STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

COI PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

3:00 P.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty
APPEARANCES

Commissioners Present:

Pedro Toledo, Co-Chair
Russell Yee, Co-Chair
Linda Akutagawa
Jane Andersen
Isra Ahmad
Alicia Fernandez
J. Ray Kennedy
Sara Sadhwani
Patricia Sinay
Derric H. Taylor

Staff Present:

Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel
Ann Marx

Technical Contractors:

Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director
Interpreters (Johanna) (Margarita de la Torre)

Also Present

Mappers:

Andrew
Kennedy
Tamina

Public Comment:

1. Richard Konda
2. Larry Klein
3. Jugraj Singh Shoker
Public Comment (Cont’d):
4. John Sensiba
5. Aliza Kazmi
6. Gabriela Garzon Gupta
7. Angelica Cortez
8. Eli Beckman
9. Judy Lloyd
10. Raj Salwan
11. Caller Number 11
12. Caller Number 12
13. David McIntyre
14. Caller Number 14
15. Otto Lee
16. Dominique Donette
17. Caller Number 17
18. Christopher Chin
19. Frank Dale Gordon
20. Rob Chua
21. Juanita Towns
22. Yeri Shon
23. Daisy Maxion
24. Michael Deegan-McCree
25. Tiffany Ng
26. June Lim
27. Jamileh Ebrahimi
Public Comment (Cont’d):

28. Caller Number 28
29. Caller Number 29
30. Caller Number 30
31. Caller Number 31
32. Manisha Shah
33. Charles Davidson
34. Caller Number 34
35. Caller Number 35
36. Tam Nguyen
37. Jana Johnson
38. Caller Number 38
39. Caller Number 39
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CO-CHAIR TOLEDO (via Zoom): Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome, and thank you for tuning in to California Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of Interest input meeting.

I am Pedro Toledo, and I will be co-chairing today this meeting with Commissioner Yee.

Today we are offering four language lines in the following languages, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Russian. So, language speakers can listen to the meeting in their native language.

Can I please have our interpreters provide our call-in numbers?

Can I have the Spanish interpreter read the Spanish language line instructions?

SPANISH INTERPRETER (via Zoom): Hi, Chair. This is the Spanish interpreter.

[Instructions read in Spanish]

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Thank you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

Can I have the Mandarin interpreter read the Mandarin language line instructions?

Can we come back to the Mandarin line?

Can I have the Cantonese interpreter read the
Cantonese language line instructions?

   CANTONESE INTERPRETER (via Zoom): Yes. Thank you.

   [Instructions read in Cantonese]

   CANTONESE INTERPRETER: Back to you, Moderator.

   CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

   Can I have the Russian interpreter read the Russian language line instructions?

   There might be some connectivity issues, so we’ll try the Mandarin. Can I have the Mandarin interpreter read the Mandarin language instructions?

   PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair?

   CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes?

   PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The interpreter was muted.

   CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Oh, okay.

   RUSSIAN INTERPRETER (via Zoom): [Instructions read in Russian]

   Back to you, Chair. Thank you.

   CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you very much.

   And let’s go to Mandarin. Can I have the Mandarin interpreter read the Mandarin language?

   MR. MANOFF (via Zoom): If the Mandarin interpreter could please unmute in Zoom?

   MANDARIN INTERPRETER (via Zoom): [Instructions
read in Mandarin]

MANDARIN INTERPRETER: Back to you, Moderator.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you very much. And thank you to all of our interpreters.

Now we will go to Ravi for roll call.

MR. SINGH (via Zoom): Thank you, Chair.

Commissioner Turner?

Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ (via Zoom): [Response in Spanish]

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE (via Zoom): I’m here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD (via Zoom): Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN (via Zoom): Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ (via Zoom): Present.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY (via Zoom): Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

Commissioner Sadhwani?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI (via Zoom): Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY (via Zoom): Aqui.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR (via Zoom): Present.

MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Toledo?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Present.

MR. SINGH: Roll call is complete, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you so much, Ravi.

I will start by sharing about the Commission.

Every 10 years after the Federal Government publishes updated Census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts, so that districts correctly reflect the State’s population.

In 2008, California voters authorized the creation of the Commission when they passed the Voters First Act. It authorized the Commission to draw the new district lines for the State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts.

In 2010, the Congressional Voters First Act added the responsibility of drawing Congressional Districts to the Commission.

The 14-member Commission is made up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated with...
either of those parties.

The Commission must draw the lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal proportion that will provide fair representations for all Californians.

Recently, the Census redistricting data was released. When the Official California Redistricting Database is available in late September, the Commission will begin drawing maps using six line-drawing criteria, as outlined in the California Constitution. One of these is minimizing the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the extent possible.

We can obtain the city and county information from those jurisdictions, but we need the neighborhood and communities of interest information from Californians directly. That’s why we have launched these Communities of Interest Input sessions, to get that valuable information from you directly. We encourage all Californians to participate in this process.

If you would rather submit community of interest input over the internet, you can do so from our website, or by visiting drawmyCAcommunity.org. Skip the line, and go on-line.

Now I will call on the Commissioners to introduce themselves and to say hello. To see the biographies for
all 14 Commissioners, or for additional information, or to sign up for our e-mails, please visit our website at wedrawthelinesCA.org.

We will begin with my co-chair, Commissioner Yee.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

Greetings, California. Greetings, Bay Area. I am Commissioner Russell Yee, here in my home town of Oakland. My grandparents arrived from southern China here a century ago, and so, ABC, American Boy Chinese. And I’m actually very much more Cantonese than that. I’m glad to be here with you.

There is traditionally considered nine counties, and about 100 cities and towns.

Yesterday, we heard testimony from Sonoma and Napa and the northern coast. So, today we’re focusing on the other seven (indiscernible) counties, as well as anyone else (indiscernible) wants to give us input.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

Commissioner Ahmed?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the Bay.

Commissioner Yee, we also have a (indiscernible) I’m an ABCD, American Born Confused Desi. So, I’m really excited to hear more from the communities out here in the Bay Area, and look forward to a great meeting.
CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmed.
Commissioner Linda Akutagawa?
Commissioner Jane Anderson?
CO-CHAIR ANDERSEN (via Zoom): Good afternoon, Bay Area.
    I’m Jane Andersen. I’m coming to you from Berkeley, California, so I can’t wait to hear all about my fellow Bay Area communities, and which ones I really need to go and visit to see them a little more closely.
    I’m looking forward to hearing everyone who’s coming in to speak to us today. Thank you.
CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Alicia Fernandez?
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: [Introduction spoken in Spanish]
    Good afternoon, California. I’m Alicia Fernandez from Yolo County to the east. Thank you for participating in all our meetings. And with your help, each time I learn more about California and your communities, and I look forward to hearing more. Thank you.
    Thank you, Chair.
CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.
Commissioner Neal Fornaciari?
Commissioner Ray Kennedy?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, California. I’m joining the meeting today from
my home in Morongo Valley. Morongo Valley is a rural Joshua Tree gateway community in southern San Bernardino County’s desert, high desert, mid-desert. I’m looking forward to hearing about your communities, and what makes your community special to you. Thank you again.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

Commissioner Antonio Le Mons?

Commissioner Sara Sadhwani?

