shopping district that is known in Southern California for its South Asian restaurants and clothing shops. Families as far as San Diego visit Artesia to shop at these South Asian Ethnic boutiques.

In addition, Islamic Relief the largest Muslim humanitarian relief organization is located in Buena Park. Islamic Relief employs many members of the AMEMSA and North African community and their headquarters is used as a meeting place for the AMEMSA and North African community in the areas of Buena Park, Cypress, Artesia and Cerritos.

Furthermore, many mosques and community centers that serve the AMEMSA and North African communities are located in Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos and Buena Park. These mosques and community centers include the Islamic Center of Cerritos, Baitul Mukarram, Al Burooj Academy and the headquarters of Islamic Relief.

My community is similar to the following neighborhoods:

My community is similar in the following neighborhoods of Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos and Buena Park. These communities are similar to low/middle income families, minimum wage, AAPI and Latino communities.

My community is different from the following neighborhoods:

My community in Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos, and Buena Park is different from LA County and would prefer to be drawn in a political district map in Orange County. My community does not want to be considered part of LA County because they culturally feel closer to being part of an Orange County drawn district map. Artesia in particular houses many South Asian restaurants and clothing boutiques that Orange County residents shop at frequently.

The communities of Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos, and Buena Park have more affinity to the communities of Garden Grove and Westminster than any city that LA County can offer up.

What makes my community special is:

What makes my community special is that we are an Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian, North African, immigrant and refugee community. Our community has historically been victims of Islamophobia and anti-immigrant rhetoric from elected officials. Our community would like to see elected officials that are either from our community or at the very least culturally competent to the concerns of our historically demonized community.

In conclusion:

We want the Artesia, Cypress, Cerritos and Buena Park community to be kept together in an Orange County political district map. We believe these communities share the same demographic and socio economic background. These communities also share community centers that the four different cities frequent interchangeably. Thus, they must be kept together.

Caroline Nguyen
Garden Grove Resident & Member of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative

Date: September 30, 2021

Zone: J (Orange County)

Area: Little Saigon

Name: Caroline Nguyen

Organizational Affiliation: California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (People's Redistricting Alliance)

Community of Interest: Vietnamese nail salon workers

Direction: Keep the Vietnamese community whole

Introduction:

Good afternoon, my name is Caroline Nguyen. I'm a Garden Grove resident and I'm here on behalf of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative. Our organization works to improve the health, safety, and rights of the nail and beauty care workforce to achieve a more sustainable and just industry. We're also a member of the People's Redistricting Alliance, which is a coalition of 15 community-based organizations established to promote a greater community voice in statewide and local redistricting processes in Orange County.

My community is:

Our community of interest is nail salon workers, who have a deep historical connection and origin in Southern California. In the 1970's, a group of 20 Vietnamese women were trained on how to do manicures at a refugee camp. Afterwards, they became licensed and found jobs at salons across Southern California. As war continued to drive an influx of Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees into the United States, many sought financial security by taking on low-wage jobs, such as those in nail salons.

My community is located:

Today, a little under 70% of nail technicians in California are Vietnamese. As many of us know, Little Saigon in Orange County is home to the largest Vietnamese population in the U.S. This means that while nail salons themselves may be geographically dispersed across Orange County, a significant proportion of its workforce live in the cities that make up Little Saigon, most notably Westminster, West Garden Grove, and West Santa Ana.

What makes my community special is:

Nail salon workers experience chronic exposure to a host of chemicals and toxins that are known to be cancer-causing agents. For 6 days a week, 10 hours a day, they handle glues, polishes, acetone, and other products that cause symptoms like skin rashes and asthma, as well as more long-term health complications like miscarriages and infertility.

Beyond the environmental impacts, manicurists also experience wage theft and labor violations. Nail salon workers earn an average of 25k a year. They have often been misclassified as independent contractors instead of employees and are therefore denied critical protections such as sick time, workers' comp, and breaks. A recent example of how this can be a barrier is during California's first lockdown in March 2020, manicurists who were misclassified as 1099 workers instead of W2 employees were not eligible for unemployment insurance. It wasn't until a second relief package was introduced a few months later that they gained access to these benefits.

My community is similar to the following neighborhoods:

Because of these shared challenges, areas in which many Vietnamese nail salon workers live—Westminster and West Garden Grove—should be kept together. Santa Ana West of Harbor Blvd should be included in the same district as well, because this region is home to a sizable Vietnamese community that has historically been excluded from consideration in Santa Ana municipal governance and decision-making processes.

My community is different from the following neighborhoods:

East Garden Grove, however, has a large Latinx population and should not be grouped with the more heavily Vietnamese-populated West Garden Grove and Westminster. We support the creation of a federal Voting Rights Act district that keeps East Garden Grove—from West St to West Garden Grove Blvd to Newhope St—with neighboring areas like East Santa Ana that share similar racial demographics.

In conclusion:

The nail salon industry has tripled over the last 2 decades and now generates over 7 billion dollars in revenue annually. As the demand for nail services continues to rise, it is vital that we sustain the political presence and cohesion of a workforce that has been facing a long-overlooked epidemic of health, socioeconomic, and labor concerns.

Vincent Tran
Community Engagement Coordinator at VietRISE

Date: October 5, 2021

Zone: J (Orange County)
Area: Little Saigon

Name: Vincent Tran
Organizational Affiliation: VietRISE (People’s Redistricting Alliance)
Community of Interest: Vietnamese Community
Direction: Keep Little Saigon and the Vietnamese community whole

Introduction:

Hi, my name is Vincent Tran. I am writing on behalf of VietRISE, an organization that works to advance social justice and build power with working class Vietnamese and immigrant communities in Orange County. We build leadership and create systemic change through organizing, narrative change, cultural empowerment, and civic engagement. As part of our organizing and civic engagement work, we are a founding member of the People’s Redistricting Alliance, a coalition of 16 community-based organizations established to promote a greater community voice in statewide and local redistricting processes here in Orange County.

My community is:

Our communities of interest include the Vietnamese and broader Southeast Asian communities, who share experiences associated with being both low-income and immigrants and refugees, as well as face challenges living in non-traditional housing and mobile home parks.

