

APPENDIX B

AAPI & AMEMSA STATE REDISTRICTING COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY TESTIMONY - ASSEMBLY

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FRESNO COMMUNITY TESTIMONY

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- Sukaina Hussain, Deputy Executive Director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Central California
- Kamaljit Kaur, Director of Development at Jakara Movement
- Lilian Thaoxaochay, Community Education Specialist with UCCE Small Farms Program, Fresno County
- Naindeep Singh, Executive Director at Jakara Movement
- Tammy Vang, Fresno Field Organizer at Hmong Innovating Politics
- June Lim, Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Zena Chafi

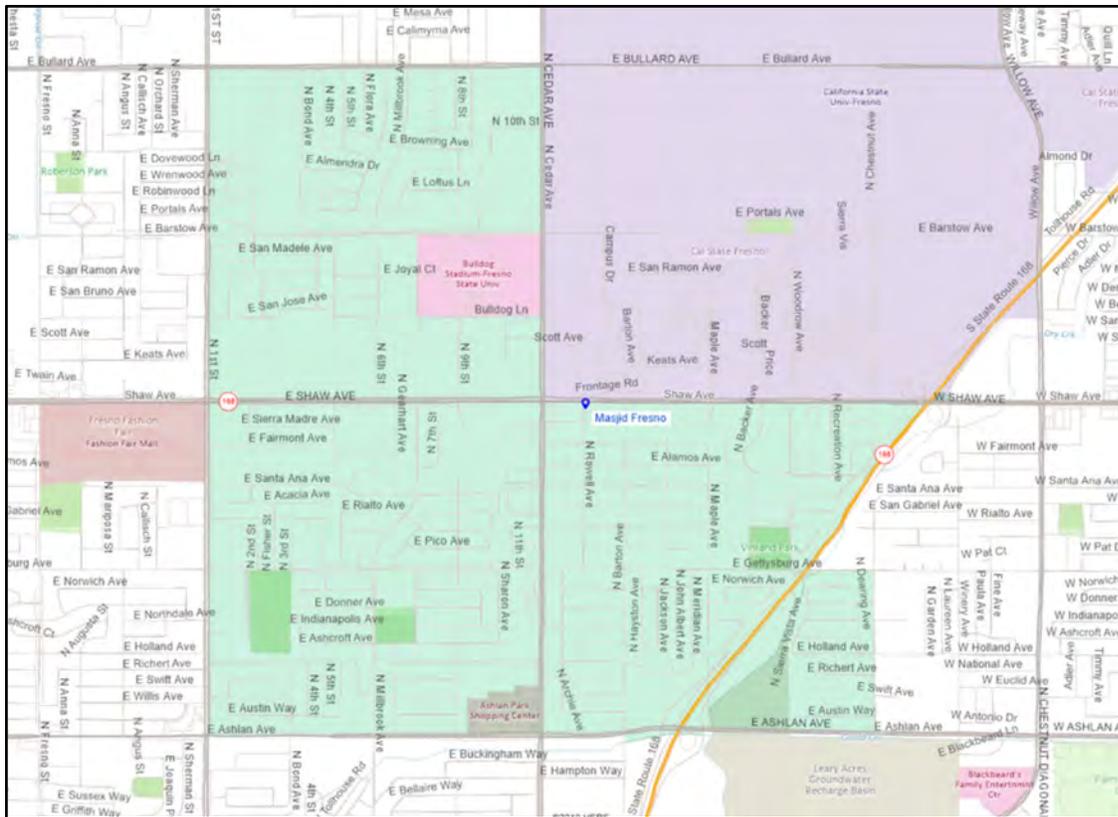
**Community Organizer at the Council on American-Islamic Relations -
Sacramento Valley & Central California**

COI Testimony

Hello, my name is Zena Chafi from CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California. The general area I will be addressing is Masjid Fresno in Northeast Fresno, within Fresno County, The community of interest bound by N 1st St. to the west, E Bullard to the North, and E Ashlan Ave to the south, then follows N Cedar Ave down to W Shaw Ave over to 168 and down N Chestnut Ave to the east. CAIR SVCC advocates for just policies for our communities, provides pro bono civil rights and immigration legal services to families in need. and builds future youth leaders by organizing civic engagement and education initiatives such as GOTV, Census, and redistricting, to the AMEMSA (Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Communities) in Fresno County between the regions of Bakersfield to Merced. I have lived in Fresno for over 20 years. CAIR is with the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative.

Our community is connected by faith, culture, and language. Friday prayers, youth programs, and mosques bring our community together. The Muslim community generally lives close to mosques for easy access. Masjid Fresno (Northeast Fresno), located on Shaw, right by Fresno State, is the largest mosque in Fresno. The Muslim community in northeast Fresno surrounding Masjid Fresno are primarily South Asian, Palestinian, and Syrian first or second-generation immigrants. In addition , in 2016 there was a heavy influx of Syrian immigrants that reside South of Bullard near Masjid Fresno. Because of the strong immigrant presence in this community, there is a shared concern of immigrant rights, quality education, access to affordable housing and transportation, culturally competent and in language resources and youth programs for our communities to thrive in America. The Muslim community in this region, particularly the Syrian refugee population have migrated from a war ridden developing country and share the need to feel safe and accepted again by being in community with the very people who understand their language, culture, and values.

We hope that the Commission will respect our community of interest and keep it whole. Additionally, we would like to be in a district with West Fresno due to a large Muslim population with shared interests regarding infrastructure, COVID 19, and immigration, with communities in this area. We do not want to be in a district with urban communities surrounding north Fresno and fig garden due to a lack of shared interests and priorities.



Northeast Fresno Masjid Muslim COI

Sukaina Hussain

Deputy Executive Director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Sacramento Valley & Central California

Good afternoon. The area of interest is Northwest Fresno around Herndon and Milburn Ave.

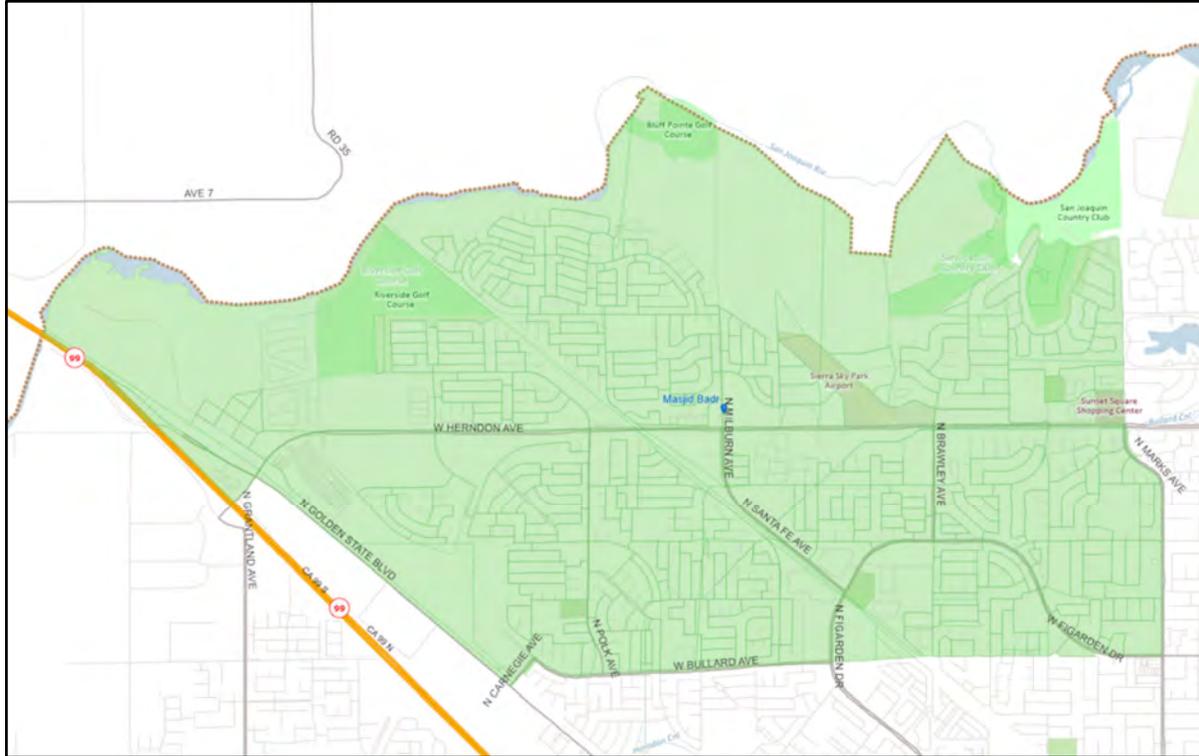
My name is Sukaina Hussain, I have lived in Fresno for nearly 6 years and I am the Deputy Executive Director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations Central California. I am also speaking as part of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. As a nonprofit organization, CAIR’s work focuses on providing legal services for the Muslim community. This includes protecting civil rights, immigration services, advocating for policies rooted in justice, community organizing on issues impacting the local Muslim community, building youth leaders and mobilizing the Muslim community through civic engagement and ensuring voices are heard on decisions that impact all of our families. I will be focusing on the northwest area of the City of Fresno within Fresno County.

The Community of Interest in northwest Fresno around Masjid Badr (which is a mosque located on Herndon and Milburn Ave) is bound by Bullard Ave to the south, Marks Ave to the east, Highway 99 on the West and continues north of Herndon Ave. This region has a significant concentration of Muslim and Arabic-speaking immigrants and should remain whole.