S: Good afternoon, California. Thanks so much for being here. My name is Sara Sadhwani. I’m calling in today from my home in Los Angeles County in La Canada. It’s 3:00 o’clock, so kids are home from school. Please excuse me if I have little guests in the background.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

Commissioner Patricia Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY (via Zoom): [Introduction spoken in Spanish]

I’m Patricia Sinay. I’m serving you from San Diego. It’s a pleasure to be with you today. The Bay Area was home, and I still consider it one of my professional homes. I lived in Haight Ashbury, and worked in San Mateo, so I’m excited to hear from all of you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

Commissioner Derric Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR (via Zoom): Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Derric Taylor.

I’m joining you today from an unincorporated city of Altadena at the base of the San Gabriel mountains, or the Verdugo mountains, as some people describe it. I’m looking forward to everyone’s testimony, and keep it coming. Looking forward to it. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Trena Turner?

Commissioner Angela Vazquez?

And I am Commissioner Pedro Toledo. I am originally from Alameda, California. I was born in Berkeley, raised in the City of Alameda, went to school in the South Bay, and now living in Sonoma County, where I’m at today, in Petaluma, California. And I’m looking forward to hearing all about your communities of interest.

With that, I just want to share that we are active on social media, so please follow us at the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, and you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube. Our handle is wedrawthelinesCA. And of course you can follow us on social media, and another way to get – it’s a great way to get information about the Commission, about our redistricting process, and updates about what we’re doing.
Before we continue, could I please have the interpreters provide our language line numbers one more time?

Can I start with the Spanish interpreter?

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Thank you, Chair. This is interpreter.

[Instructions read in Spanish]

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

Can I have the Mandarin interpreter read the Mandarin language line instructions?

We’ll come back to Mandarin.

Can I have the Cantonese interpreter read the Cantonese language line instructions?

CANTONESE INTERPRETER: Yes. I’m going to give the instructions in Cantonese.

[Instructions read in Cantonese]

Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you very much.

Can I have the Russian interpreter read the Russian language line?

RUSSIAN INTERPRETER: Yes, Commissioner.

[Instructions read in Russian]

Thank you, Commissioner.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.
At this time, can we have the Mandarin interpreter read the Mandarin language line instructions?

MANDARIN INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair.

[Instructions read in Mandarin]

Yes, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I appreciate that. Thank you so much.

With that, I’ll start with some housekeeping rules and housekeeping information.

This meeting is primarily for communities of interest testimony focused on Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano Counties and surrounding areas. Again, it’s Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano Counties, and surrounding areas, however, anyone in California can call in to provide input. General public comment will take place at the end of the meeting. Although the Commission has divided up California into 11 zones, that in no way is related to or reflective of redistricting lines or boundaries.

The Commission created the zones to assist Commissioners and staff in our outreach efforts, not as an indication of plan boundaries.

Today, we are joined by our line drawing team, HaystaqDNA DNA and Q2 Data & Research, who will be
Please start with the area you would like to discuss, and be as specific as possible about the boundaries of where your community is located. It is our goal to find the area on the map that you would like to describe and discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your timer will begin.

Attendees will not be able to share their screen. We are also joined by Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Russian Interpreters and Katy, our phenomenal Comment Moderator, who will be introducing attendees when it is their turn to speak.

When you join the meeting, please use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. If you have registered for a time slot, we encourage you to call in during your appointment time slot. When it is your turn to speak, Katy, our Comment Moderator, will be identifying you by your assigned unique I.D. number. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio.

Registration is not required to participate in this public input meeting. The public has the option of calling in during the meeting to get in the queue to speak.
If you do not have an appointment and wish to call in to provide public input, the number is 877-853-5247. Again, the number to provide public input is 877-853-5247. You will need to enter Meeting I.D. Number, and that is 87919203919. Again, the Meeting I.D. Number is 87919203919. This call-in information and access code is also listed on our live stream. You will need to dial this number in order to give public input.

Today there will be Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Russian interpreters throughout, and a Tagalog interpreter during Session 2, available to interpret non-English input at this call-in number. The comment moderators will assist you with your speaker number before you begin speaking, and please make a note of this number for future reference. You will be able to use this number to identify your community of interest testimony on our website at a future date.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit for English speakers, and a six-minute time limit for those who need interpretation. There will be a warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

At the beginning of your input you will see a map on the screen. Please remind the mapper what area you would like to see on the screen, and be as specific as possible about the boundaries of where your community is
located.

If, at the conclusion of the meeting, there is still a need to allow for members of the public in the queue to speak, we will continue this community of interest input meeting at a new date and time, and will attempt to schedule the remaining members of the public to speak for the allotted three minutes. Please monitor the website, as we expect to post the continuation of this agenda within 24 hours.

While there is no clear rules on how to define a community of interest, we’ve identified ways for you to describe your community.

Begin with your county or city.

Mention the street names and specific or significant locations in your neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your community.

What are your shared interests?

What brings you together?

What is important to your community?

Are there nearby areas you want to be in your district?

Are there nearby areas you don’t want to be in a district with? Why or why not?

Has your community come together to advocate for important services, such as better schools, roads, or
health centers in your neighborhood?

    Also, we invite you to use the Communities of Interest Tool to draw a map and describe your community by visiting drawmyCAcommunity.org. This website is available in 16 languages. Skip the line, and go on-line. Submit your community of interest input today.

    And please encourage at least three other people to do the same.

    As a reminder, even though we are focusing on specific counties today, anyone from California is welcome to provide input.

    We will now begin the public input sessions, and we’ll start with people who are registered, and then open the lines, if there is time before the next session.

    If you are calling without an appointment, please do not hang up, as you will lose your place in line.

    I will pass this over to Katy, our Comment Moderator. Thank you.

    PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

    Good morning. Welcome to the public input session. Please use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn to speak, I will identify you by your assigned, unique I.D. number from your invite. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or
audio. You will then be assigned a speaker order number before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your speaker order number for future reference.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit for English speakers, and six minute time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

It is the Commission’s goal to find the area on the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your three-minute or six-minute testimony will begin. Attendees will not be able to share their screen.

At the end of your public input or at the end of your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-only mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind the mapper of what area you would like to see on the screen.

I would like to again invite those with appointments to use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen.

This is for 001, 002, 004, 006, and 013. If you would all please use the raise-your-hand button at the bottom of your screen to get in line for the comment queue line.
At this time, we will have 005, and then up next will be 012.

005, I will be promoting you now.

005, your speaker order number will be number one, if you will please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. KONDA: Berryessa neighborhood in north San Jose.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. KONDA: Hello. My name is Richard Konda. I’m the executive director of the Asian Law Alliance located in San Jose, California. I’m calling in today to provide input on the Berryessa neighborhood in north San Jose, and to provide an introduction to the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative.

Over the past few months, the Asian Law Alliance has worked as a regional anchor partner with the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative in the South Bay.

The testimony of my colleagues that I – and I have prepared for you today is a reflection of our coalition’s engagement with our communities, collecting feedback from multiple stakeholders to map South Bay COIs.
This past summer, our state collaborative held five community workshops reaching 17 different community-based organizations, and over 40 community members on staff. Across these workshops, we have met multiple COIs that captured the diversity of the AAPI and AMEMSA community in the South Bay, while providing education on the ways to engage with the state redistricting process. Outside these meetings, members have also engaged in direct outreach to religious leaders, business owners, students, and families. We hope our collaborative work helps the Commission better understand the diverse AAPI and AMEMSA communities in the South Bay.

With the most recent data released from the 2020 Census, we now know that Asian Americans make up 38.9-percent of Santa Clara County, making us the largest and fastest-growing racial group in the region. Both the Berryessa area in north San Jose and (indiscernible) have large Chinese and South Asian populations, and which share many similarities with Asian American communities in Santa Clara and Fremont, including languages spoken and poverty rates.