My community is located:

- Little Saigon is located in Westminster, west Santa Ana, west Garden Grove, Midway City, and north Fountain Valley.
- West Santa Ana: West of Harbor Blvd between Westminster Blvd and Gloxinia Ave.
- West Garden Grove: City of Garden Grove west of West St between Orangewood Ave and Garden Grove Blvd. West of Newhope St between W Garden Grove Blvd and Westminster Blvd
- North Fountain Valley: City of Fountain Valley north of the 405 Freeway.
- Significant Landmarks
 - Bolsa Ave. (Goldenwest St. to Harbor Blvd.)
 - Asian Garden Mall
 - Temples & Churches
 - Our Lady of La Vang Church (Santa Ana)
 - Vietnamese Alliance Church (Midway City)
 - Bát Nhã Temple (Santa Ana)
 - Westminster Blvd. (Goldenwest St. to Harbor Blvd.)
 - Vietnam War Memorial (Westminster)
 - Temples & Churches
 - Vietnamese Catholic Center (Santa Ana)
 - Cao Dai Temple of Orange (Westminster)
 - Garden Grove Blvd. (Beach Blvd. to Harbor Blvd.)
 - Vietnamese & Korean businesses
 - Chapman
 - Moran St., Westminster (known as Vietnamese Media Row)
 - West of Harbor Blvd. and McFadden Ave.
 - Apartments, (HOA) communities, and senior mobile home parks with mostly Vietnamese senior residents
- Cities: Garden Grove, Westminster, Midway City, West Santa Ana,

My community is similar to the following neighborhoods:

The Vietnamese community is similar to the Korean community in West Garden Grove. Due to a long history of interaction amongst these communities starting in the late 1970s, when the Vietnamese community began to take root in Santa Ana and grew westward into Garden Grove, Westminster, and Fountain Valley, there is a commonality with shared education, working & living conditions, along with immigration experiences. For example, many residents work together in the service industry, such as restaurants, cafes, or supermarkets, and their children attend the same schools and partake in the same recreational activities.

My community is different from the following neighborhoods:

East Garden Grove, which consists of a large population of Latinx residents, aligns much more with the experiences of residents in Santa Ana rather than other parts of Garden Grove. Many residents in that part of East Garden Grove own businesses and work in the neighborhood cities of Anaheim and Santa Ana and their children oftentimes are enrolled in schools that fall within the Santa Ana Unified School District or the Anaheim Union High School District. Because of these lived experiences, East Garden Grove should be paired with neighboring cities - Anaheim and East Santa Ana - that they directly experience and have interactions with on a daily basis rather than the parts of Garden Grove which there is much less interaction with the Vietnamese majority population.

What makes my community special is:

Little Saigon, which includes the cities of Garden Grove, Westminster, West Santa Ana, Midway City, Fountain Valley (north of the 405 Freeway), and the encompassing areas contain the largest Vietnamese American community in the U.S. Today, there are approximately over 200,000 Vietnamese living in Orange County. The Vietnamese community within these cities are diverse in immigration history and lived experience, however, their shared culture is a defining characteristic that brings them together. Particularly, because the majority of the Vietnamese community are foreign born, Little Saigon is especially important due to it being the epicenter of the community. In this epicenter, Vietnamese seniors are able to access their community resources, find social services, purchase their groceries, and receive culturally competent medical service. It also serves as an inflection point of community change between 1st and 2nd generation Vietnamese Americans.

Another side of the community that is not as publicly highlighted, however, is equally important are the large population of mobile home park residents who reside in Westminster, Central Garden Grove, and West Santa Ana. The majority of these residents are seniors and mainly rely on their Social Security income and/or disability check to be able to afford their housing expenses. Since 2010, there has been an increased threat towards the sustainability and survival of the mobile home communities. This is a result of mobile home sale offs, rent increases, and redevelopment. This has resulted in the senior Vietnamese residents at the Green Lantern Mobile Home park in Westminster and the Bali Hi Mobile Home Park in Santa Ana have joined together to protect their homes and prevent rent increases. These shared experiences, thus, show us that there is a great need to keep these communities together rather than separate.

In conclusion:

Our community of interest is the Vietnamese community, whose boundaries cross city lines and should be kept together in legislative districts. It is aligned with other low-income, immigrant, and refugee communities, as well as those who face challenges associated with access to affordable housing. Thank you.

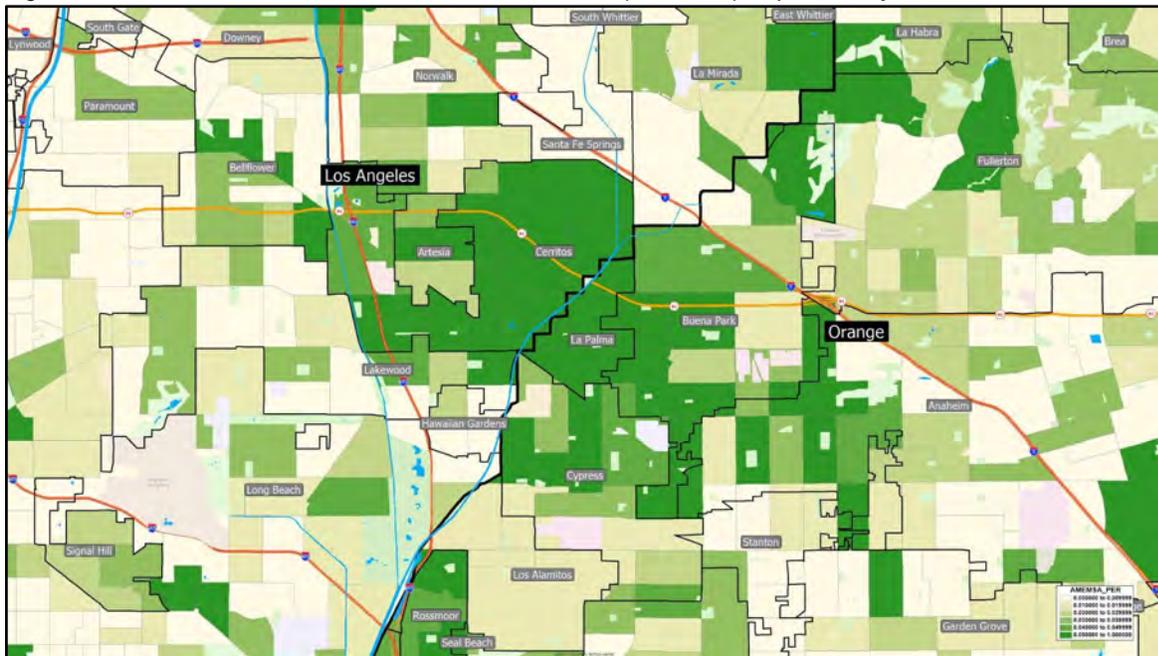
Orange County Heat Maps

Generated by the People's Redistricting Alliance

Buena Park, La Palma, and Cypress

Summary: Orange County is home to large and growing Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities. These populations are particularly prominent along the border of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, where the cities of Buena Park, La Palma, Cypress, Cerritos, and Artesia come together across county lines (see darker green shaded areas in Figure A below). In Buena Park, AMEMSA communities are located primarily south of the 5 freeway, where important religious centers such as the Gurdwara Singh Saba and Gurdwara Buena Park are also located. Together, these five cities share more in common with other communities in Orange County than they do with Los Angeles County and should be drawn into Orange County-based districts where possible. As part of their daily lives, AMEMSA communities in Orange County cross into Los Angeles County to shop in ethnic markets, dine in restaurants, worship, and access social services in Artesia and Cerritos. Institutions in Cerritos and Artesia like the Islamic Center of Cerritos, Baitul Mukarram, Al Burooj Academy, and the headquarters of Islamic Relief are particularly important to Orange County residents.