Over the past decade, there has been an increase in Muslim residents moving into this area, in particular the immigrant community which largely consists first-generation families from Arabic-speaking Middle Eastern countries. Not only do these families have a shared language, they also have shared religious values and cultural similarities. The Muslim community has not only become more concentrated in this region due to lower cost of living but also because of proximity to Masjid Badr. The masjid, or mosque, serves not only as a place of worship, but is also a community center where groups such as young people, seniors, students and mothers and many more groups gather for special interest activities. In addition to regular Friday services, the mosque holds daily prayers, and many evening and weekend events which brings the community together on a regular basis. Feeling a connection and closeness to the mosque - physically and spiritually - is very important to Muslim community and has led to the increased concentration of Muslim residents in this region. Issues related to immigration are a shared priority for our community, particularly as it relates to refugee populations. Other shared concerns that bring our community together are education and schools for families with young children, the cost of rent/housing and in-language access to county and city resources.

Today, we ask the Commission to keep our Community of Interest together and whole. There are other immigrant communities with similar traits in the region that would be helpful to keep together as well, such as nearby Hmong and Punjabi Sikh communities. This Community of Interest is separate and distinct from the economically advantaged areas in North Fresno and Fig Garden.

Thank you very much for your time.



Northwest Fresno Masjid Badr Muslim COI

Kamaljit Kaur
Director of Development at Jakara Movement

My name is Kamaljit Kaur and I work for Jakara Movement, a community based organization, and I am a resident of the city of Fresno for the past 29 years. I am also here representing AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative. Today I will be talking about Northwest neighborhoods and Sunnyside neighborhoods in Fresno, CA as the community of interest.

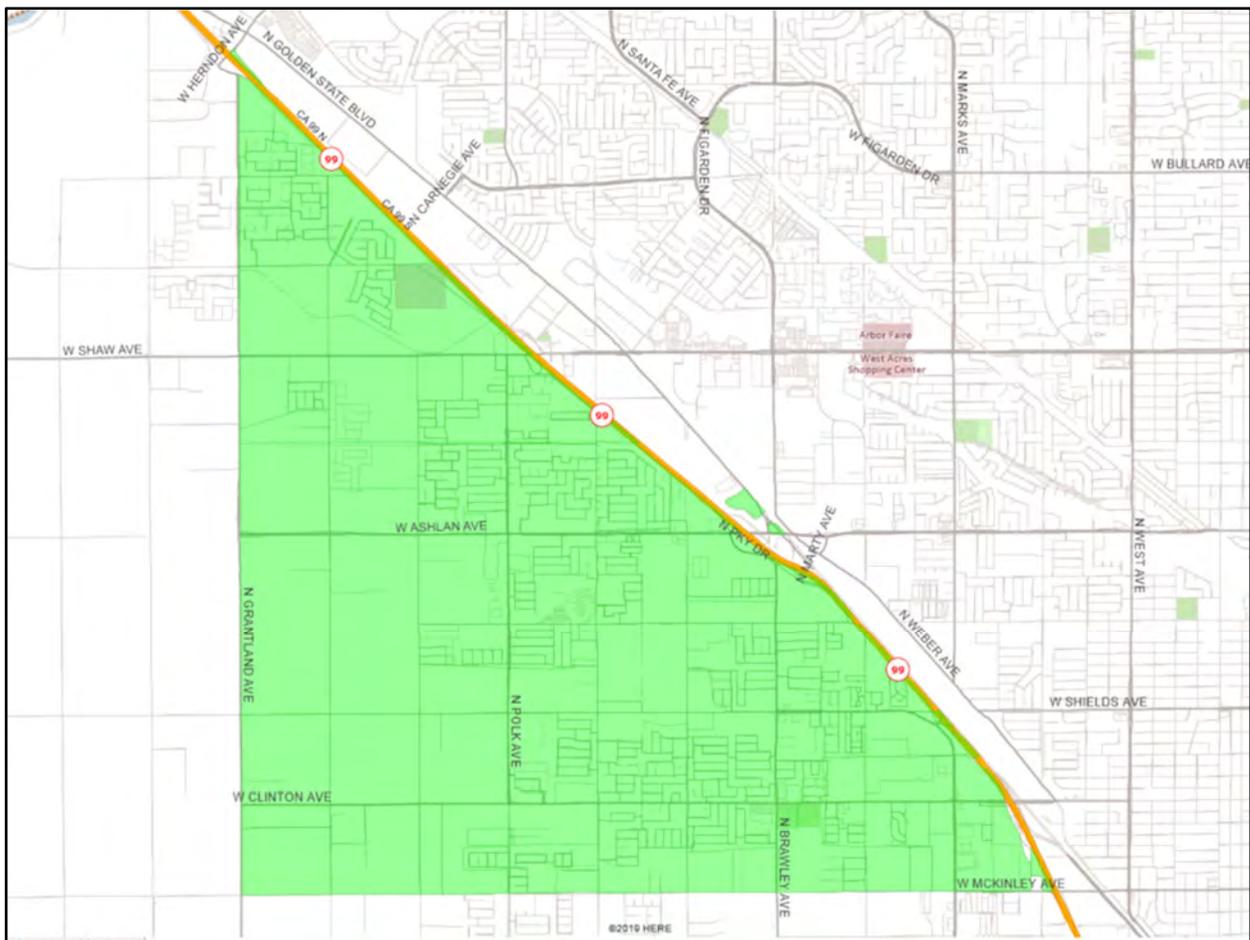
Our communities are bound by Mckinely being south bound to Garfield being westbound herndon north and ashlan south and marks east boundary

The Jakara Movement has been active within the community for 20 years, organizing and empowering the Punjabi-Sikh and other marginalized communities, to advance their health, education, and economic, social, and political power.

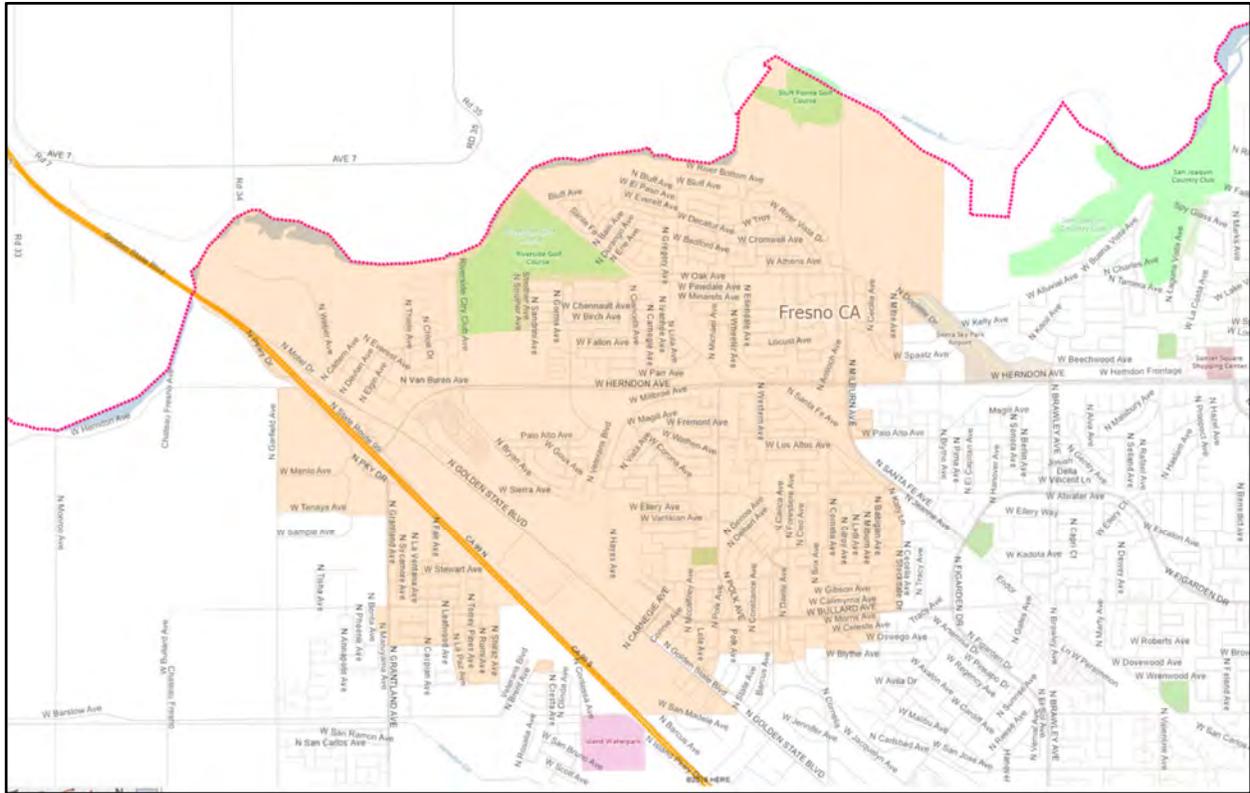
Punjabi is our ethnic background whereas Sikh is an ethno-religious background. Punjabis have been living in California for over 120 years. The community is tied by its Punjabi language and culture and its, Sikh faith. We have many families moving into this area of Fresno because of two local regional gurdwaras Sikh Institute of Fresno and Nanaksar Gurdwara on Cornelia ave.

These gurdwaras are not only places of worship but also places where our elderly gather and community events are held. Central Unified School District in this region also has one of the highest populations of Punjabi-Sikh students and continues to grow. Another reason a lot of families wish to stay in this area is due to employment in the trucking industry allowing families to be close to a major highway the highway 99 and being able to find carpool rides to their blue collar jobs at places such as Foster Farms and Zacky Farms. There are many language-limited folks who live in this area and are in need of more language access services. Many of our families feel alienated and are codependent on their children because of a lack of resources & language barriers.

Along with the Sikh Community there is a growing muslim community and hmong community whom all have shared priorities such as education, employment, community, language, and immigrant rights.