The Clara and Berryessa run from the 880 Freeway and up past 680 to the hills, from Berryessa Road to the south, extending north of Calaveras.

My colleague, Gabriel Gupta, will be able to
speak more about these COIs in detail.

As you may know, in 2001, prior to the creation of independent redistricting commission, the Berryessa neighborhood was split into four assembly districts. This prevented Berryessa residents from having a strong voice at the state level for the next 10 years. Last redistricting cycle, the (indiscernible) worked up with the needs of Berryessa’s successfully advocating for its reunification in 2011.

Today, I am urging the Commission to keep the Berryessa neighborhood whole with the areas of Santa Clara and Fremont, and –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. KONDA: -- drawn together to continually to amplify the voice of Asian Americans across north Santa Clara County. Thank you so much for hearing from me today, and the rest of the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have 012, and then up next will be caller 9445, unique I.D. number 009.

But right now is 012. I will be promoting you.

012, your speaker order number is number two, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You
can now enable your audio and video in the lower left
corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper
know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is
yours.

MR. KLEIN: Yes. I would like to speak about the
City of Sunnyvale in Santa Clara County.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you.

Good afternoon. I am Sunnyvale Mayor, Larry
Klein, and I want to first thank the redistricting
commissioners for their hard work and performing this very
important task for the state.

You know, on behalf of the residents of City of
Sunnyvale, I wanted to speak to you concerning, you know,
our communities of interests, and we have quite a few in
our city.

Sunnyvale is the seventh largest city in the Bay
Area, and the second largest city in Santa Clara County.

Sunnyvale is a very diverse city with more than
50-percent of our residents being born outside of the
United States, and we celebrate that diversity of our city,
and that diversity actually makes us a better community
overall, and we’re especially mindful of our city’s place
in the 17th Congressional District, which is the only
minority majority congressional district in the continental
United States.

You know, Sunnyvale’s residents – Sunnyvale residents share very close professional, cultural, and personal connections to the other cities within the 17th District. Recently, our counsel voted unanimously to advocate to remain in the 17th Congressional District, and that is mainly because to maintain those AAPI voices, which is one of the strongest communities of interest across that district.

We urge the Commissioners to keep Sunnyvale in one congressional district and, similarly, in one state assembly district and one state senate district, as opposed to, conceivably, splitting up our city. You know, it’s really important that you do not dilute the voting power of our Asian American and Pacific Islander majority, and we ask that you group Sunnyvale residents with communities that share our regional concerns.

You know, Sunnyvale communities of interest are similar to other cities in Silicon Valley, such as Fremont, Cupertino, Milpitas, San Jose, Santa Clara, Mountainview, with which Sunnyvale shares a lot of similar regional concerns, economic interests, living standards, transportation facilities, and work opportunities, of course.

You know, it’s critical to make sure that – you
know, it’s a varied diversity, but that AAPI influence and those voices are heard both within our city, and making sure they’re heard within our congressional –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. KLEIN: -- districts and state districts, as well.

So, on behalf of the Sunnyvale City Council and my city’s residents, I want to thank you for your consideration and your service to the community. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have caller 9445, unique I.D. 009, and then up next will be 007.

Caller 9445, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time, and press star-six.

Perfect. Caller 9445, your speaker order number will be number three, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. SINGH: Yes. Santa Clara County, please.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead.

MR. SINGH: Okay. Hello, my name is Jugraj Singh, and I’m the president of Santa Clara University Sikh Student Association, and I’m speaking with the Jakara
I would like to provide input on the Punjabi Sikh community of interest located in Santa Clara County. I am also calling in as a member of the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

Our organization works with primarily the Punjabi community in the Bay Area and throughout California. We have been active in the community for over 20 years organizing and empowering Punjabi Sikhs and other marginalized communities to advance their health, education, and economic, and social political power.

I’m born and raised in Sunnyvale, California, and attended Homestead High School here, and remained fairly local, because I’m going to Santa Clara University. My community primarily lives in the San Jose area, specifically Berryessa, Evergreen, and Silver Creek neighborhoods. And important landmark is the San Jose Gurdwara, which is in the Evergreen area.

In addition, our community lives in Santa Clara Districts 1, 2, and 3, and surrounds – the surrounding Silicon Valley area.

So, Punjabi is our ethnic background, whereas Sikh is our religious identity.

Our community has many educated folks working in the corporate field, but we also have many immigrants. And
so, that has led us to also having a lowest proficiency in English out of all the other south Asian groups here in the Bay Area. And so, that means we need language and more transportation affordability resources. And around 67-percent of Punjabi Sikh’s youth meet racism and prejudice in their schools, and they had a lot of hate against them. And personally, I have experienced this, too.

Today, I am calling for the Commission to respect the integrity of the Punjabi community, and primarily the Berryessa, Santa Clara, and southern San Jose areas, and thank you for your service, and just hoping for the community to gain more representation. Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right now we will have 007, and then up next will be 002.

007, I will be promoting you now.

007, your speaker order number will be number four, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. SENSIBA: Thank you. I’d like to discuss southeastern Alameda County, and southwestern Contra Costa County.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead.
MR. SENSIBA: Thank you. My name is John Sensiba, and I’m calling from Pleasanton in the east Bay Area, in the heart of what is identified as the Tri-Valley. I’ve lived here for 28 years. It’s important to keep the Tri-Valley together, as a whole, for legislative and policy representation. Combining us with similar communities to the east would also make sense, if necessary.

The Tri-Valley’s five main cities in Alameda and Contra Costa that are collectively referred to as the Tri-Valley, Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, and the unincorporated areas that are closely aligned with them, Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, Casa Bella, and Sunol. These are suburban and semi-rural cities with people who work in the Tri-Valley or the same two or three major population centers in the inner Bay Area, who socialize, shop, and work together as a broader community.

Each of these communities has unique features and characteristics, but they are closely intertwined and interconnected and widely known as comprising the Tri-Valley. Government collaboration and coordination is extensive. Tri-Valley local governments collaborate significantly in policy setting locally, and in advocacy and other levels of government. Examples like the city government leaders who meet regularly hold an annual Mayor’s summit, and work as a team on major policy issues.
like housing, transportation, land use, water use, parks, and school boards. Many special districts overlap both counties within the Tri-Valley. Alamo is a part of the Tri-Valley transportation planning, and connected by Iron Horse Trail and 680, that connects the greater Tri-Valley. (Indiscernible) in the county connection, as well as the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority also serve the entire Tri-Valley.

Our Chambers of Commerce and broader business communities also collaborate. They collaborate on advocacy, and often have members who are involved in other chambers within the Tri-Valley.

Our non-profit community also works together within the Tri-Valley, and you can see it in the names, Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group, the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance, the Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Haven, and the very recently formed Three Valleys Community Foundation, among many others.

In sum, all this connectivity within the Tri-Valley is because of the shared interests, common goals, intertwined economies and cultures, and it’s critical that we be seen as one community and not split up. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 002, and then up next will
be 001.

002, I will be promoting you now.

002, your speaker order number will be number five, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. KAZMI: Thank you. I’ll be discussing Fremont and Santa Clara, the City of Santa Clara starting with the Irvington neighborhood of Fremont.