Figure A: Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) Population by Census Tract.



Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B02018 and B04006.

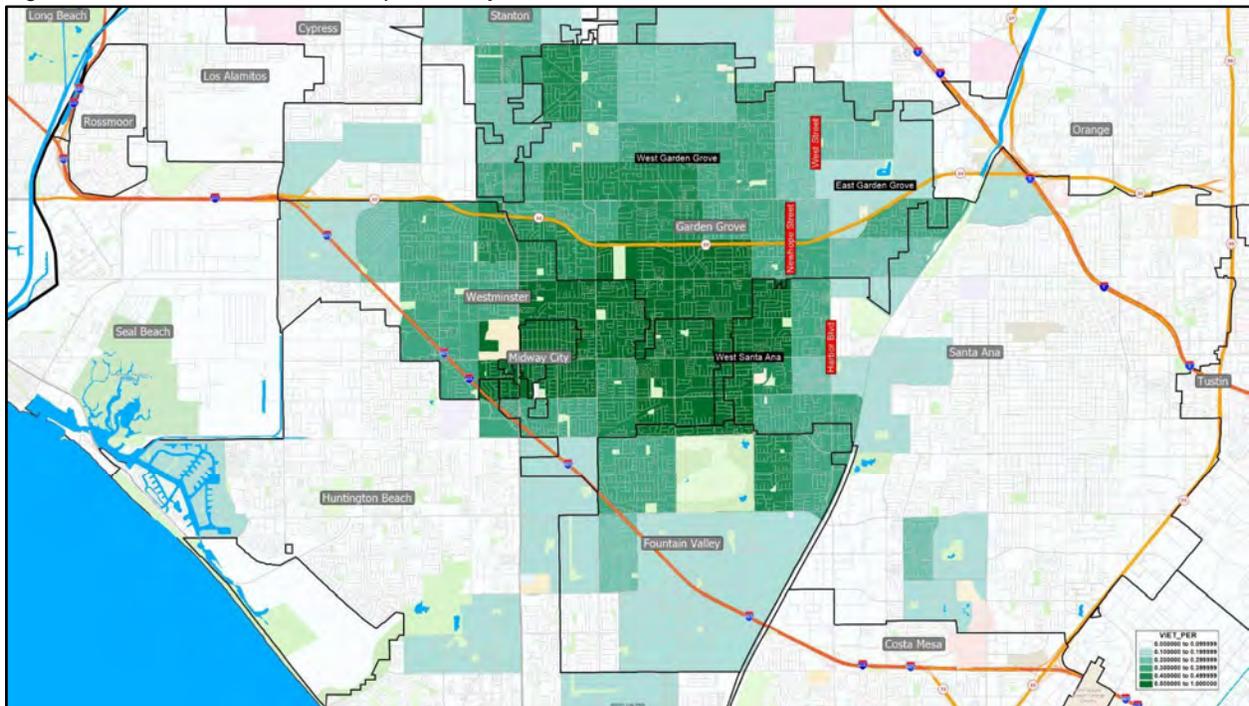
Guidance: Buena Park (south of the 5 freeway) and Cypress should be drawn together with Cerritos and Artesia in Orange County-based districts.

Detailed Testimony: Hina Ahmad (South Asian Network) and Fayaz Nawabi (CAIR-LA).

Garden Grove and Westminster

Summary: Garden Grove and Westminster are home to some of the nation’s largest Vietnamese American communities, as well as notable Korean American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations. Established after the fall of Saigon in 1975, Little Saigon has grown to encompass large portions of both cities, as well as Santa Ana west of Harbor Blvd and Fountain Valley north of the 405 freeway. In Garden Grove, the Vietnamese American community is primarily located west of West Street between Orangewood Ave and Garden Grove Blvd and west of Newhope Street between W Garden Grove Blvd and Westminster Blvd (see Figure E below). Communities in these parts of Orange County are disproportionately low-income and share both common refugee experiences and the need for social services and affordable housing. (DATA)

Figure E: Vietnamese American Population by Census Tract, Garden Grove and Westminster California.



Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B02018.

Guidance: West Garden Grove (west of West Street between Orangewood Ave and Garden Grove Blvd and west of Newhope Street between W Garden Grove Blvd and Westminster Blvd) and Westminster should be drawn together, including west Santa Ana (west of Harbor Blvd) and north Fountain Valley (north of the 405 freeway) when possible.

Detailed Testimony: Caroline Nguyen (California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative), Charlene Kazner (Pacific Islander Health Partnership), and Vincent Tran (VietRISE).

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY TESTIMONY

- Lauren Garces, Marketing, Outreach, & Events Director at the Asian Business Association San Diego
- Nao Kabashima, Executive Director at the Karen Organization of San Diego
- Mark Leo, National City Community Member & Former Resident
- Kristina Mananquil, Organizer with Asian Solidarity Collective
- June Lim, Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Lauren Garces

Marketing, Outreach, & Events Director at the Asian Business Association San Diego

Hello - my name is Lauren Garces and I serve as the Marketing, Outreach, and Events Director for Asian Business Association San Diego and as the Special Event Director for the Convoy District Partnership nonprofit. I am also speaking today as part of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative. The Asian Business Association represents the interests of over 30,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Businesses in the San Diego region and the Convoy District Partnership nonprofit is dedicated to supporting the economic growth and development of the Convoy District region located in Kearny Mesa, San Diego. I have lived in San Diego for over a decade and previously lived 5 minutes away from the Convoy District. Although I moved to the Rancho Penasquitos area, I still actively work and visit the Convoy/ Kearny Mesa region multiple times each week.