Northwest Fresno Sikh & Punjabi COI 1



Northwest Fresno Sikh & Punjabi COI 2

Lilian Thaoxaochay
Community Education Specialist with UCCE Small Farms Program, Fresno County

The UCCE Small Farms Program in Fresno County has worked with small-scale Southeast Asian farmers – a mix of ethnic Lao, Hmong, Mien, Cambodian, and Vietnamese refugees – since the 1990s or for approximately 30 years now. We provide both education and research in multiple languages and formats in all aspects of farming from pest and weed management to soil health and crop diversity. We also assist with compliance regarding federal and state work laws and food safety requirements for these small farms.

Southeast Asian farmers grow an astoundingly diverse array of crops in any given season on a single farm. These “Asian specialty crops” range from multiple types of squash to leafy greens, chilies, herbs, and subtropical and tropical fruits for direct sales at local grocery stores and farmers markets. Some farmers also supply wholesale producers who distribute throughout the state and beyond. In 2019, it was estimated that Southeast Asian farmers in Fresno County produced 21,825 tons of Asian specialty vegetables valued at \$25.7 million.

A study conducted by our program in 2015 found that an estimated 80% of Southeast Asian farmers still rent rather than own the land they farm. This is due in part to the fact that most Southeast Asian farmers are “small farmers” – defined by the USDA as farm operations grossing <\$250,000/year.

In 2011, we identified Southeast Asian farmers as largely operating throughout Fresno County south of Ashlan Avenue. However, a majority (40%) resided in a single neighborhood within the city of Fresno (boundaries at N: Shields Avenue; E: Temperance Avenue; S: Jensen Avenue; and W: Highway 41 until Belmont Avenue and then First Street S of Belmont).

Over the last 10 years, Southeast Asian farmers have expanded to all four corners of Fresno County seeking available land. Still, a majority of Southeast Asian farmers reside in the area now identified as “Sunnyside” on the attached maps developed in consultation with the AAPI and AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative which we are a part of.

Additional information from recent joint efforts with the Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) regarding COVID-19 prevention and vaccination in the Fresno Southeast Asian farmer community further support these claims. While Southeast Asian farmers work all over Fresno County, they largely live in zipcode 93727 (“Sunnyside”). Based on these data, we recommend that this area be considered and maintained as whole.

Another area experiencing expansion is the “Sanger Southeast Asian farmers” region which neighbors “Sunnyside” to the east. This area has seen a significant growth of residential Southeast Asian farmers – meaning the 20% of Southeast Asian farmers who choose to buy and live on their farms are taking up residence in the vicinity of the city of Sanger, just outside Fresno. And although the “Sanger Southeast Asian farmers” and “Sunnyside” areas are in separate communities boasting their own school districts and city centers, there is increasingly important overlap of interests due to the presence of Southeast Asian farmers, farmworkers, and their families in both areas on such issues as education, representation, zoning, and development. These interests do not necessarily diverge from the currently existing community’s needs. But where feasible, prioritizing and linking these two regions would assist in ensuring representation of this community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Naindeep Singh
Executive Director at Jakara Movement

Sat Sri Akaal – Meharbani Ji

Hello, my name is Naindeep Singh, and I am the Executive Director of the Jakara Movement. I am a resident of Fresno, CA. I am calling in today to provide input on the 99 Corridor and West

Fresno neighborhoods and to provide an introduction for the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative.

Over the past few months, the Jakara Movement has worked as a regional partner with the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative in the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley, and Bay Area. The testimony that my colleagues and I have prepared for you today is a reflection of our coalition's engagement with our communities, collecting feedback from multiple stakeholders regarding COIs across West Fresno.

This past summer, our State Collaborative held 4 community workshops for communities in the Central Valley, reaching 10 different community based organizations and over 20 community members and staff. Across these workshops, we've mapped a variety of COIs that capture the diversity of the AAPI & AMEMSA community in the Central Valley – especially Fresno while providing education on the ways to engage with the state redistricting process. Outside these meetings, members have also engaged in direct outreach to their respective communities, gathering insight from religious leaders, business owners, students, and families. We hope our Collaborative's work helps the Commission better understand the diverse AAPI & AMEMSA communities in the Central Valley – especially the Fresno area.

With the most recent data release from the 2020 Census, we now know Asian Americans makeup more than 11% of Fresno County residents, making this population one of the largest and fastest growing in the region.

The 99 corridor skirting both sides of the 99 is home to one of the fastest growing Punjabi communities in the country. Industries, especially transport, common languages, backgrounds, and even difficulties unite Punjabi speaking communities throughout the region. The implications of a large concentrated racialized minority has many huge impacts – including environmental issues related to health disparities exacerbated by the poor air quality straddling the 99, lack of language access due to a large limited English proficient Asian population which is the case for most Punjabi Sikh families, and lack of access to parks and other recreational activities, especially for senior citizens. This region has also seen an uptick on hate-related violence against elderly Sikh men.

The core of this region straddles the 99 corridor from Herndon to Grantland and McKinley Avenues. Despite Punjabis being well-represented in all counties across the Central Valley, their political voices have been stifled via splitting. We hope to keep parts of this region intact.

Today, I am urging the commission to consider keeping the 99 West Fresno Corridor and adjacent neighborhoods whole as many have similar shared interests and traits. It is important that we are drawn together to continue to amplify the voice of Asian Americans across Fresno County and beyond.

Thank you so much for hearing from me today and the rest of the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. I hope you give them your time, attention, and strong consideration.

Tammy Vang
Fresno Field Organizer at Hmong Innovating Politics

Hello Commission,

My name is Tammy Vang and I am looking over Fresno. I am the Fresno Field Organizer for Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP). HIP's mission is to strengthen the political power of two of the largest Hmong American populations in the state. I was also born and raised in Fresno and have lived here for 26 years. Fresno is my hometown and is a place near and dear to my heart. As a child, I moved around in Fresno a lot due to poverty and economic disparities, so I know the areas in which my community resides very well. HIP also serves as a member of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative.

The Fresno Hmong community is one of the largest Hmong communities in the US and people come from all over the country to participate in it's annual Fresno Hmong New Year. The Hmong community used to be concentrated into one area in Central Southeastern Fresno, but throughout the years, it has expanded and we now live in clusters throughout Fresno, with particular landmark concentrations provided below. I will submit a written copy of my testimony with more information about where our Hmong communities are located.

Community Boundaries (Mapping Attach Below):

- **99 & Shaw Ave area:** W Shaw Ave to the north, N Marks Ave to the east, W Shields Ave to the south, N Grantland Ave to the west
- **FIRM area:** E Clinton Ave to the north, N 1st St. to the east, E McKinley Ave to the south, N Fresno St. to the west
- **Melody Park:** Ashlan Ave to the north, N Armstrong to the east, E Shields to the south, Clovis Ave to the west
- **Stone Soup area:** Near El Dorado Park; E Barstow Ave to the north, N 6th St. to the east, E San Jose Ave to the south, N 1st St. to the west
- **Sunnyside:** E Kings Canyon Rd. to the north, Fowler Ave to the east, E Jensen to the south, S Chestnut to the west
- **The Fresno Center Area:** E Olive Ave to the north, N Temperance Ave down to E Kings Canyon Rd. and S Fowler Ave to the east, E Jensen Ave to the south, and Maple Ave to the west.
- **Westside:** S West Ave to the west, E Jensen Ave to the south, SR-41 to the east, and W California Ave to the north
- **Vang Pao Elementary School area:** E Kings Canyon Rd to the north, S Maple Ave to the east, E California Ave to the south, S Orange Ave to the west



S. Shaw



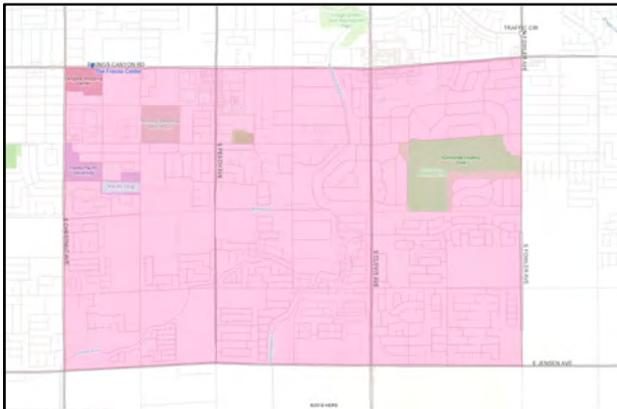
FIRM



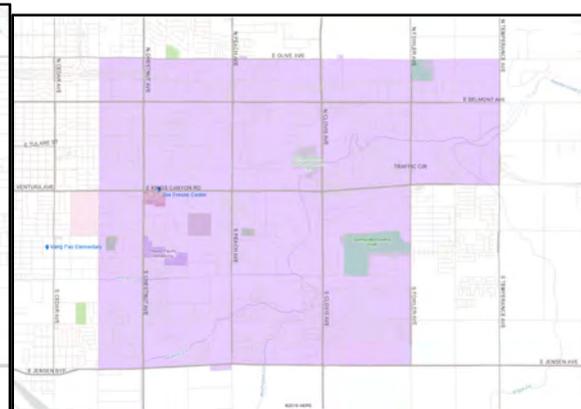
Melody Park



Stone Soup Fresno



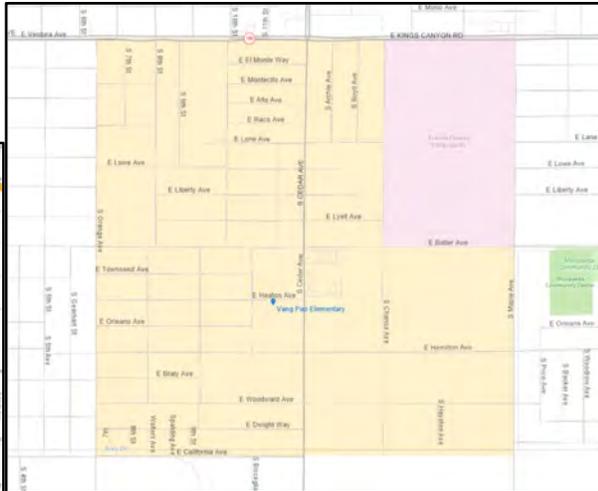
Sunnyside



The Fresno Center



West side_Edison



Vang Pao Elementary

Our communities share a variety of characteristics such as:

- We're made up of first-generation immigrants who fled war in the early 1980s and 1990s, resettled in low-income and affordable housing areas of Fresno. Due to lack of access to financial capital and literacy, our community are more as renters than homeowners in the area. As community members obtained more financial capital, most have moved to the suburban areas such as Clovis, Sanger, and Central side.
- Our community has been in the United States for over 45 years with the current median age for our community being 23 years old with a huge proportion of them being American-born. There is still a population of community members who are 60 years and over with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- To financially support themselves, some families established small businesses in the farming industry and creative clothing outlets. Some in the service and manufacturing industries. Others in the medical health and nonprofit sectors such as myself.
- Our community members tend to graduate from high school but have low rates of college attainment due to a long history of disenfranchisement.

These characteristics mean that our community has many shared concerns, particularly issues such as providing more culturally appropriate programming in schools, better language access in government assistance programs and services, and including the need for tenant protections, adequate health, housing, mental health services, and more.

Finally, we ask the commission to respect our communities of interest to the extent possible. We hope that our community can largely be grouped with the nearby Latinx communities in the current AD-31, as we have many shared interests and characteristics. However, since our community is spread over such a large area and may need to be

divided, we support keeping those in the Clovis area with nearby folks who are also in current AD-23.

We believe this is critical to help nurture and foster healthier, stronger, and happier neighborhoods. When people in our community are involved in the process of shaping their environment and community, they get to share ideas, become invested and committed in helping find solutions and creating strategies to address the issues in their communities.

HIP is committed to helping the Hmong community through increasing their civic participation and preserving fair maps to protect the ability for a community to help choose aligned political representation. Thank you for your time.

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. I am joining you today to present data supporting the Community of Interest testimony you've heard from our partners representing the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. These include COIs from the Punjabi Sikh, Muslim, and Hmong communities in Fresno County.

The Asian American, Pacific Islander, and AMEMSA community is a large and fast-growing part of Fresno County. The latest census data show that while the population in Fresno County grew by 8% between 2010 and 2020, the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the county grew faster--by 27 and 18%, respectively; and now are over 12% of the Fresno County population. In specific cities and census designated places within the County, the AAPI and AMEMSA communities have grown even faster. The Asian American community has grown by more than 40% in Clovis and Sunnyside and the AAPI & AMEMSA communities now make up more than 15% of Clovis, Sunnyside and the city of Fresno.

Twenty one percent of Fresno County is immigrant. Nearly half of the AAPI & AMEMSA community in Fresno is foreign-born. Over 1/3rd of AAPI & AMEMSA communities in Fresno County is Limited English Proficient meaning they speak English less than very well--Asian Americans are most likely of any racial group in Fresno county to be LEP. Over 40% of Hmong and Asian Indian communities, which include the Sikh communities, speak English less than very well. The rate is disproportionately higher among older adults--95% of Hmong elders and 100% of PI elders in the City of Fresno speak English less than very well.

The per capita income for Asian Americans in Fresno County is less than ⅔ of the per capita income for Whites, and Hmong Americans are the poorest in the region, with a per capita

income under \$10,000. There are regional differences as well . While slightly more than 34% of Asian Americans in Clovis are low-income, more than 55% of Asian Americans in the City of Fresno are Low-income and over 31% live in poverty.

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

FRESNO DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TABLES

2020 Asian American & NHPI Population

Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS			NHPI		
	# of Asian Americans	% of Total Population	%	#NHPI	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020
Fresno County	116857	12%	27%	1768	0.2%	18%
Clovis	16764	14%	55%	401	0.3%	
Fresno (City)	81216	15%	27%	1074	0.2%	
Sunnyside	699	15%	45%	*	*	*

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

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Foreign-Born

Geography	Asian American	NHPI
Fresno County	47%	20%
Clovis	45%	*
Fresno (City)	47%	19%

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 American	Hmong American	NHPI
Fresno County	34%	41%	10%
Clovis	28%	46%	*
Fresno (City)	37%	42%	11%

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		Hmong American		NHPI	
	% Low-Income	% Poverty	% Low-Income	% Poverty	% Low-Income	% Poverty
Fresno County	50%	27%	70%	41%	56%	32%
Clovis	34%	18%	65%	55%	*	*
Fresno (City)	55%	31%	70%	42%	56%	42%

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

*American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

FRESNO HEAT MAPS

NORTHWEST FRESNO SIKH & PUNJABI COI – Jaskeet Kaur, Jakara Movement Estimated Population % Foreign-Born



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP2092

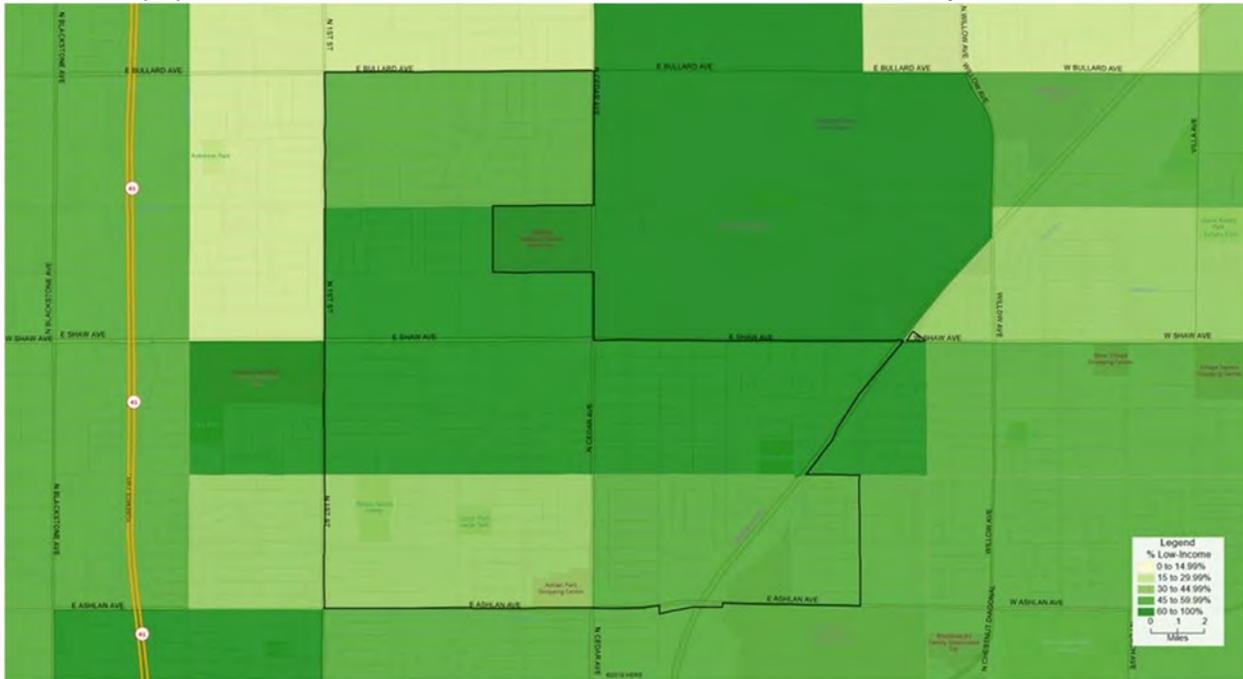
NORTHWEST FRESNO MASJID BADR MUSLIM COI – Sukaina Hussain, Council on American-Islamic Relations - Central California

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

NORTHEAST FRESNO MASJID FRESNO MUSLIM COI – Zena Chafi, Council on American-Islamic Relations – Sacramento Valley/Central California
 Estimated population low-income, defined as 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



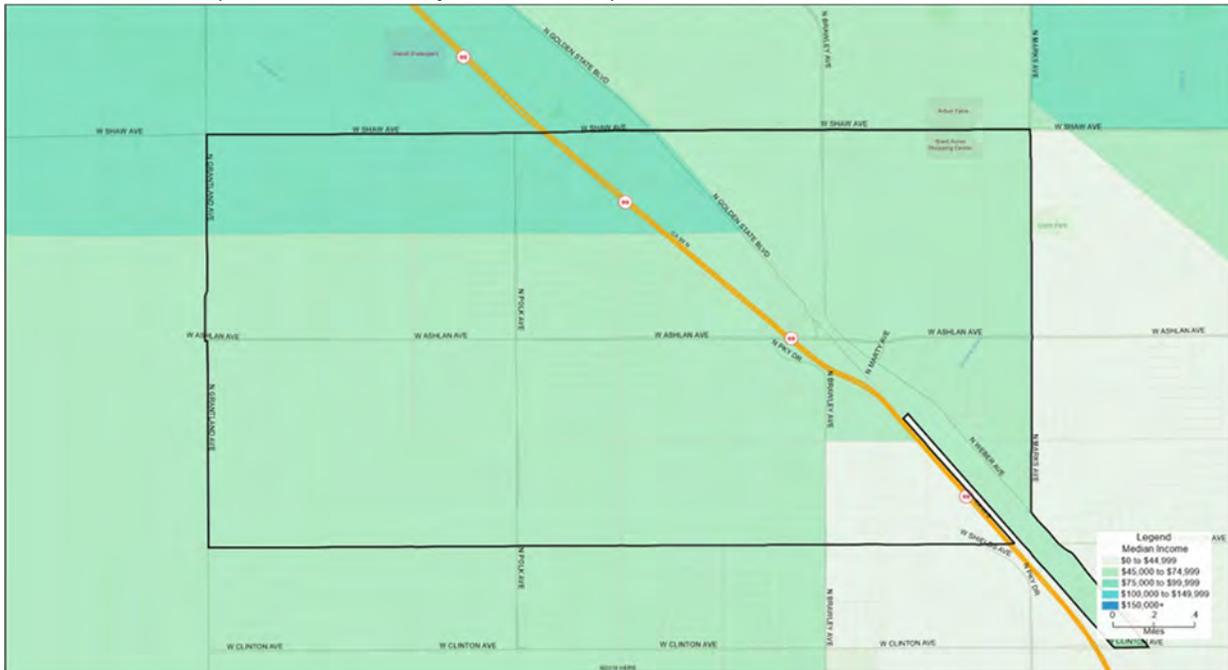
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Table S1701 5-Year Estimates