All right. I can go ahead and start then. So, hi. My name is Aliza Kazmi, and I’m the advocacy manager at the Council on American Islamic Relations, San Francisco Bay area chapter, and our organization is a regional lead organization for the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. I will be speaking about some of the Muslim communities in Fremont, as well as Santa Clara. And I speak from our perspective as a civil rights, equal aid, and civic engagement organization that is based in Santa Clara and serves the Bay Area regions 250,000 plus Muslims, including recently arrived and other immigrants from around the world.

Working with different community leaders, we see that Muslims in our region are highly and increasingly civically engaged on a range of issues including fighting for basic economic opportunities for immigrants and
refugees, and accountability and change in the various ways
that AMEMSA and BIPOC people are (indiscernible).

Because of our diversity, socio-economically, in
terms of citizenship status, and across - I think -
identities, our 100-plus mosques are one (indiscernible)
space that characterize our community. Over the past 15
years alone, at least 10 new mosques have been formed in
the Bay Area, and the location of mosques also impacts
where Muslims can move to the Bay Area, rent, and own
homes.

I would like to highlight that in Fremont there
are many Muslims living around the Islamic Center of
Fremont on Irvington Avenue. Over 200 families, including
many Indians and Pakistanis, live in Irvington
neighborhood, which is also home to a number of highly-
frequented Muslim-owned businesses.

There are also many Muslims, especially Afghans,
residing near Washington Street, up the street from the
Khalilullah Ibahim Islamic Center on Osgood Road.

Another area of Fremont with a strong Muslim,
especially Afghan residential and small business presence,
is the Centerville neighborhood, also known as Little
Kabul. This area is also where Afghan Coalition, one of
our partners and direct service social agency, is located.
And I believe that they’re the largest Afghan social
service agency in the country.

And then in Santa Clara there is also significant density of Muslims, especially around the original location of the Muslim Community Association, which is Masjid Al-Noor on Catherine Street, just south of El Camino Real.

While many of its congregants exclusively attend Masjid Al-Noor, many also attend the (indiscernible) -

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. KAZMI: -- Muslim communities on (indiscernible) Boulevard just south of Highway 101 and east of the San Tomas Expressway.

So, we ask that the Commission please keep the two concentrations of Muslims that I’ve described in central and south Fremont, and in Santa Clara together as much as possible, given these communities shared characteristics of ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, as Arab Middle-Eastern (indiscernible) central and south Asian –

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. KAZMI: -- also share various social and political interests. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: -- the connection for the speaker?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

Unique I.D. 002, if you could please unmute? The
Chair had a couple extra questions for you.

    MS. KAZMI:  Sure.

    CO-CHAIR TOLEDO:  I just a little bit of additional information for our line drawers, could you describe the Irvington boundaries?

    MS. KAZMI:  Yes.  So, I was just describing the neighborhood of Irvington.  And I will be sure to - And I’m going to be sure to also follow up with written testimony to the commission e-mail, and I can define that in there, as well, but I can just give you a quick overview here.

    So, the western boundary of Irvington is Grimmer Boulevard, and then the southern is Blacow Road, and the northern is Paseo Padre.  So, basically, if you go - if you start at Paseo Padre Parkway and Grimmer Boulevard, that’s the northwest corner of Irvington.

    CO-CHAIR TOLEDO:  That’s very helpful.  And thank you so much.  We look forward to getting your written comments, as well.

    MS. KAZMI:  Thank you.

    PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR:  Thank you so much.

    Right now we will have 001, and then up next will be 004.

    001, I will be promoting you now.

    001, your speaker order number will be number six, if you’ll please make note of that for future
reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. GUPTA: Hi. I will be discussing the Berryessa area and north San Jose.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MS. GUPTA: Good afternoon. My name is Gabriela Garzon Gupta, and I am with the Asian Law Alliance. I will be addressing the area that contains Assembly District 25, particularly, the Berryessa area of San Jose, and the southern part of Santa Clara County.

The Asian Law Alliance is a non-profit based in San Jose that provides legal services in Santa Clara County, with a particular focus on our AAPI and low income populations.

I am speaking today in conjunction with the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative. I’m here today to talk specifically about the Chinese community in the Berryessa area of north San Jose. Berryessa can also be defined through the zip codes 95131, 95132, and part of 95133.

Berryessa is especially notable for its high concentration of the AAPI population. Over 60-percent of the population identifies as AAPI. Over half of Berryessa
residents work in white collar jobs and commute using the highways of 680 and 101 to get to those type related jobs. Berryessa also has its own school district that serves 13 elementary and middle schools. There is a strong community of Chinese immigrants and U.S. born residents with Chinese heritage.

Approximately 14-percent of the population in 95132, and 20-percent of 95131 are Chinese immigrants, while surrounding zip codes have percentages that hover around two to eight percent. With a high concentration of Chinese immigrants, the neighborhood resources and schools reflect this demographic.

There are three Chinese language schools in the Milpitas and Berryessa area, and Berryessa Union School District also serves a much higher percentage of ESL students who speak either Mandarin or Cantonese than the neighboring Alum Rock School District.

There is also a very strong religious Chinese community. Berryessa and Milpitas have seven temples and churches for the Chinese community specifically.

Please keep the Berryessa community intact, and keep this community with cities like Fremont and Milpitas. The Chinese community in Berryessa has much more in common with its neighbors up to the north, like Fremont and Milpitas, and (recording indiscernible) its neighbors
to the southeast, like the Alum Rock and the other east-
side San Jose neighborhoods.

The Chinese communities in Milpitas and Fremont
has similarities when it comes to home ownership rates,
poverty rates, languages spoken, and types of jobs. Thank
you for hearing my input today.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And I have a quick
question.

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

Unique I.D. 001, if you could please unmute, the
Chair had some questions for you.

MS. GUPTA: Hello.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Hi. Thank you for your
comments. Can you elaborate on the boundaries for the
Berryessa community, specifically what – if there are
street boundaries or any other boundaries that you’d like
to give us?

MS. GUPTA: I think something to – I think my
colleague already mentioned the 880 Freeway and the 680 up
to the hills, and Berryessa Road in the south, and
Calaveras Boulevard, which is kind of near Milpitas.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: That’s helpful. Thank you very
much.

MS. GUPTA: Yes. And then just another thing to
note, too, is it is different from the Alum Rock
neighborhood, which is pretty close — so, you see that east foothills and the Alum Rock, that’s where I would differentiate it, as well.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Are you suggesting that the Alum Rock is not part of the Berryessa community?

MS. GUPTA: No. We don’t really consider it as part of the Berryessa community.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. And that’s not part of your community of interest?

MS. GUPTA: No. Not in my testimony today, and not as most people consider the area existing from the east foothills in the Alum Rock area.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I appreciate it. Thank you for the specificity.

MS. GUPTA: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, will be 004, and then up next will be 006. And I’d like to invite those that have called in today to please press star-nine on their telephone keypad to get in the comment queue line, as I will be going to callers here shortly.

004, I’ll be promoting you now.

004, your speaker order number will be number seven, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what
area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. CORTEZ: Hi. Good afternoon. I’d like to discuss the Berryessa neighborhood, as well, and San Jose.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

MS. CORTEZ: Good afternoon, everyone. I’m Angelica Cortez, and I’m calling as a representative of Lead Filipino. We’re a local non-profit organization based in San Jose and in the south Bay Area, and we’re focused on advancing civic participation and civil rights within Filipina X and O, American and broader communities. And in the six years that we have been active, we’ve spearheaded a coalition of hundreds of organizations, and have helped thousands of Fil-Ams in leadership education and advocacy.

