

From: **Subeksha Sharma**
Date: Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 10:02 PM
Subject: Resident Testimony - California Citizens Redistricting Commission
To: <VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov>
Cc: <sarah@brightlinedefense.org>

Hello,

Please find below my testimony to California Citizens Redistricting Commission regarding my community.

I live in Contra Costa County in an area between El Sobrante and Richmond. I think that the west areas of Contra Costa including Richmond, Pinole, El Sobrante, Hercules, and Pinole best encompass my community. The area is filled with a diverse population with many immigrant and POC families, including my own. This community is also rich with small family businesses and residential areas rather than many large chain stores. For the most part, my area of East Contra Costa feels like it is melded into just one big city. Many people commute quite far away from this community for work, but for other aspects of life everything residents stay close by. For better or for worse, the Chevron Refinery is also a defining factor for this area and environmental concerns regarding it are unique to the area.

Further into the central county, areas including Walnut Creek, San Ramon, and Concord, which are currently also a part of the 11th congressional district, have drastically different communities. The demographics of these areas tend to be somewhat less diverse, with the biggest difference in my opinion seen in average income. For the most part these areas are not dominated by small businesses and are not primarily residential. Due to the stark difference in the makeup of the population, I would not consider those areas part of my community - in terms of congressional districts, I think the political interests of these areas are quite different.

Sincerely,

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Subeksha Sharma