NORTHWEST FRESNO SIKH & PUNJABI COI – Kamaljit Kaur, Jakara Movement
 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

99 & SHAW AVE HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



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

FRESNO INTERDENOMIATIONAL REFUGEE MINISTRIES (FIRM) HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 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

WESTSIDE HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 Estimated population low-income, defined as 200% of the Federal Poverty Level



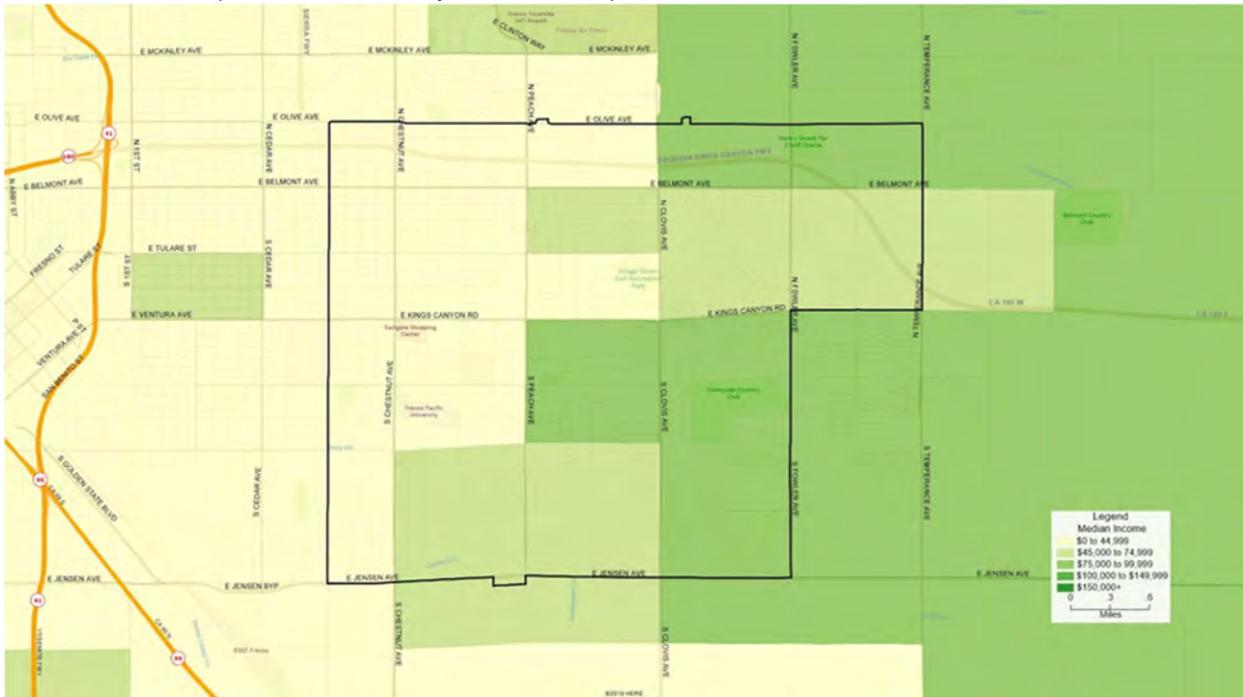
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Table S1701 5-Year Estimates

VANG PAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 % Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)



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

THE FRESNO CENTER HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



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

MELODY PARK HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 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

STONE SOUP HMONG COI – Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
 Median Income (2018 Inflation adjusted dollars)



Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP30

METRO LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY TESTIMONY

- Ivy Hong, Community Outreach Worker at the Southeast Asian Community Alliance
- Manjusha Kulkarni, Executive Director at the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
- Matthew Lum, Board Chair at the Thai Community Development Center
- Eunice Song, Executive Director at the Korean American Coalition
- Aquilina Soriano Versoza, Executive Director at the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California
- Grant Sunoo, Director of Community Building & Engagement at the Little Tokyo Service Center
- June Lim, Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Ivy Hong

Community Outreach Worker at the Southeast Asian Community Alliance

My name is Ivy, I'm a Community Outreach Worker at the Southeast Asian Community Alliance, aka SEACA. SEACA is a nonprofit based in Chinatown and a part of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. In addition to pushing for policies to serve the immigrant, elderly, working class, families of color of Chinatown, SEACA has also provided leadership & organizing programs to local youths for two decades. At the core of our work is the idea that people have a vivid understanding of our own community needs and can create unique solutions to social, racial, and economic issues that affect us, if given the right support and resources. I myself participated in SEACA's programming throughout high school.

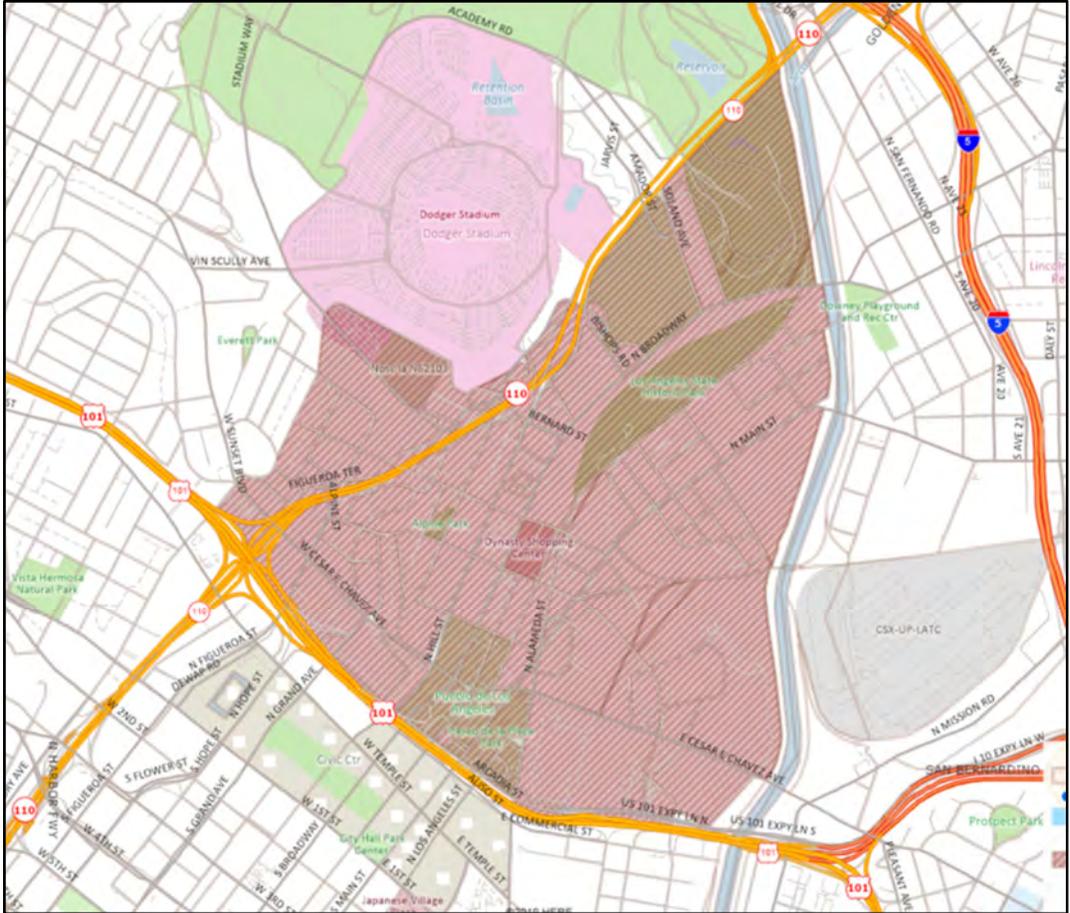
We will be submitting shapefiles with the boundaries of Chinatown. Generally, it is outlined by the LA River starting from where it meets the 110, down to the 101, stretching west to Beaudry Ave. and just under Dodgers Stadium. Chinatown is already a recognized neighborhood of the city, but has expanded since it's boundaries were last drawn. The boundaries I just described are slightly wider than the City's to reflect this growth.

As I mentioned before, most residents are working class immigrants. Chinatown is very multiethnic-- over half of the residents here are Chinese, and nearly a quarter are Latinx. I've also met long-time residents who've immigrated from Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. This also means that many do not speak English as their first language, if at all. A majority are elderly residents. 91% are renters and low-income.