We’re calling in as a member of the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. So, our community members are concentrated in two main areas in San Jose. The first includes downtown Berryessa and north San Jose, which we also call Milpitas in different contexts. So, the boundaries for this concentration are captured within the 680 and 880 corridors, starting with East Santa Clara Street. We’re very technical here – in the south, and extending to West Calaveras Boulevard in the north, and east-side San Jose, specifically the roads of South White Road, Tully Road, Quimby Road in Evergreen. And I will also submit these in a written comment, because I know that
I’m naming a lot of streets.

The boundaries that capture this community of interest begins south of East Santa Clara, and follow the 101 to the foothills.

We’re calling in today to ask the Commission to keep our north San Jose community of interest with Fremont and Santa Clara.

The Fil-Am community in north San Jose would be best served by being placed together with Fremont and Santa Clara, as they share similar socio-economic and home ownership statuses, whereas our community in east-side San Jose would be better served in Assembly District 27, because of the shared interests in employment, community spaces, and housing resources with neighboring communities of interest.

The communities in which Fil-Ams live have shared needs and interest around transportation, public health and safety, housing, jobs, and community spaces, and landmarks, and education. For instance, the 200-percent increase in anti-Asian hate crime incidents in the United States and, of course, in our county concerns our communities’ safety to run simple errands like grocery shopping, going to the bank, the mall, church, or even walking around our neighborhood.

In addition, our community needs workplace
protections for frontline workers, noting that an estimated one-third of employed Fil-Ams are healthcare workers and/or domestic caregivers.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. CORTEZ: With the majority being Filipina women.

Our community has shared public policy concerns with other AAPI communities, and we believe that these communities would best be served if the areas in which they lived are kept together and held intact. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now will be 006, and then up next will be caller 0100, unique I.D. 010. That’s a lot of zeros and ones. And then after that, we will be going into the callers and those that are here from the next session early.

006, I will be promoting you now.

006, your speaker order number will be number eight, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. BECKMAN: Thank you. I’d like to focus on the north coast from Marin County to Trinity County.

Good afternoon, Commissioners, and thanks for the
opportunity to speak.

My name is Eli Beckman, and I’m the Mayor of Corte Madera in Marin County, although I’m speaking today in my personal capacity as a member of the north coast community.

There are a few points I’d like to highlight as we discuss redistricting. The first is the importance of keeping the north coast community intact. The north coast is a vibrant group of many small communities that are bound tightly together by shared social, cultural, and economic ties.

On the social front, north coast communities share similar demographics containing many long-time and older residents with deep ties to the north coast.

Culturally, the north coast is tied together by a deeply ingrained love of outdoor recreation, and a reverence for the north coast’s natural beauty.

And economically, we are tied together by the 101 Corridor, which is the nerve center that connects many of these communities.

But equally important beyond the 101 Corridor, north coast communities are also tied together by vast and productive agricultural lands which form the other economic backbone of the region. Agriculture is a shared tradition in these communities.
The second issue I’d like to highlight is the negative impacts on north coast communities if they were to be combined with San Francisco in a district. Being a major international city, San Francisco exerts a kind of field of gravity in the minds of policymakers. This is natural and logical, but it also makes it critical that the small north coast communities remain in their own district.

I see three major dangers to lumping any north coast community in with San Francisco. First, grouping any of these smaller communities with a major city like San Francisco would effectively deprive that smaller community of political representation. In all likelihood, the chance of a political candidate from a small community outside San Francisco being elected to represent a district containing San Francisco is highly improbable, effectively locking smaller communities out of representation.

Second, when state and federal resources are distributed to state senate or congressional districts, we know from experience that larger communities can sometimes overshadow smaller communities in the same district. Grouping any north coast community with San Francisco would risk that community losing out on resources due to be overshadowed by the prominence of San Francisco.

Finally, the north coast is extraordinarily vulnerable to numerous types of disaster, including
earthquake, wildfire, and sea level rise. For smaller communities like ours, federal and state assistance are often our only chance of coping. If grouped in with San Francisco, in the event of a shared disaster I fear federal and state attention would go first and foremost to San Francisco, leaving smaller north coast communities to fend for themselves.

These points illustrate why it’s so critical that our redistricting –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. BECKMAN: -- keep the counties of the north coast intact. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: One quick question for the speaker.

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

MR. MANOFF: 006, if you could please unmute, the Chair had an additional question for you.

MR. BECKMAN: Please.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. Thank you. You mentioned north coast communities, and I believe from Marin to Trinity Counties. Can you specify the counties or cities that you would contain, or communities that you would – that are part of the north coast?

MR. BECKMAN: Yeah. Absolutely. So, in the –
you know, the cultural sense in which that term is often used, the north coast entails Marin County, Sonoma County, Mendocino County, Humboldt County, Trinity County, and Del Norte County. These are the counties that I was really talking about, and the smaller communities maintained therein.

Some of these counties actually only have, you know, like one or a handful of incorporated communities, but it’s – you know, this kind of broader tapestry of smaller communities Census designated places, whatnot, that are really tied together in the ways that I described.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Appreciate it.

MR. BECKMAN: My pleasure. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have caller 0100, unique I.D. 010, and then up next after that will be unique I.D. 029.

So, caller 0100, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six?

Caller 0100, your speaker order number will be number nine, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. LLOYD: Well, thank you so much.

This is Judy Lloyd calling. I am the CEO of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce in Danville, California.
We’re located along Highway 680 and East Bay of San Francisco.

I really want to thank all of you as commissioners and staff for your service as part of the Citizen’s Redistricting Commission. We really admire your commitment to public service, and drawing fair lines that keep communities together.

I’m here today representing the five chambers of commerce in the Danville area, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and, of course, Danville. Together, we represent these communities, along with others in unincorporated areas, including Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, Sunol, and others in the unincorporated part of Alameda and Contra Costa.

Today we submitted a written letter regarding our interest in keeping the Tri-Valley communities together. Though each of our communities has unique features, they’re closely intertwined and well-known as the Tri-Valley community.

Here are some facts about what binds us as a community. Our Tri-Valley local government, including the town of Danville and the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon, collaborate significantly in most local policy, and together we advocate on the county, state, and federal level. We work on regional issues, like
housing, transportation, healthcare, and jobs, and partner with non-profit organizations serving our region, like the Tri-Valley Haven, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance, Innovation Tri-Valley, and Visit Tri-Valley.

We also share special districts, including water districts, fire districts, and school districts, and many of these elected bodies have representation from several different cities in our Tri-Valley region.

Our residents work, live, and play here. We shop here along the 580/680 Corridor. Many of our kids play in leagues based in the Tri-Valley, including soccer, football, baseball, and cricket. All this connectivity within the Tri-Valley is because we all share interests, common goals, our regional economy, culture, and commutes to and from work. We respectfully request that you keep our Tri-Valley region and our communities whole and together. This will allow our elected legislative leaders to represent us effectively and efficiently, and for our government to function better. Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we have 029, and then up next we will have caller 8454.

029, I will be promoting you now.
029, your speaker order number will be number 10, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. SALWAN: Good afternoon. My name is Raj Salwan. I’m from Fremont City Council, so I’m focusing on City of Fremont, as well as a larger CA-17.

Fremont is a very diverse community. We’re one of the few minority majority communities. We have a very large Asian American population, very heavy south Asian, as well as East Asian. And so, we are interested in continuing the relationship we have now, as far as how Fremont, Milpitas, Berryessa, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara, and Cupertino are all one big district. And we have similar interests, as far as affordable housing, as far as the tech jobs. A lot of our workers go to those places. We have much in common, as far as our demographics, as far as the education, and as far as the needs of the community.