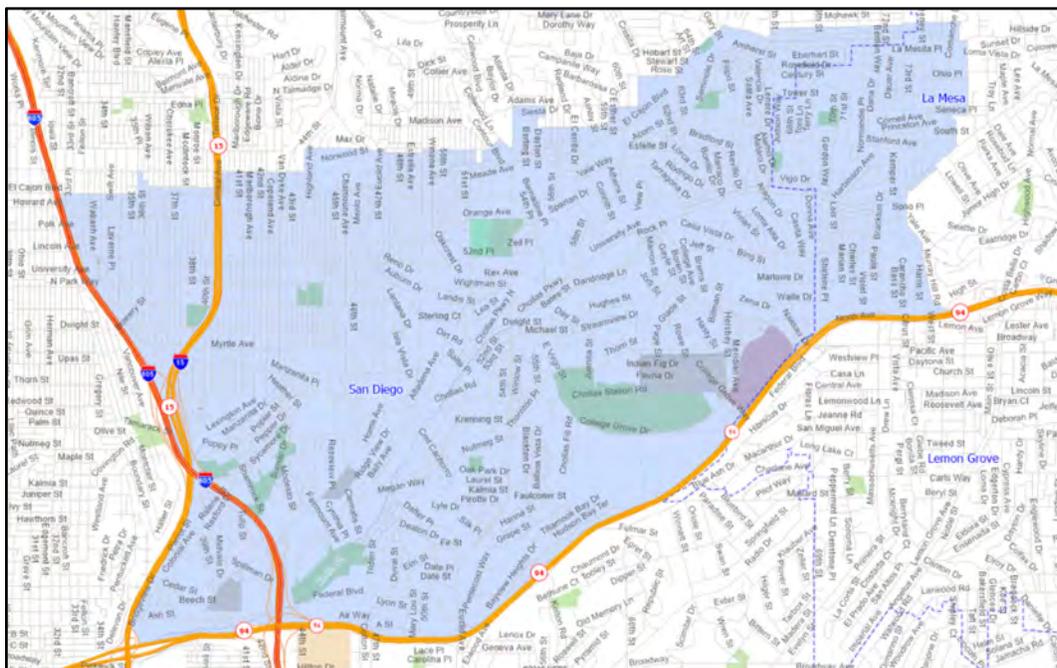
I have had the honor of coordinating annual events in the neighborhood like the San Diego Night Market which draws an average of 10,000 attendees in normal years, bring art to the region through our Box Creations mural box program, and supported our diverse business owners in the region through advocacy and access to small business resources which helped them remain open during the pandemic.

In 2020, we were proud to proclaim the area with the City of San Diego as the "Convoy Pan-Asian Cultural and Business Innovation District " which speaks to the many businesses and services that all generations, both locals and visitors, and diverse backgrounds come from all over to enjoy. The area serves a large portion of small businesses with many being minority-owned small businesses. A portion have limited English proficiency and our nonprofit has been supporting them with translating capital assistance resources. Affordability of renting/ owning properties is always on the mind of the businesses. In addition, the neighborhood also houses multi-cultural community centers like the Taiwanese Center and also many pan-Asian religious groups host their service in various venues in the neighborhood.

The region is largely identified as the triangle in the intersections of the freeways 805, 163, and 52. Located in Kearny Mesa, this area will slowly be transforming from a mixed industrial use to residential in the near future and we would love the surrounding proximity around this triangle to be able to grow with the region. Some neighborhoods that should be grouped with the region are Clairemont Mesa, Linda Vista, and Mira Mesa. Many of these boundaries are not one through street, but a combination and I can submit a written comment and map for suggested reference. Please keep the Convoy District in Kearny Mesa kept together as a whole with these surrounding and shared interest areas. Thank you.

Shan, Chin, Burmese, and Rohingya. Most of them have spent decades in the isolation of refugee camps. Camps lack opportunities for education, employment, and skill development. As such, refugee families often arrive in San Diego with little more than the clothes on their backs, with no formal education, and with traumatic memories of human rights violations back in their own home country. 90% of the adult population has no or very limited English proficiency, and most of them didn't have opportunities to complete elementary education due to the long civil wars, which are still not over yet, since 1948. They are among the most vulnerable and underserved communities in San Diego as most service providers lack the language capacity and cultural competence to work with this population. 100% of current KOSD clients are Low and moderate income residents based on the HUD income limits for the City of San Diego with 21% living with very low income and 77% living with extremely low income.

I have been working with this community in City Heights since 2009 and have witnessed many many occasions that our community members from Burma didn't have opportunities to share their voices just because their population is small. And over the past years, Karen Organization of San Diego has worked with many different refugees and newcomer communities in City Heights who share similar backgrounds and needs and newly arrived refugees in the area. It is critical for us to keep the entire City Heights community within one district so that we can amplify all refugee and newcomer voices and their needs are met. Our refugee families from Burma live in the City Heights and its surrounding area which is bounded by Highway 805 to the west and the 70 Street to the east; Highway 94 to the south and Adams Avenue to the north. However, the City Heights area is currently broken into three districts (78, 79, and 80). At the same time, it is critical for City Heights to be in the same district with Southeastern San Diego so that we can unite and work together with fair representation.



City Heights COI

Mark Leo
National City Community Member & Former Resident

Mark Leo - Kuya Ate Mentorship Program and I am also speaking today as part of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative

My community of Interest in National City is composed of Asian and Pacific Islanders who constitute 19% of National City's residents (SANDAG, Census, 2010) with a forecasted 35% growth for Asians and 21% growth for Hawaiian and Pacific Islander between 2008 to 2050.*

I propose the communities between 4th St. and 16th St. and connected with D Ave. be kept whole to be able to encompass the significant API communities in National City, linking them to the large Filipino, Pacific Islander, and Laotian communities in the 79th district (in the city of San Diego). The area houses not only API residents, but the many businesses, schools, and centers of community gathering, e.g. Bay Terrace Senior Center, Sons and Daughters of Guam, Seafood City, integral to the AAPI community. Historically, our communities are linked with one another through these businesses and community centers, despite these boundaries. For example, even when my family moved out of National City and into the Southeast area of San Diego, we continued to switch off going to church in National City and in Paradise Hills. We definitely continued to shop there as well. Our communities are stronger together and now is an opportune time to unite them in an assembly district while keeping our Latinx and Black communities with significant political voting influence as well.

Kristina Mananquil
Organizer with Asian Solidarity Collective

My Name is Kristina Mananquil and I am an organizer with Asian Solidarity Collective in San Diego, California. I am advocating on behalf of Asian Solidarity Collective on the National City/Paradise Hills, City Heights, and Kearny Mesa/Convoy District areas in San Diego. Attached are the maps for each area.