The needs and concerns of the people of Chinatown have not changed much over the years, yet economic conditions have created more instability. Like many other ethnic enclaves across the U.S., gentrification has been violently harming the livelihoods of long-time residents. There is a desperate need for community serving establishments and affordable housing-- truly affordable housing for a community where the median household income was \$22,000 in 2008. Housing must also be safe and healthy-- because there are slumlords in Chinatown who leave apartments in hazardous conditions, harassing tenants into self-eviction so they can flip apartments for higher rent. I know SRO residents who were told they couldn't hang their clothes to dry outside their apartment, their laundry thrown away even. There is no laundromat in Chinatown. There is no full service grocery store in Chinatown. There is no hospital in Chinatown. Most don't own a car or have trouble navigating public transport, so it's vital for these services to exist, firstly, and for them to be local and in-language. People are resilient and do their best to self-advocate, but gentrification has been a threat, cutting away at basic needs to be displaced with developments that do not answer to the community needs.

We ask that Chinatown be kept whole, and for its boundaries to be expanded to what was described earlier. Due to its demographic similarities to neighbouring Little Tokyo-- elderly, working class, Asian & Latinx immigrants, we also ask for Chinatown and Little Tokyo to be kept together in one district.

Thank you for your time.



LA Chinatown COI

Manjusha Kulkarni
Executive Director at the Asian Pacific Policy Planning Council

My name is Manjusha Kulkarni. I am the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON). A3PCON is a coalition of over forty community-based organizations serving and representing the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) who make up 15 percent of Los Angeles County. Our members include groups like Little Tokyo Service Center, Thai Community Development Center, Asian Youth Center, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, and Korean American Coalition. I am also one of the co-founders of Stop AAPI Hate, the nation's leading aggregator of anti-AAPI hate incidents.

Last year, A3PCON led the AAPI Census Collaborative with nineteen AAPI partner organizations to raise awareness about the 2020 Census and response rates in hard-to-reach AAPI communities throughout Los Angeles County. This year, when it comes to redistricting, A3PCON is building on that foundational work.

A3PCON is a member of two coalitions advocating for equitable representation for communities of color in state and local redistricting: the People's Bloc and the AAPI & AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. These coalitions are submitting mapping proposals at the state and local levels that keep our AAPI communities of interest whole, while also respecting and supporting African American and Latinx Voting Rights Act interests.

To date, A3PCON has collaborated with partners to hold over ten workshops and multiple individual trainings that educate and inform AAPIs about what redistricting is and why it matters, collect information on our communities of interest across Los Angeles County and the state of California, and help AAPIs share their stories and maps with state and local redistricting commissions. We continue to engage our organizational members and community members, one-on-one, through email, Zoom, social media, and, when safe, in person.

In the Los Angeles area, AAPI communities of interest include but are not limited to: Little Tokyo and Chinatown near downtown Los Angeles, Thai Town in East Hollywood, Historic Filipinotown and Koreatown in mid-city, Cambodiatown in Long Beach, the San Gabriel Valley, and Little India, the South Asian community in Cerritos and Artesia. I urge you to hear what our community leaders and members have to share about how they define their communities, regardless of how an official map may define them, and to keep our communities whole.

Thank you for hearing from me and other members of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

Matthew Lum
Board Chair at the Thai Community Development Center

Good afternoon Commissioners, my name is Matthew Lum and I'm the Board Chair of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC). I am with the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. The Thai CDC's mission is to advance the social and economic well-being of low and moderate income Thais and other ethnic communities in the greater Los Angeles area through a broad and comprehensive community development strategy including human rights advocacy, affordable housing, access to healthcare, promotion of small businesses, neighborhood empowerment, and social enterprises.

DEFINING COMMUNITY AND THAI TOWN

The Thai Community Development Center is an Asian Pacific Islander non-profit dedicated to the East Hollywood community consisting of immigrant communities from Thailand, Armenia, and El Salvador. Our non-profit founded the commercial district known as Thai Town which

starts at Hollywood Boulevard and Western Avenue to as far east as Vermont Avenue and south to Santa Monica Boulevard which is east of the US 101 freeway.

THAI IMMIGRATION HISTORY

There are an estimated 100,000 Thais in Southern California. Though Thais have been coming to the US since the 1950s, the latest immigration wave have started from the 1980's until present, is characterized by immigrants with lower educational attainment (only up to a third grade level of education) and an unskilled/semi skilled workforce whose lack of English language proficiency and undocumented status makes them vulnerable to the most severe and egregious forms of exploitation. It is this group that represents the target population of Thai CDC. Because Thais are economic immigrants and are not refugees like other Southeast Asians in the United States, they are not eligible for public benefits and therefore, tend to fall through the cracks, having no resources to turn to for help when in need.

- 33% of Thais earned less than \$15,000 in annual income. (The median income in LA county for a family of four is \$52,300.)
- 29% of the Thai labor force is unskilled workers, the highest percentage in an occupation category.
- 42% of Thais do not have a high school diploma (LA country average is 16%)

EAST HOLLYWOOD DEMOGRAPHIC

In regards to the East Hollywood residents, The East Hollywood community is a very diverse mix of Latin Americans, Armenians, Russians and Thais. According to the US Census 2000, 35% live below the poverty (state average – 14%), 16% are unemployed (HealthyCity.org; Bureau of Labor Statistics.), 13% receive public assistance (state average – 5%, national -3%)

CONCLUSION

I request that Thai Town be considered as an entire district and not be divided into separate districts because of the unique demographic of the area, the need for affordable housing, and access to jobs. Thank you so much for your time commissioners.



LA Thaitown COI

Eunice Song
Executive Director at the Korean American Coalition

My name is Eunice Song, and I am the Executive Director of the Korean American Coalition (KAC) in Los Angeles, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization in the heart of Koreatown that advocates for the civic and civil rights interests of the Korean American Community since 1983.

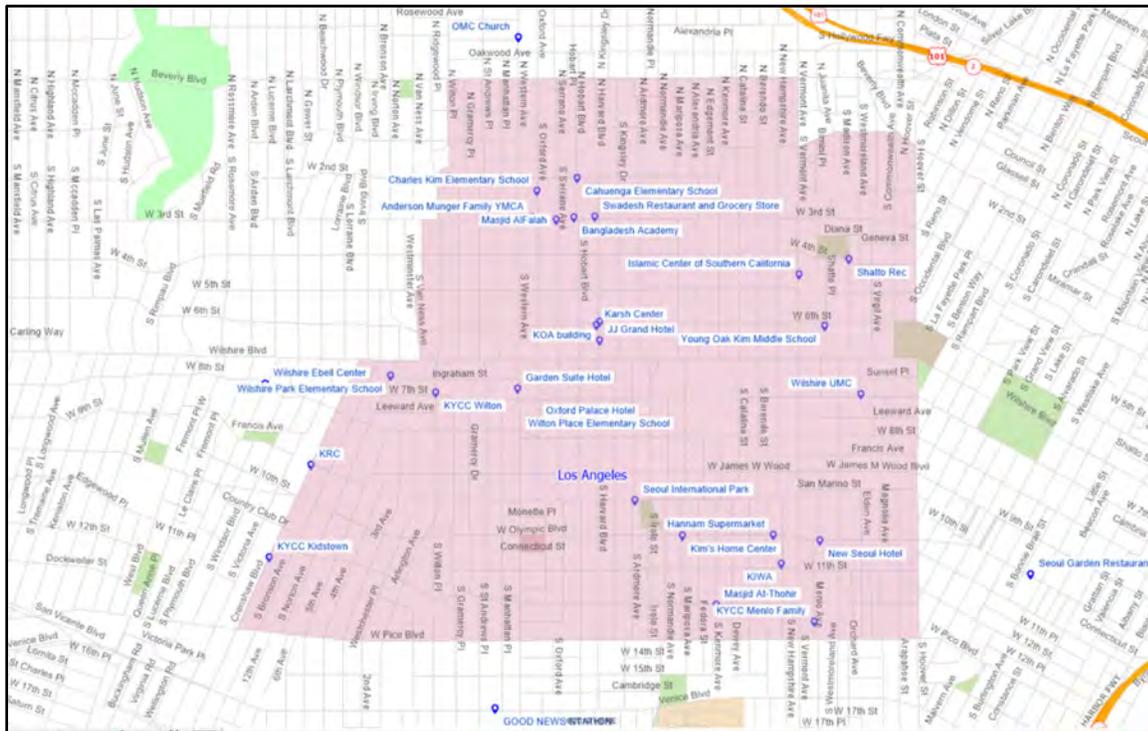
KAC is a member of the Koreatown Redistricting Task force as well as a member of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, which is part of the AAPI & AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative, and we are in full support of the collaborative's map proposal attached to this email.

One of this Commission's primary mandates is to maintain the geographic cohesion of an existing community. The residents of "Koreatown" is one such community - that has existed for decades - comprised of one of the most populous, ethnically vibrant communities in the city. As an immigrant-heavy community where English is a second language, we need solidified representation that prioritizes our community as a whole, met by a single elected official that

reflects our community needs, instead of having accountability diffused.

This large and diverse body collectively owns businesses, works, and makes a living together, and disrupting this close interlocking of work and livelihood could affect the people in various negative ways. By keeping Koreatown consolidated, geographic cohesion is maintained, enabling our diverse community to thrive.

We once again urge the Commission to keep Koreatown, Los Angeles whole, to heed the census data and our voices, and keep us unified in a single congressional, senate and assembly district. Thank you.



LA Koreatown COI

Aquilina Soriano Versoza
Executive Director at the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California

I am Aquilina Soriano Versoza. I am the Executive Director of the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California and a part of the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. The Pilipino Workers Center is a community-based nonprofit organization working with Filipino and other low-wage workers and their families in Historic Filipinotown. My organization is one of many Filipino service organizations and institutions in Historic Filipinotown. We will submit a map that shows the boundaries of the neighborhood and many of the Filipino cultural

institutions within it.