And our community is definitely increasing, and we want to continue to be in that same – you know, neighborhood.

Also, I want to say that Fremont has been divided, you know, for a while in assembly districts, as well as our congressional districts, and we would like to be made whole, and to be one big district, so that we can
have — you know, a dedicated congress member, as well as
dedicated assembly member. The senate is not a concern
right now, but hopefully we can continue to maintain that.

And this comment is not just myself, it’s also
with our mayor, Lily Mei, as well as Vice Mayor, Yang Shao,
as well as council member, Rick Jones.

So, again, I look forward to listening to your
comments and your suggestions, and I hope that you will
continue to respect the new district that we have, both our
AD-25, as well as C-17, our new districts, and they have
served us well. So, we look forward to your dialogue, and
appreciate all the hard work that all of you are doing.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, will be caller 8454, and up next will
be caller 1899. And I’d also like to invite those that
have called in to please press star-nine to raise your
hands, indicating you wish to give comment.

Caller 8454, if you will please follow the
prompts to unmute at this time?

Caller with the last four digits 8454, if you
will please — There you go.

Your speaker order number will be number 11, if
you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And
if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 11: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is TJ, and I’m going to represent on the district - District 25, and Council District 17, and also (indiscernible) 10. I agree with the council member Raj Salwan, so we can - I need - appreciate you guys (indiscernible) hard work. So, continue to keep on our same way to our district, and we have all the Indian Asian community, Chinese community all work together. And also, we have a (indiscernible) issues that we have - keep continue working a lot. So, we want to make - continue to keep the same our district to - going to the whatever we have right now. So, keep it in the same way. So, I really appreciate for your hard work, and thank you for council member Raj Salwan to give updates, and I agree with him. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you very much for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Up next will be caller 1899, and after that will be caller 9055.

Caller 1899, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time?

Caller 1899, your speaker order number will be number 12, if you’ll please make note of that for future
reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what
area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 12: Thank you very much. Del
Norte County.

I can start now? As a member – As a lifelong
resident of Del Norte County, I am very concerned that we
make sure our representation keeps us on the coast. Almost
everything we do, because we are extremely isolated, only
26,000 people in our county, and in order to access
services like support services for health, or support
services for education, our parent communities are based in
Humboldt County, which is to the south of us. And in order
to get there it’s already a two hour drive to get to
Humboldt County to Eureka. And if I were to go to Redding,
where my center would be if I were transferred into the
area immediately east of me, it would require me to
literally leave the state and reenter the state to get to
my congressional district, or I could leave my
congressional district and drive south and enter a new
congressional district and cross the mountains and get to
my – back to mine.

So, Del Norte County is extremely isolated. And
if you move us into a – if you move us east into the – our
neighboring counties, the only way we can get there is
either to A, leave the state or, B, continue to be part of
Humboldt County and always access Humboldt County before we would enter – before we would move to the east. So, it’s just imperative that we stay north/south. All of our services, our education, our health services, even our churches have their diaoses or parent organizations, so to speak, are all north/south, and are all on the coast, because we have unique needs on the coast that differ just based on our geographic location and our isolation. So, I urge you to please make sure that the little communities stay put where they are, because their representation has been developed over years, and our hope and voice to any needs that we have when we reach to either the state or federal level, or even national organizations, we need to do it through Humboldt County because of our –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 12: -- because of our location north/south. So, I’m just wanting everyone to remember on the Commission, and I appreciate your help, that we’re isolated and little, and we really need to be part of Humboldt County. Thank you for listening.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: A clarifying question for the caller.

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

Could caller 1899 please press star-six? The Chair had some additional questions for you.
SPEAKER NUMBER 12:  Yes?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO:  Thank you so much for calling in today. A quick question about your community of interest. The communities that you consider part of your community of interest are Del Norte County, and was it Humboldt? Are there any other communities, or is that –

SPEAKER NUMBER 12:  Humboldt County is our primary community. We are the only incorporated community in our county of 26,000. And so, Crescent City is the only - the only city within 100 miles of here, the only incorporated city. We reach to Humboldt County where they have Arcadia and Eureka. So, our only incorporated structure reaches north/south.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO:  Appreciate it, and thank you for taking the time to -

SPEAKER NUMBER 12:  Thank you for hearing us.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO:  Absolutely. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR:  Thank you so much.

Right now, will be caller 9055, and then up next will be caller 1693.

Caller 9055, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time? Caller 9055, your speaker order number will be number 13, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the
mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. MCINTYRE: Hello. I am in Loma Mar in south coastal San Mateo County.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. MCINTYRE: Hi. My name is David McIntyre. I’m very concerned about the way my area is districted. Right now, I’m in District 18, which has a mismatched set of priorities. We’re split between the Silicon Valley and rural coastal areas.

The valley has a heavy focus on businesses and innovation, and has a transit system that’s concentrated on commuting between relatively high density housing and offices up and down the peninsula.

The coast has a much lower population density, and more agrarian economy, with sparse transit system and a vastly different housing situation.

It seems difficult for the District 18 representative to fully understand and support the dual nature of the district. I’d like to propose that the part of District 18 containing Pacifica to Santa Cruz from the south – from the coast to the ridge be removed from District 18 and added to District 20, which contains Monterey, Santa Cruz, and other lower density agrarian populations. This will allow the representative to
consider issues that are more universal to their constituency. Thank you for your consideration, and for taking our input into the process.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for calling in.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 1693, and then up next will be caller 7387.

Caller 1693, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 1693, your speaker order number will be number 14, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 14: Sure. Can you please hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

SPEAKER NUMBER 14: Yeah. I would like to talk about the San Gabriel area.

So, I am a Silicon Valley resident, and I work in San Gabriel for a big tech company, and I am very much interested in having a (indiscernible) because I’m (indiscernible) from Silicon Valley – from original District 18. I am an immigrant from like – I’m an immigrant who suffered persecution (indiscernible) at the hands of some (indiscernible) radical ideology, so I – as I moved to the Bay Area basically (indiscernible) diversity,
and not really basically – so, I would like to maintain that balance. So, but I share an American community in (indiscernible) Silicon Valley (indiscernible) economy. We are launching start-ups, and we are the power of a (indiscernible) economy with our (indiscernible) technology skills and (indiscernible) obligation, and we do not have much (indiscernible) politics (indiscernible) Asian American (indiscernible) of the community by (indiscernible) San (indiscernible) education, healthcare, public services, and more importantly, immigrant community. Asian Americans are largest minority community from regional District 18, but this district has never had any (indiscernible) and minority (indiscernible). Can the redistricting commission ensure that more Asian Americans have a chance to (indiscernible) communities of interest (indiscernible) in a city (indiscernible) ethnic group – political representation to voting. The redistricting in Silicon Valley (indiscernible) will have a chance to be elected to congress.

My recommendation is that you include cities of San Gabriel (indiscernible) and Santa Clara into (indiscernible) Asian communities in the district (indiscernible) with a chance to have Asian representation from both 17 and 18.

So, yeah. So, to conclude, I (indiscernible)
speak (indiscernible) they want the community to be one
place, but I will say the diversity should spread – why we
want to have -- (indiscernible) District 17 like to have
all the (indiscernible) District 18 should also have some
Asian (indiscernible) chance to get the (indiscernible)

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 14: So, yeah. That’s the idea.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for calling in.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will
have caller 7387, and then up next will be caller 5302.

And I would like to invite those that have called
in that have not given comment today to please press star-
nine if they wish to give comment, to raise their hand.