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a grassroots organization in San Diego whose mission is to activate Asian American social justice consciousness, condemn anti-Blackness, and build Asian solidarity intersectionally with Black, Brown and Indigenous folks, people with disabilities, queer and trans people of color, and all oppressed communities. Our work includes political education, community building, and collective action. We currently have 45 active members with a larger base of 658 and counting

members throughout San Diego County with 2.5% members who are South Asian, 26.3% members who identify as East Asians and 53.8% of our members who are Southeast Asians in San Diego.

ASC is the regional lead organization for the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative and our Collaborative hosted three community workshops to educate the community about redistricting, obtain communities of interest information, and obtain community mapping priorities.

The following organizations participated in the coalition: Karen Organization of San Diego (City Heights), Kuya Ate Mentorship Program KAMP (National City/Paradise Hills), Asian Solidarity Collective (Chula Vista), Asian Business Association San Diego ABASD (Kearny Mesa/Convoy). The following individuals presented their oral testimonies on September 2, 2021: Nao Kabashima of Karen Organization of San Diego, Mark Leo of KAMP, Mae Case of Asian Solidarity Collective and Lauren Garces of ABASD.

I would like to share some data in specific areas mentioned above:

- In Kearny Mesa, the population is about 12,515, with the Asian and Latinx communities nearly tied for the 2nd largest ethnic group at 22% each. The presence of Asian businesses began in 1979 with the establishment of the grocery stores Woo Chee Chong and Korean market Zion. The area of Kearny Mesa is largely commercial and industrial, but it's precisely the thriving small business areas that make it a key area of interest for the AAPI community. *Please keep the Convoy District in Kearny Mesa whole and with Linda Vista, Clairemont, and Mira Mesa, which are also key neighborhoods for the AAPI community and share common interests.*
- The Asian population in City Heights is the second largest ethnic group at 15.5% (most notably Vietnamese, Somali, Cambodian, and Laotian residents), with the majority of the population identifying as hispanic with 52.5%. Many social and cultural resources, retail stores, and restaurants are operated by and/or that serve the BIPOC population. The community is currently broken into multiple districts and this has impacted their ability to have fair representation/have their voices be heard. It is critical for us to keep the entire City Heights community as one district so that we can amplify all refugee and newcomer voices and their needs are met. *It is crucial for this community to stay whole as there are many refugee and immigrant families that have shared issues, struggles and experiences and its surrounding area which is bounded by Highway 805 to the west and the 70 Street to the east; Highway 94 to the south and Adams Avenue to the north. If City Heights must be divided between two districts, then we please ask that the split be made on 54th and Chollas Parkway.*
- National City is composed of Asian and Pacific Islanders who constitute 19% of National City's residents (SANDAG, Census, 2010) with a forecasted 35% growth for Asians and 21% growth for Hawaiian and Pacific Islander between 2008 to 2050. The area houses

not only API residents, but the many businesses, schools, and centers of community gathering. *We ask that the northeast portion of National City bounded by D Avenue and 16th St., which represents the significant API communities in National City, should be kept with the large Filipino, Pacific Islander, and Laotian communities in the area by being grouped with Paradise Hills in southeastern San Diego. If possible, they should also be kept with Bay Terraces and Alta Vista due to similar community interests.*

- The AAPI and AMESMA communities in San Diego are diverse and face a variety of shared issues such as:
 - o Lack of equitable resources in social services, housing, education, transportation, healthcare, reproductive health and disability and language justice.
 - o Many second generation families are not able to afford costs of living on their own and struggle to stay in their own community and are forced to end up leaving the area that they have grown up in.
 - o Come from poor and working class families who struggle to afford rent and adequate living conditions. Many families are multi-generational and are refugees and or children and families of immigrants that take care of elders and young children.
 - o Youth in these communities fight for ending policing in schools and investing in providing equitable resources from mental health and distance learning that is disability justice centered.
 - o Mutual aid, food banks, community gardens and exchanges, cultural and religious spaces are heavily relied on in order to thrive and have a sense of belonging and identity.

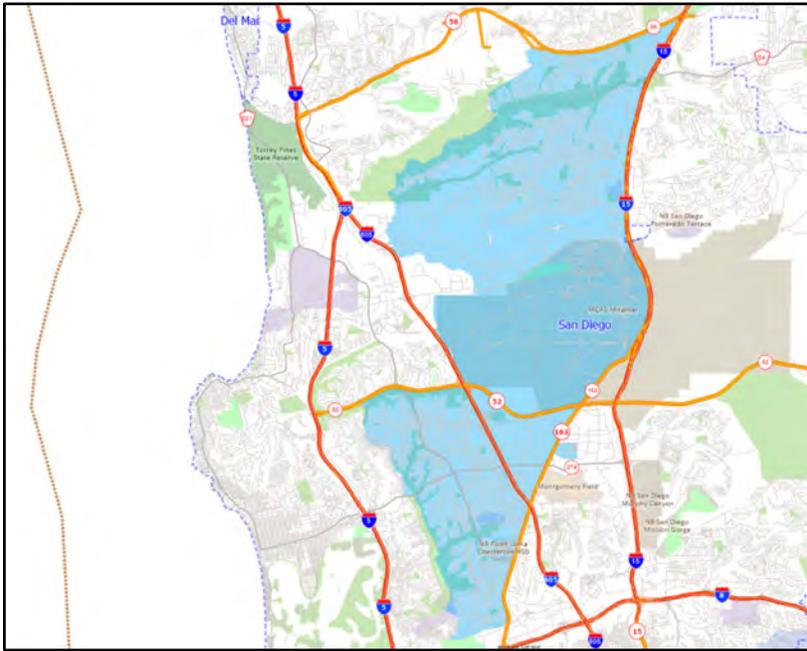
Based on the data and the growth of the AAPI populations throughout San Diego, our communities share many cultural histories, traditions and shared life experiences and struggles. The AAPI restaurants, grocery stores, and cultural spaces serve as hubs for generations of families and provide communities with opportunities to gather together and build cross-racial solidarity. We ask the commission to consider our communities of interests so that we can continue to strengthen our communities and have our needs and issues amplified and addressed.