The City of Los Angeles designated the neighborhood of Historic Filipinotown in 2002. Although the City's designation is fairly recent, Historic Filipinotown has been a gateway community for Filipinos since the first half of the 20th century and continues to be a gateway community for Filipino immigrants. Not only are many residents Filipino, many of the businesses there are Filipino-owned and cater to the Filipino community.

Our office is located inside the Larry Itliong Village building in Historic Filipinotown off Glendale Blvd and Rockwood St. The building honors Manong Larry Dulay Itliong (1913 – 1977), a forgotten Filipino labor leader during the United Farm Workers Movement of the 1960s. It is one of the many landmarks in the neighborhood. It is home to the PWC office and 45 apartment units within a 5-story complex. These units serve low-income families, individuals, and underprivileged youth. PWC coordinates and provides programs and services that enrich the lives of its residents and members, ranging from health and nutrition to art workshops. The City's designated boundaries are from Hoover on the west, the 101 Freeway on the north, Beverly on the south, and Glendale/Lucas on the east. Although this is the City's designation, the southern boundary should extend to Third Street because many Filipinos reside there as well. For example, SIPA, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, built and runs an affordable housing complex in the extended area. The extended area shares the same socio-economic character as that of the officially designated portion.

The residents in our Filipino neighborhood share many other interests and concerns. My organization, along with SIPA, Filipino American Service Group Inc., and Asian Pacific Health Care Venture published a study in 2009 on the health of Filipino residents in the neighborhood. Our study showed that the Filipino residents had specific health access issues due to limited English proficiency and cultural concepts about health along with issues of affordability and geographic accessibility.

Because the residents share these interests and cultural commonalities, Historic Filipinotown, including the area extending south to Third Street, should be kept intact when you draw the new electoral lines. I hope you do not split up my neighborhood.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this input.

to E. 1st Street, where Hewitt Street becomes the eastern border; and E. 3rd Street in the south between Main and San Pedro Streets, where E. 4th Street becomes the southern border to E. 4th Place. Please find the map below for the exact boundaries. Though our neighborhood is relatively small, our boundaries are well-known and recognizable. We believe it is both feasible and critical that our neighborhood be kept whole.

In addition, we believe that Little Tokyo and Chinatown share the same communities of interest. Our respective neighborhoods are very dense, and residents are predominantly renters. Both neighborhoods are home to many low-income and limited-English proficient residents who are especially vulnerable to displacement and higher costs of living due to gentrification. We ask that Chinatown be included in the same district with Little Tokyo, a position that our community partner in Chinatown also supports.

Beyond the City of Los Angeles, LTSC has been providing social services to members of the Asian American community, particularly to monolingual Japanese and Korean speakers and their families, throughout Los Angeles County for more than 25 years. One of the regions where we have a strong presence and a satellite office is in the area known as the South Bay, particularly in Gardena and Torrance.

LTSC primarily serves people in need of specific linguistic and/or cultural support. We see individuals and extended families across the entire lifespan, from those with a new addition on the way to people working through the grief and loss of a loved one. Our core services in the South Bay include information and referrals, case management, individual and family therapy, parenting workshops, support groups for caregivers, and other services in Japanese and Korean, as well as in English. More recently, LTSC has provided small business counseling for individuals looking to start something new and for more established entrepreneurs looking to take their business to the next level or get a loan to get through the pandemic.

Over the years, LTSC has worked with a variety of community partners and long standing institutions in the South Bay to educate the local AAPI community about topics such as navigating the education system, strategies to deal with bullying, understanding government benefits like Medicare, and planning for end-of-life care. Outreach and events have taken place at a variety of cultural festivals, churches with Asian congregations and other AAPI community institutions. We take most of the social services we provide to elders in the community directly to their home, including at HUD subsidized senior apartments in the South Bay where more than 90% of residents are immigrants from Asia.

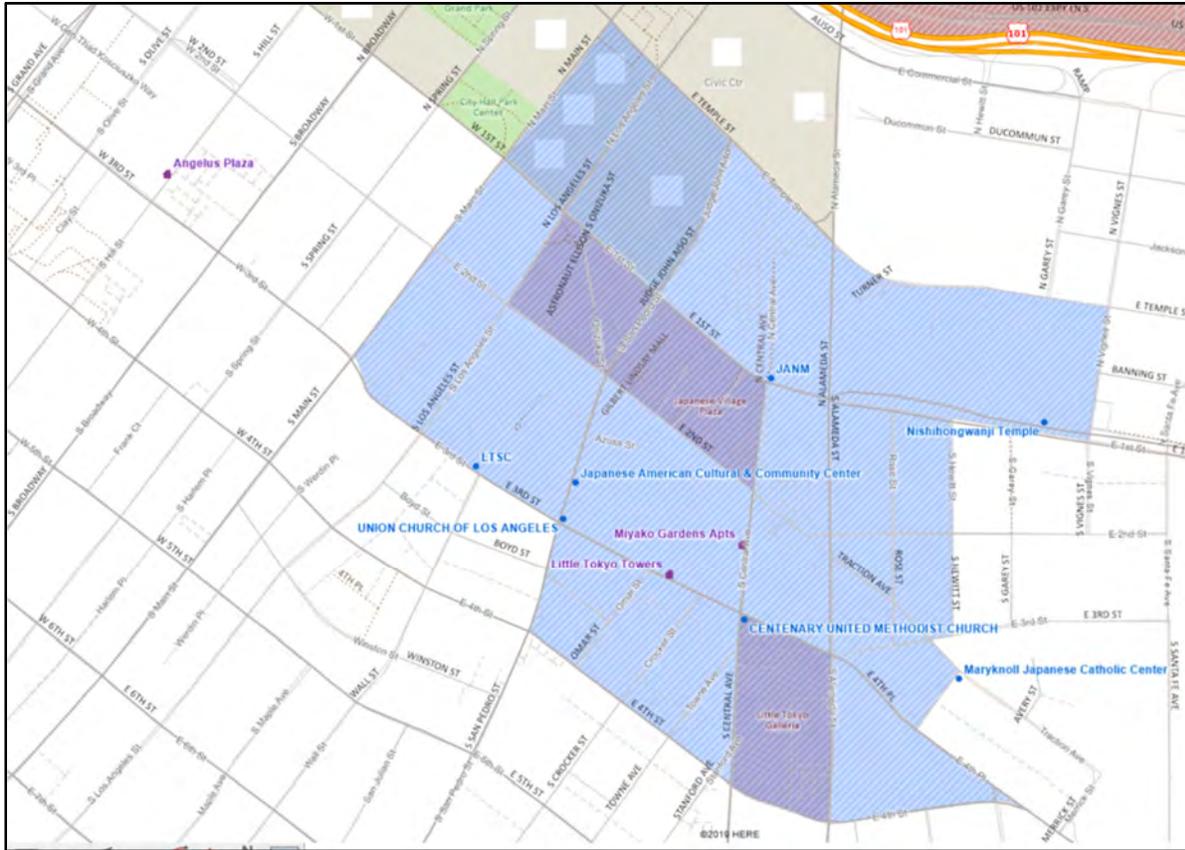
In 2016 and 2017, LTSC conducted a needs assessment to survey and identify the greatest needs facing the Japanese American and Japanese immigrant communities in the South Bay, which is home to the largest concentration of Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants in the mainland U.S. More than a hundred years ago, the first generation "Issei" established many of the institutions that still exist today, such as Japanese language schools and community centers, religious institutions such as the Gardena Valley Baptist Church and Gardena Buddhist Church, and various sports and recreational groups from judo to baseball.

The community has changed over the years and there are significant social, cultural, and linguistic differences between the more assimilated Japanese Americans rooted in the experiences of pre-World War II immigrants, and the more recent post-World War II Japanese immigrants. Many of the younger generations, children and grandchildren, have shifted south into Torrance and the Palos Verdes peninsula, and west toward the Beach Cities. However, in Gardena, people of Japanese ancestry continue to be substantial at over 10% of the population, and in Torrance, the largest city in the South Bay, nearly 13% of the population is of Japanese ancestry.

We have seen similar demographic patterns among other Asian ethnic groups such as Korean Americans and Chinese Americans, with overall population growth throughout the South Bay, especially with younger generations toward the south and west, while maintaining connections with businesses, institutions and elders in Gardena. Torrance First Presbyterian Church, which can be described as a Korean American mega-church, but is so much more, is a bilingual hub for intergenerational community life with young families living in West Torrance picking up their grandparents from senior housing in Gardena. They might pick up groceries in Torrance before stopping for a meal in Gardena on their way back home.

The business corridor that runs north-south along Western Ave from Gardena to Torrance remains a hub of activity and is economically significant for many Asian American businesses from restaurants and medical offices to auto body shops and various import-export companies. People continue to cross city lines to participate in cultural activities and seek services that meet their linguistic and cultural needs. With all these historical, cultural and familial ties, we believe it makes sense to keep Torrance and Gardena together to maintain the economic and social integrity of the Asian American communities that enrich life for everyone in the South Bay.

Thank you for allowing me to share these observations about the Asian American community in Little Tokyo and the South Bay, and thank you in advance for your consideration in keeping these respective Communities of Interest together.



Little Tokyo 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.