Caller 7387, if you will please follow the
prompts to unmute at this time?

Caller 7387, your speaker order number will be
number 15, if you’ll please make note of that for future
reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what
area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. LEE: Good afternoon. My name is Otto Lee.
I live in the City of Sunnyvale for the past 25 years, and
served as Mayor about a dozen years ago. Currently, I’m
serving as the County Supervisor for the District 3, which
includes north Sunnyvale, Milpitas, Berryessa area, and San
Jose, and actually wraps around the foothill to the
Evergreen area. That’s what the current district is for
the county district.

I’m talking about the current district we have in
both CD-17, which includes Sunnyvale, and also another
assembly district, even though Sunnyvale is not in there,
but I am also talking about this area which includes
Milpitas and various – and these areas actually are
extremely highly populated by the Asian community.

There was a bit of a travesty that took place
about the prior redistricting, and that got corrected, and
I’m talking about AD-25.

Prior to the last redistricting, the Berryessa
area, which is, like I mentioned, a very high Asian
population, was divided into four assembly districts, which
is really unfortunate, and that was one inequity which we
believe that’s been corrected. And we believe the current
drawing of AD-25 has a very good community of interest to
include the area which includes we said like Fremont,
includes Milpitas, includes Berryessa, and keeping this
Asian – being one of the largest Asian represented the
district in the state assembly.

Along the same lines the Congressional District
17 right now, as I understand, is actually one of the
highest, if not the highest Asian represented congressional
district in the country. So, we are happy and satisfied with the current line the way it’s been drawn.

   So, I just wanted to bring those points up. And as a county supervisor, even though we are (indiscernible) but we certainly have very close overlapping area for the same reasons. And I urge the Commission to take note of these important consideration, and thank you so much for your service serving our community on this very important work. Thank you very much.

   PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

   Right now, we will have caller 5302, and then up next will be caller 7545.

   Caller 5302, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

   Caller 5302, your speaker order number will be number 16, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

   MS. DONETTE: Hi. My name is Dominique Donette. I’m representing the California Hawaii State Conference National Association for Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. We represent 56 branches of members who are deeply invested in this topic throughout the State of California.

   Our main concern is keeping African American businesses and communities strong throughout the state. We
have sincere desire to unite the black communities in
Oakland under one state assembly and one state senate
district.

The City of Oakland specifically should be united
into one assembly, AD-18, and Senate District SD-9, and
there’s no real reason or rationale why the areas of the
city north of downtown and I-580 should be bifurcated from
the rest of the city by assembly districts. This split not
only hurts representation for Oakland residents, but
continues the division of the black community along a
freeway barrier.

In the northern east Bay Area, another area of
concern is the City of Vallejo. While located in Solano
County, Vallejo has much more in common with the urban
areas of the East Bay (indiscernible) San Pablo, and the
Commission should consider including Vallejo and East Bay
(indiscernible) in East Bay Assembly District 15 and Senate
District SD-9. That includes the shores of the San
Francisco Bay.

Additionally, we want to continue to encourage
you all to think about who and how you’re partnering with
to get the word out about this community input process. I
believe I said this last time. It’s very important to us
(indiscernible) equality and the drawing of the lines is
important to us, as well. Community involvement and
collaboration is critical to this (indiscernible) and keeping communities whole and not causing disruption is most critical to us.

On behalf of the California Hawaii State Conference NAACP, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for calling in.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

And right now, we will have caller 7545, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller with the last four 7545, if you’ll please press star-six at this time to unmute?

Again, caller with the last four 7545, if you’ll please press star-six to unmute?

Caller 7545, your speaker order number will be number 17, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 17: Hi. My name is (indiscernible). I’m from Cupertino, California 95014 is my zip code. I (indiscernible) Silicon Valley, and I work for a company called Palo Alto Networks. We’re located in the City of Santa Clara.

I wanted to thank you for your commitment to listen to me first time. I (indiscernible) interested in
having an Asian representative from Silicon Valley’s Congressional District Number 18.

My recommendation is that you kindly include the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Santa Clara into Congressional District 18, which is grouped the Asian community into District 18, and will help with the chance of having an Asian representation from both the Congressional District 18 and 17.

Thank you for addressing the needs of the Asian American community. We hope you will draw the lines to (indiscernible) our community.

I have another point, is we (indiscernible) District 18 we have a (indiscernible) community of (indiscernible) of Palo Alto, Mountainview, Menlo Park (indiscernible) coastline of San Mateo and Santa Cruz County that has their own issues (indiscernible).

I submit that you kindly consider moving the rural coastline into Congressional District 20 which has similar issues. Our coastline residents complain of a lack of representation. That will fix the coastline issue (indiscernible) compliance with the Voting Right Act 1965 and (indiscernible) preserve (indiscernible) to ensure the Hispanics have the opportunity to elect a Hispanic congressional representative but has never happened yet in (indiscernible) 19 District.
Consider kindly moving areas of San Jose from 18 and CR-17 into a Hispanic majority of CR-19.

Honestly, the Asian American communities can be (indiscernible) in the central Silicon Valley’s economy. We are launching start-ups, and we (indiscernible) with our hard work (indiscernible) skill and technical education, but we do not have much say in politics, to be honest.

Having Asian American representatives (indiscernible) our community by accessing services such as education, healthcare, public services, and more for our –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 17: -- (indiscernible) community, hence I would request (indiscernible) submission for your kind consideration. Thank you very much for your continued service.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments and for calling in.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And Chair, at this time we are up against a break.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. We are at the 4:30 break, so we will be breaking for 15 minutes, and when we come back, Commissioner Yee will be chairing the meeting for the next session. With that, we will be back at 4:45.

(Off the record at 4:15 p.m.)
(Back on the record at 4:45 p.m.)

CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Interest Input meeting.

I’m Commissioner Russell Yee, and I’ll be chairing this portion of the meeting.

As always, we encourage you to check out our communities of interest mapping tool. It’s at drawmyCAcommunity.org. And there you can draw us a map and provide us a description of your community, and you’re welcome to do that instead of or in addition to calling in today.

As a reminder, we’re offering language lines for those who would like to listen in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, or Russian, and instructions for those listen-only lines are on the live stream web page.

For those who wish to give their testimony in one of those languages, we have a separate line.

And we’ll now have our interpreters give instructions for those call-in lines.

So, if we could start with the Spanish interpreter, please read the full call-in instructions.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Hi, Commissioner. This is the interpreter for Spanish.

[Instructions read in Spanish]
Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Gracias. We’ll now have our Mandarin interpreter provide the full call-in instructions.

MANDARIN INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Mandarin]

Thank you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: And now for our Cantonese translator – to provide the full call-in instructions.

CANTONESE INTERPRETER: Thank you, Commissioner Yee. The following is the full call-in instruction in Cantonese.

[Instructions read in Cantonese]

CO-CHAIR YEE: And then our Russian interpreter, please provide the call-in instructions.

RUSSIAN INTERPRETER: Thank you, Chair. What follows is the full list of the Russian instructions.

[Instructions read in Russian]

Back to you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you. Okay. As a reminder, even though we’re focusing on the Bay Area today, Californians from anywhere in the state are welcome to provide input on any part of the state.

I’ll now pass this over to Katy, our comment moderator, to – public input. We’ll start with people that are registered, and then open the phone lines if there’s
time before the next session.

Katy, when you have completed the instructions, please also request the Tagalog interpreter to read the site translation for the open public input session instructions.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

Thank you so much.