We ask that the commission please keep:

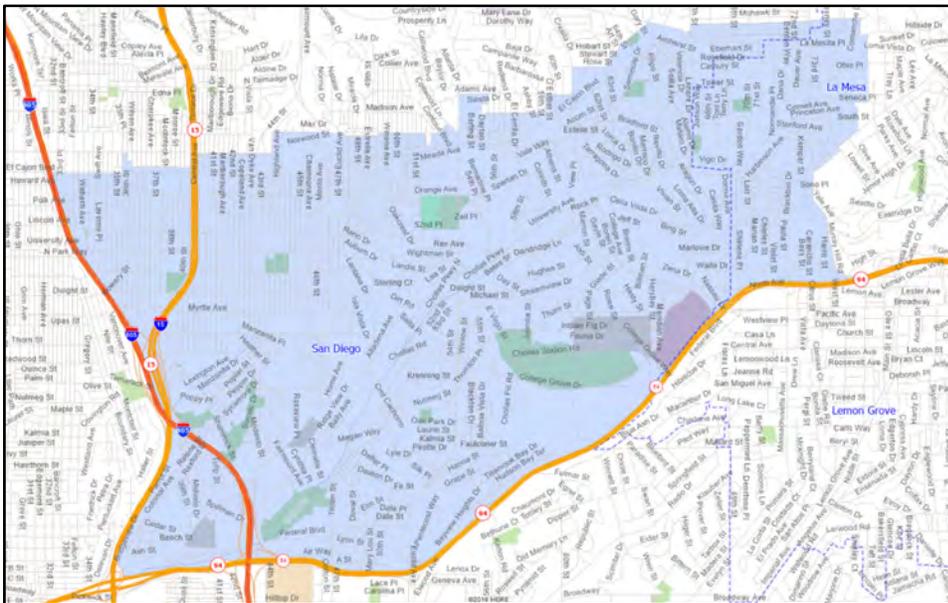
- *Convoy District in Kearny Mesa whole and with Linda Vista, Clairemont, and Mira Mesa, which are also key neighborhoods for the AAPI community and share common interests.*
- *City Heights whole as there are many refugee and immigrant families that have shared issues, struggles and experiences and its surrounding area which is bounded by Highway 805 to the west and the 70th Street to the east; Highway 94 to the south and Adams Avenue to the north.*

- *The northeast portion of National City bounded by D Avenue and 16th St., which represents the significant API communities in National City, should be kept with the large Filipino, Pacific Islander, and Laotian communities in the area by being grouped with Paradise Hills in southeastern San Diego. If possible, they should also be kept with Bay Terraces and Alta Vista due to similar community interests.*

On behalf of Asian Solidarity Collective, we would like to thank the commission for your time.



Convoy COI



City Heights COI

June Lim
Demographic Research Project Director at
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Good afternoon. My name is June Lim and I am the Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles which is a Census Information Center--an official program of the US Census Bureau designed to promote the dissemination of census data to underserved populations. I am joining you today to present data supporting the COI testimony you've heard from our partners representing the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. These include COIs that are in City Heights, Kearny Mesa, Clairemont Mesa, Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, Chula Vista and National City.

The AAPI and AMEMSA community is a large and fast-growing part of San Diego. The latest census data show that the Asian American population in the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista and National City grew considerably in the last decade. The Asian American community grew by nearly 25% in San Diego and Chula Vista. The Pacific Islander community grew by 6% in Chula Vista. Within the city of San Diego, the Asian American community grew over 11 percent in Mira Mesa and 20% in the Convoy District, Kearny Mesa, Linda Vista, and Clairemont Mesa areas. Our communities now make up over 20% of the City of San Diego and National City and over 16% of Chula Vista. Where the COIs our collaborative identified are located within the City of San Diego, AAPI and AMEMSA communities now make up over 17% of City Heights, 20% of Kearny Mesa, and over half of Mira Mesa.

Half of the AAPI & AMEMSA community in Chula Vista are foreign-born. The proportion of immigrants and refugees in the City of San Diego and National City are higher, at 56 and 67%. 80% of Burmese and Burmese Americans in San Diego are foreign-born. Over 24% of Asian Americans in Chula Vista speak English less than very well. This rate is even higher among Asian Americans in San Diego and National City at 30 and 37%, respectively.

There are socioeconomic differences in the AAPI & AMEMSA communities that vary across the COIs identified by our Collaborative. For example, while 14% of Asian Americans in Chula Vista are low income, 36% are in National City. Over 25% of Asian Americans in the city of San Diego are low-income and the range of percentage low-income varies significantly by ethnic group and by city neighborhood. Over 30% of Pacific Islanders in National City and 35% of Pacific Islanders in San Diego are low-income.

In closing, the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative asks the Commission to respect the integrity of the communities of interest presented today. I will submit to the Commission data maps and shapefiles of these Communities of Interest with my written testimony. Thank you for your time

SAN DIEGO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TABLES

2020 Asian American & NHPI Population

Place/City	ASIAN AMERICANS			NHPI		
	# Asian Americans	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020	# NHPI	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020
Chula Vista	45298	16%	24%	1448	1%	6%
National City	11246	20%	4%	310	1%	-31%
San Diego (City)	273735	20%	22%	6617	0.5%	1%
Newark						
City Heights COI	21168	17%	3%	541	0.4%	-5%
Convoy/Kearny Mesa COI	16030	20%	20%	454	1%	-11%

Data: 2020 Decennial Census PL 94-171; 2010 Decennial Census PL 94-171

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Foreign-Born

Place/City	Asian American	NHPI
Chula Vista	49%	6%
National City	67%	*
San Diego (City)	56%	12%
Newark	63%	*
City Heights COI	63%	*
Convoy/Kearny Mesa COI	62%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B05003

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)

Place/City	Asian American	NHPI
Chula Vista	24%	1%
National City	37%	*
San Diego (City)	30%	6%
Newark	28%	*
City Heights COI	51%	*
Convoy/Kearny Mesa COI	28%	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table B16004