METRO LA DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TABLES

2020 Asian American & NHPI Population

Geography	ASIAN AMERICANS			NHPI		
	# Asian Americans	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020	# NHPI	% of Total Population	% Change 2010 to 2020
Chinatown	7417	38%	-17%	25	0.1%	-42%
Historic Filipino Town	3459	29%	-12%	12	0.1%	9%
Koreatown	52952	38%	2%	112	0.1%	37%
Little Tokyo	2480	51%	14%	7	0.1%	*
Thai Town	3869	14%	-11%	36	0.1%	-61%

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

Asian American & NHPI: Percent Foreign-Born

Geography	% Asian Americans	% NHPI
Chinatown	79%	*
Historic Filipino Town	79%	*
Koreatown	80%	*
Little Tokyo	60%	*
Thai Town	76%	*

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
Chinatown	73%	*
Historic Filipinotown	42%	*
Koreatown	60%	*
Little Tokyo	51%	*
Thai Town	34%	*

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
Chinatown	71%	41*	*	*
Historic Filipinotown	35%	16%	*	*
Koreatown	44%	17%	*	*
Little Tokyo	42%	19%	*	*
Thai Town	32%	17%	*	*

Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table C17002
 *American Community Survey suppresses groups due to sample size

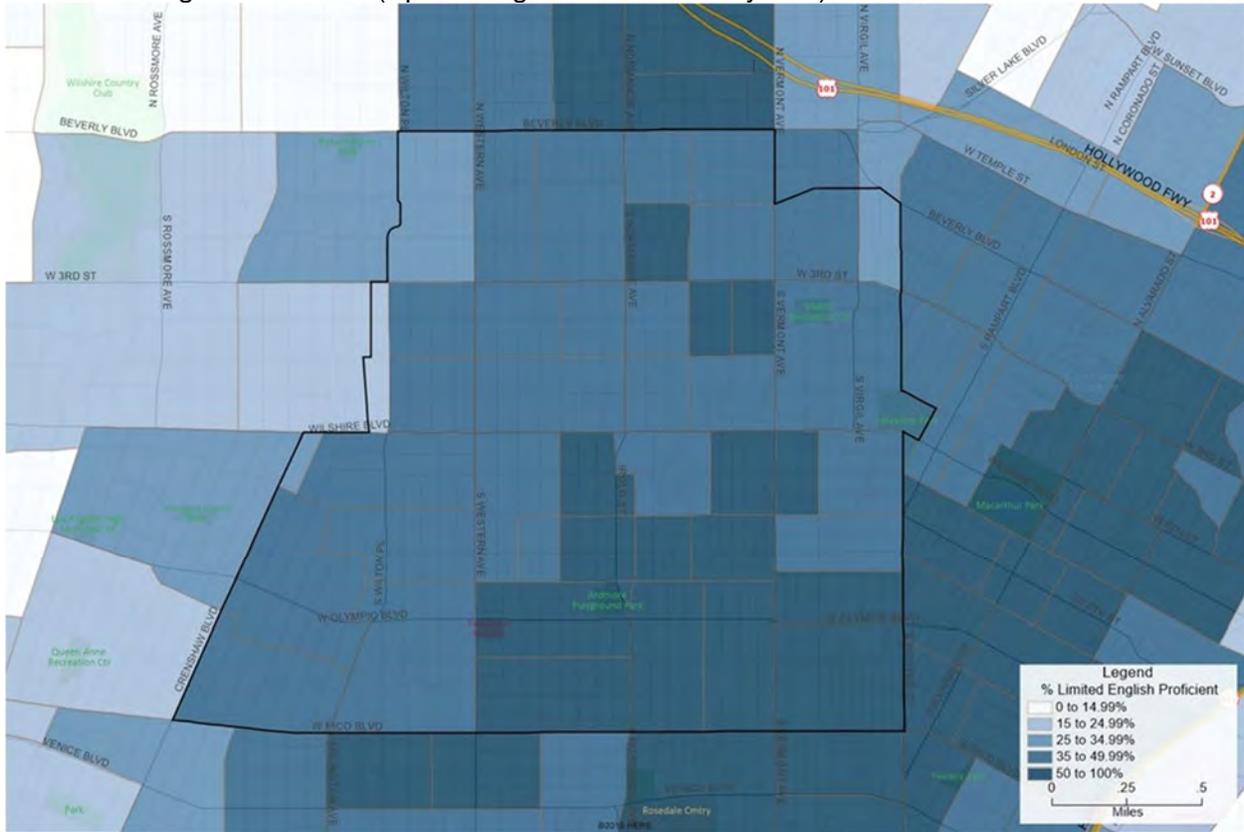
METRO LA HEAT MAPS

HISTORIC FILIPINO TOWN COI– Aqui Soriano, Pilipino Workers Center
 % Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)



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

KOREATOWN COI– Eunice Song, Korean American Coalition – Los Angeles
% Limited English Proficient (Speak English less than very well)



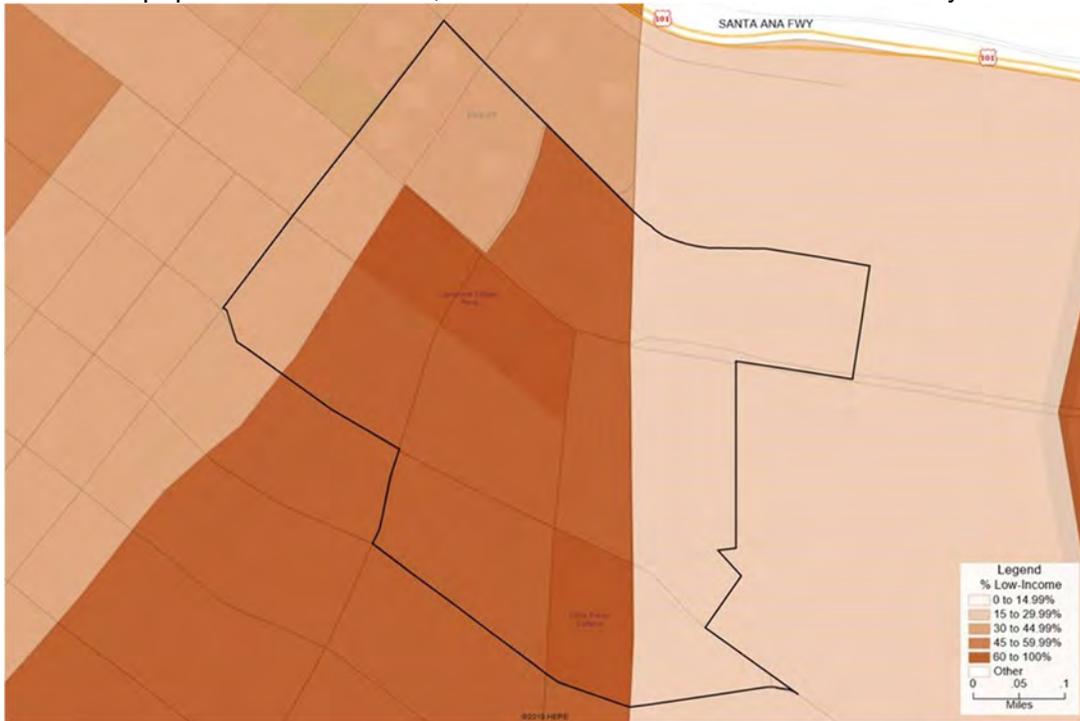
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015-2019 Tables C16001 and B16005B-I.

CHINATOWN COI – Ivy Hong, Southeast Asian Community Alliance
Estimated Population % Foreign-Born



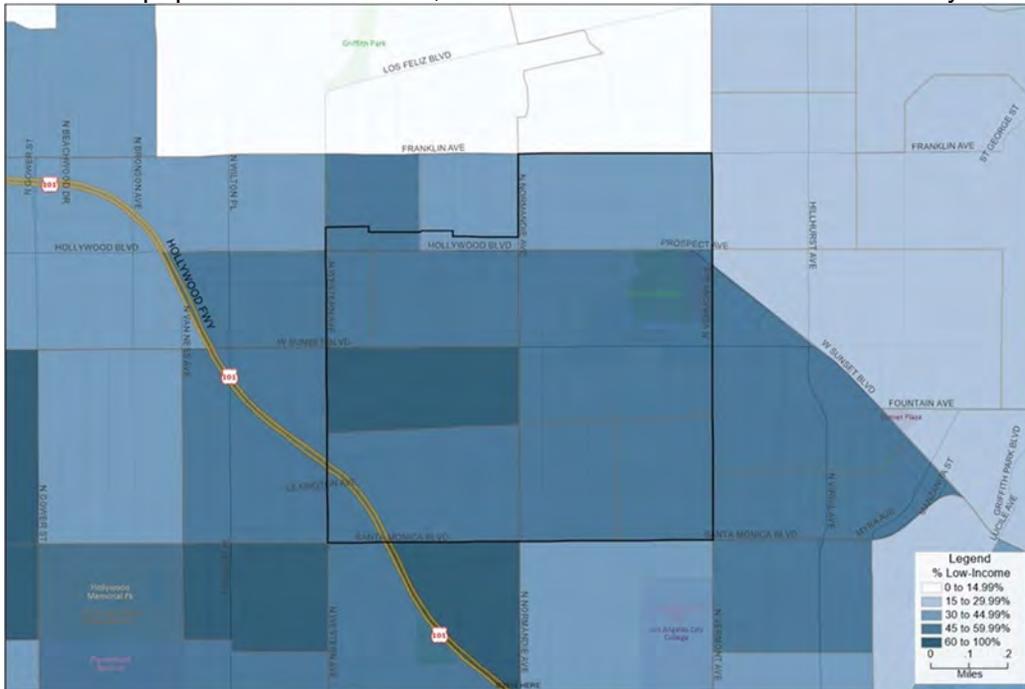
Data: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 Table DP2092

LITTLE TOKYO COI – Grant Sunoo, Little Tokyo Service Center
 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

THAI TOWN COI – Matt Lum, Thai Community Development Center
 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