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Low Income & Poverty

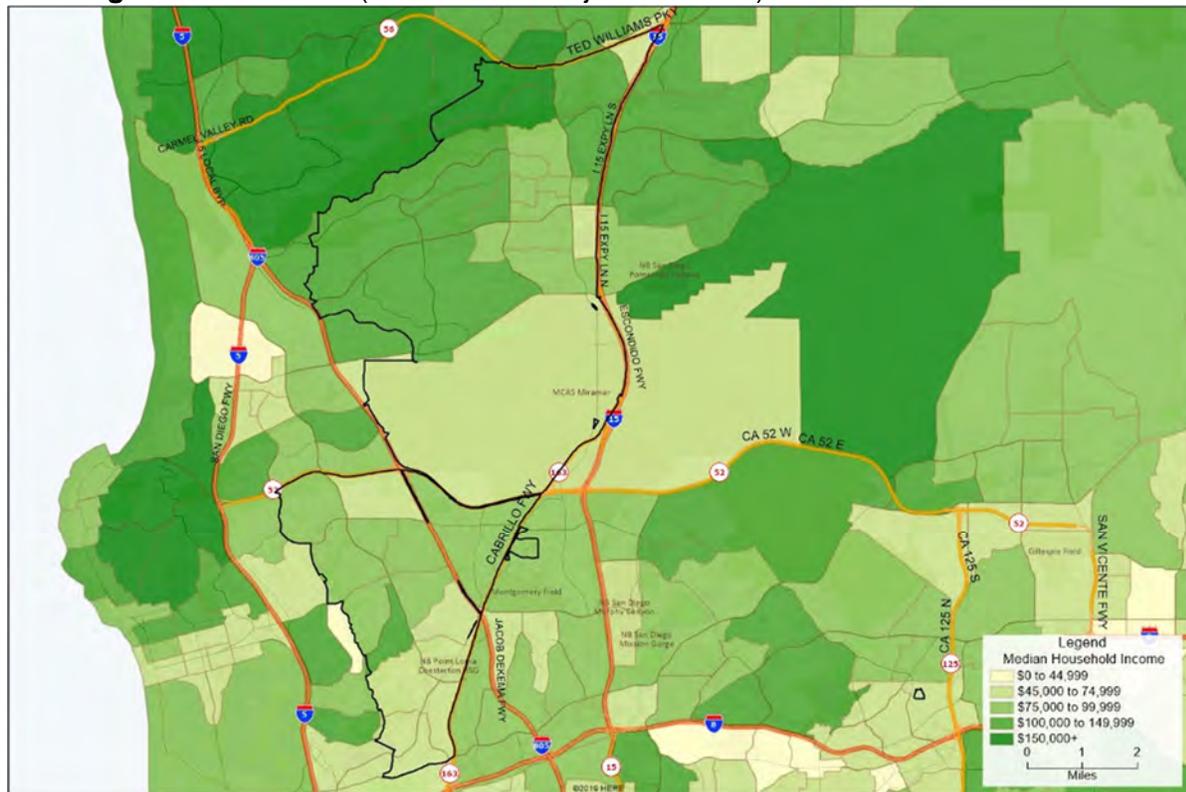
Place/City	Asian Americans		NH PI	
	% Low-Income	% Poverty	% Low-Income	% Poverty
Chula Vista	14%	6%	30%	17%
National City	36%	16%	*	*
San Diego (City)	26%	12%	36%	12%
Newark	14%		*	*
	5%			
City Heights COI	53%	26%	*	*
Convoy/Kearny Mesa COI	36%	19%	*	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table C17002

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

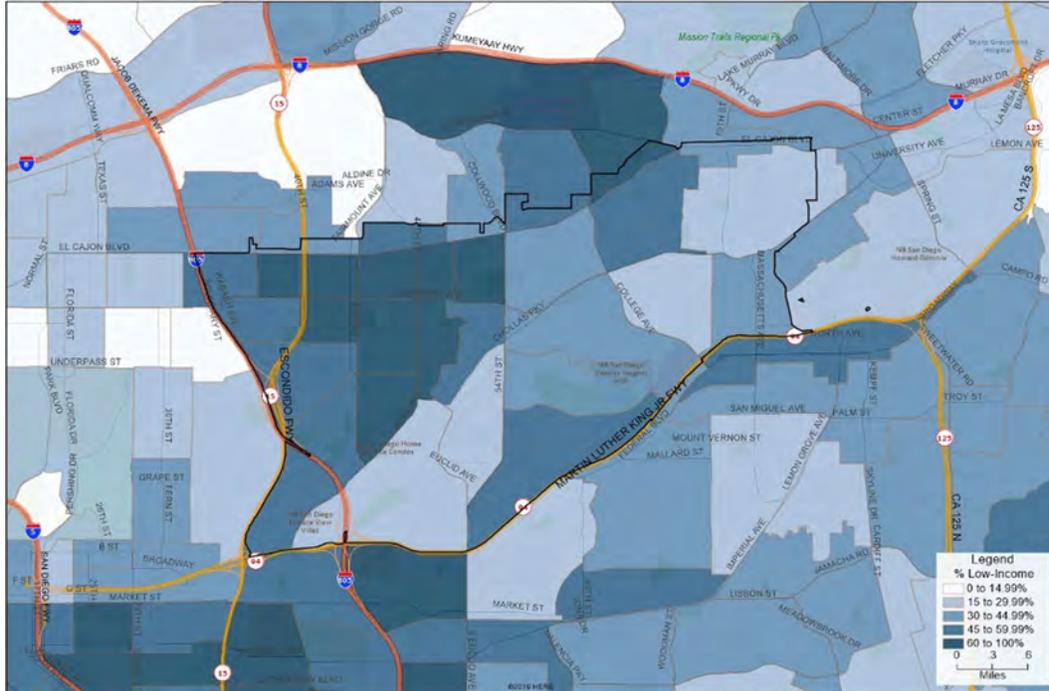
SAN DIEGO HEAT MAPS

KEARNY MESA/CONVOY DISTRICT COI: Lauren Garces, Asian Business Association San Diego Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



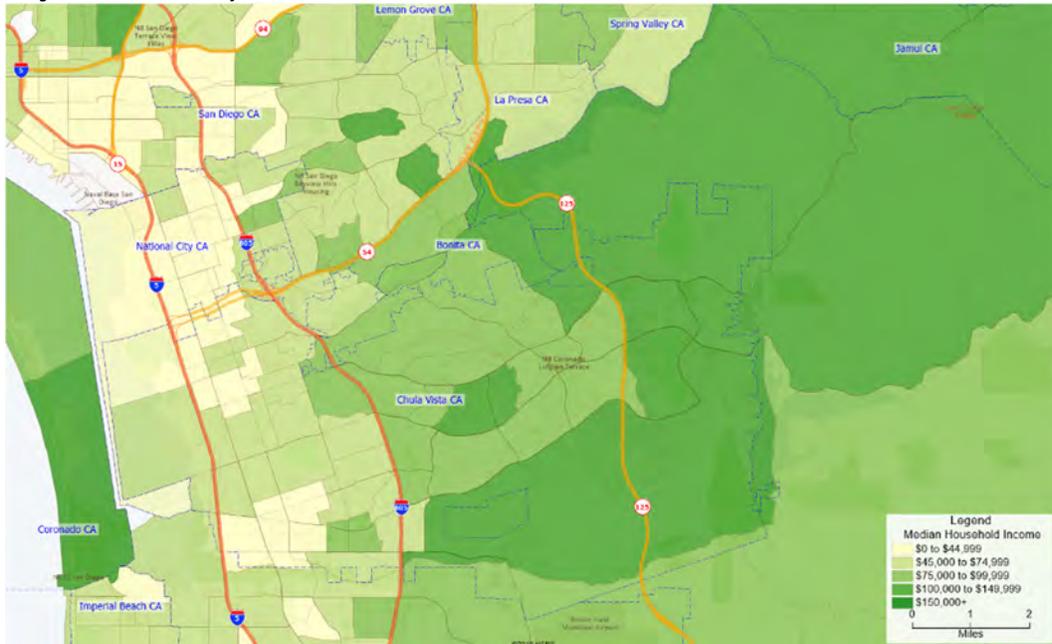
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP3062

CITY HEIGHTS COI – Nao Kabashima, Karen Organization of San Diego
 Estimated population low-income, defined as 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



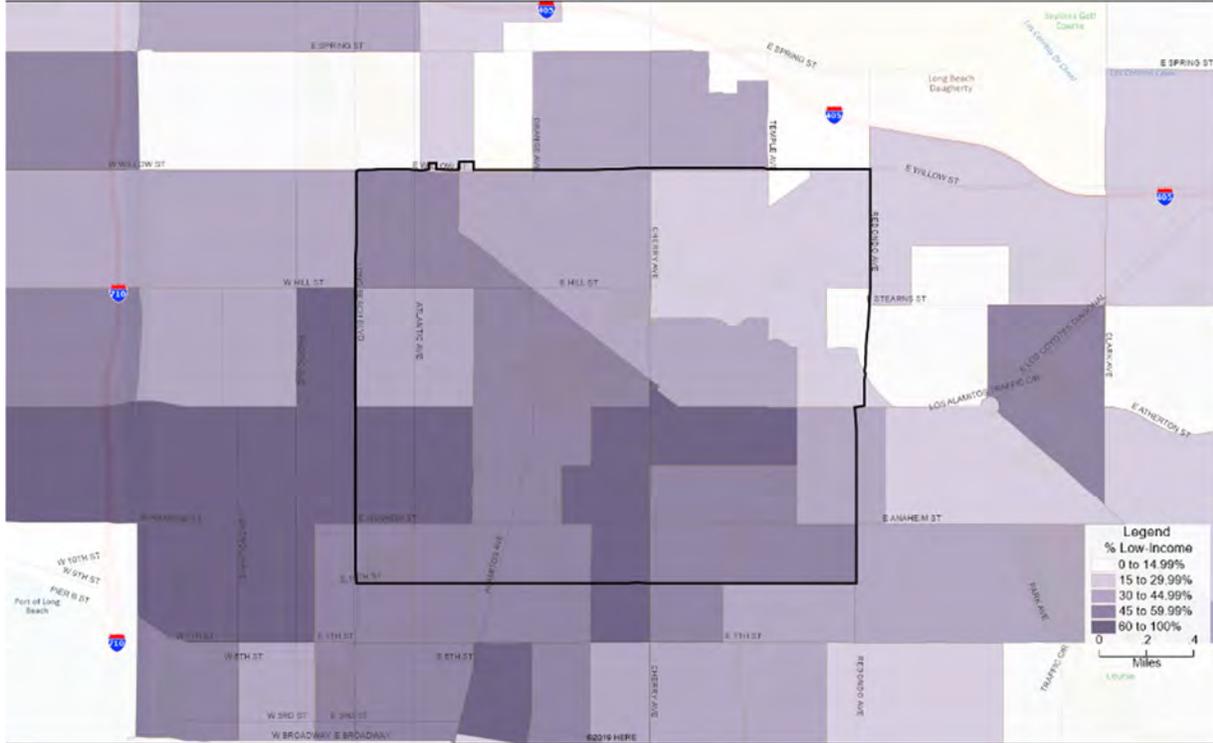
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Table S1701 5-Year Estimates

NATIONAL CITY, CHULA VISTA, & PARADISE HILLS – Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



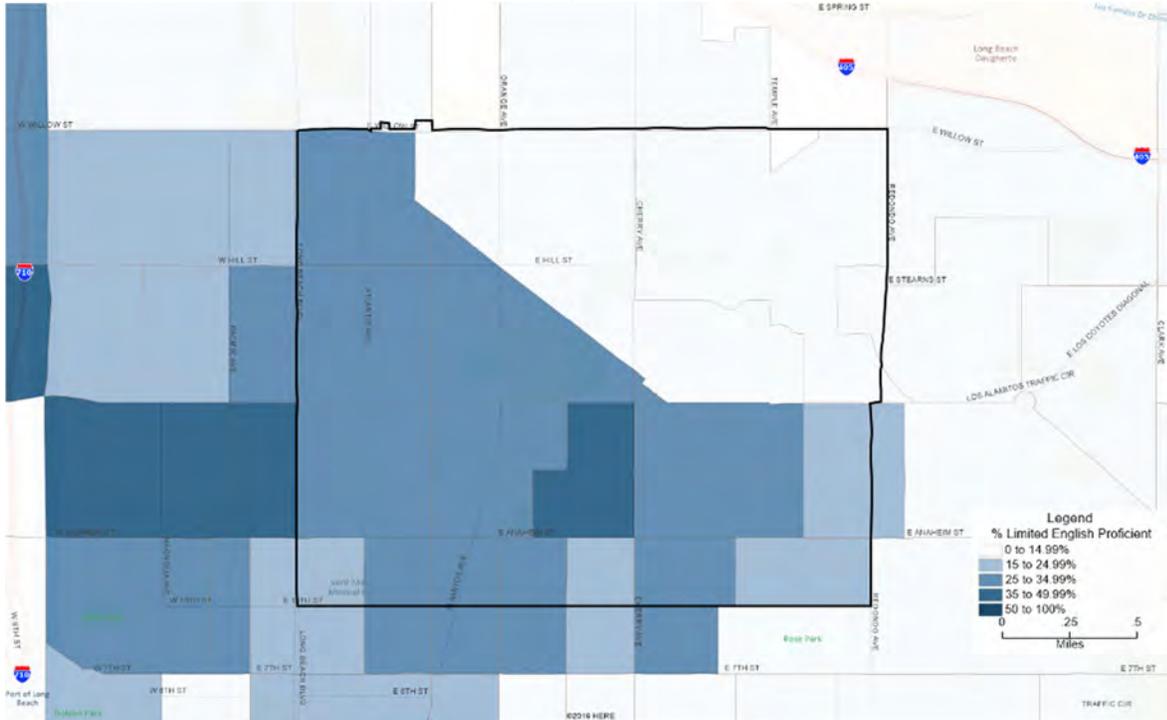
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP306

LONG BEACH - Estimated population low-income, defined as 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Table S1701 5-Year Estimates

LONG BEACH - % Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Tables C16001 and B16005B-1.