Welcome to the public input session. Please use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn, I will identify you by your assigned, unique I.D. number from your invite. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio. You will then be assigned a speaker order number before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your speaker order number for future reference.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit for English speakers, and a six minute time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

It is the Commission’s goal to find the area on the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your three-minute or six-minute testimony will begin.
Attendees will not be able to share their screen.

At the end of your public input or at the end of
your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-
only mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind
the mapper of what area you would like to see on the
screen.

Could I please invite the Tagalog interpreter to
read the instructions? Thank you.

TAGALOG INTERPRETER (via Zoom): Yes, Ma’am.

This is the Tagalog interpreter.

[Instructions read in Tagalog]

Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
The Tagalog interpreter, if you could just stay on? The
person who requested your services is here. It is unique
I.D. 105. I will go ahead and be promoting you now.

TAGALOG INTERPRETER: Okay. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There appears to be
some connectivity issue, so I will just be allowing them to
talk. One moment.

Is the Tagalog interpreter there?

TAGALOG INTERPRETER: Yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Could you please
interpret unique I.D. 015?

If you could please unmute at this time?
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment. I’m going to try sending a chat real fast.

All right. We will come back to 015.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: At this time, we will go to 013, and then up next will be 023.

013, I will be promoting you now.

013, your speaker order number will be number 18, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference.

And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. CHIN: Hello, everyone. I would like to speak to the San Francisco Trenton neighborhood. Great.

Hello. My name is Christopher Chin, and I am the community advocate on the voting rights team at Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus, located in San Francisco, California.

I’m calling in to share some information about the communities where our clients live in San Francisco, and to provide an introduction for the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative for the San Francisco Peninsula and the East Bay.
As the Commission may know, along with Advancing Justice Los Angeles, the Asian Law Caucus leads the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative, and have worked to engage organizations and individuals in the San Francisco Peninsula and the East Bay.

The testimony that my colleagues and I have prepared for you today reflects our engagement with our community members and community-based organizations to identify COIs that capture the diversity of our regions.

Similar to the Collaborative’s work in the South Bay, our San Francisco Peninsula and East Bay regional tables each held four community workshops reaching 18 community-based organizations, and over 30 community members and staff. Besides identifying COIs, we also used these meetings to educate attendees on the importance of redistricting, and share the various ways for community members to engage with the CCRC.

The feedback that we have collected for you today comes from a variety of stakeholders, including community health providers, families, leaders, and community organizers.

As the nation’s first legal and civil rights organization serving low income Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the Asian Law Caucus is committed to utilizing advocacy, community engagement, and direct legal service to
uplift the most vulnerable of our communities.

In San Francisco alone, our housing and worker’s rights programs provided legal counseling and representation to over 200 clients in 2020. Significant concentrations of these clients that we serve are found in historic San Francisco Chinatown, as well as the Excelsior and Balboa Park neighborhoods. As the oldest Chinatown in North America, San Francisco’s Chinatown houses a large portion of senior limited English proficient immigrants. Many of the community members we serve in Chinatown are working class and single room occupant residents having similar policy needs, including a need for language assistance, as well as tenant and employment protections.

Farther south, there is another concentration of low income and immigrant communities in the Excelsior and Balboa Park neighborhoods. Many of the client we serve within these areas are low income Chinese residents, many of whom have historically been displaced due to rising housing costs in the city.

Many residents in these neighborhoods have come to us with concerns relating to their unemployment assistance and eviction from their homes.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. CHIN: Language barriers are also a challenge for many of our clients from Excelsior and Balboa Park.
Today I am urging the Commission to respect the integrity of both these COIs, each holding importance for the Chinese communities we serve in San Francisco.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. CHIN: Thank you so much for hearing from me today, and the rest of the AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have 023, and then after that will be 018.

023, I will be promoting you now.

023, your speaker order number will be number 19, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

023, you are still on mute, sir.

MR. GORDON: There we go.

My name is Frank Gordon, and I would like to speak to the area of northern Contra Costa County and southern Solano County.

MR. MANOFF: 023, go ahead.

MR. GORDON: Thank you.

I spent 12 years on the Contra Costa County Environmental Protection Commission, the Industrial Safety
Commission, and I’d like to speak to the issue of the fact that Contra Costa County is the second largest industrial in the state, and we share a lot of similarities with southern Solano County with the refineries and major industrial areas.

And my feeling is that those two areas should be kept pretty much together when it comes to state representation, because of the industrial similarities, and the fact that Contra Costa County has its own industrial safety ordinance of which Solano County has had an interest in, and has actually had an interest in us managing an industrial safety ordinance for them. So, it would be appropriate to have our state representation pretty much the same areas that would include Mission, Martinez, Benicia, parts of Vallejo, all the way out to Pittsburg. So, that is my input.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right now, we will have 018, and then up next will be 027.

018, I will be promoting you now.

018, your speaker order number will be number 20, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video on the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper
know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. CHUA: Perfect. Good evening, everyone. I will be speaking to north San Mateo County, Daly City and South City.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead. Go ahead, please.

MR. CHUA: Perfect. Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Rob Chua, representing the Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center, PRBC, a non-profit community-based organization located in Daly City.

PRBC has provided direct services since 1989 to the Filipino population of San Mateo County, giving legal services, immigration services for distribution, and cultural activities.

Today I’ll be speaking as part of the AAPI AMEMSA Redistricting Collaboratives to cover the following areas, Daly City and South City, including the Westborough and Buri Buri neighborhoods. Most of our Fil-Am COIs are encapsulated within the boundaries of Daly City, including Serramonte, (indiscernible) Square, Westlake and Hillside. Daly City also houses the largest concentration of Filipinos in the United States per capita, and according to the 2019 Census, one in three individuals in Daly City identifies as Filipino.
As seen on the map, our community has grown exponentially, and has eventually moved south, covering the Westborough and Buri Buri neighborhoods.

Westborough begins north on King Drive, and follows the Junipero Serra and Skyline Boulevard south to Valley Wood Drive, and Buri Buri begins south on Westborough Boulevard, moving north along the 280 Corridor to Arlington Drive. This northern boundary extends to Mission Street, and wraps around the Holy Cross Cemetery. The neighborhood is closed off along Hillside Boulevard to the west, finally connecting the Chestnut Boulevard to the south.

These neighborhoods house major places of worship, the service community hubs. And since many Filipino families in the region are immigrants, we are concerned about language barriers, institutional accessibility, and civic participation.

As the community continues to be divided, we fear that the growing number of Filipino immigrants will be in isolation from other Filipino Americans. Inequities in health disproportionately affect the Filipino community, and the health disparities are shaped by socio-economic challenges. And the lack of culturally competent resources with a high representation of Filipino Americans performing essential services are community members have been asked to
risk their lives to make ends meet, in particular, the
great presence of Filipino Americans in the healthcare
industry has led to an alarming rate of death for
registered nurses from amongst our community, and according
to the L.A. Times, approximately one-quarter of the Asian
American population in California represents Filipino
Americans, yet Filipino Americans account for at least 35-
percent of Covid-19 deaths in the state’s Asian population.

During Covid-19, our community members have also
faced added mental stressors from unemployment, lack of
social support –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. CHUA: -- food and housing and security, and
an increase in racial violence and a (indiscernible) across
the Bay Area.

As these issues (indiscernible) the Filipino
community, they also attest the need for visibility. Our
communities’ experiences must not be homogenized or reduced
under the (indiscernible) Asian American population.

PBRC respectfully requests that the Commission
keep our communities in Daly City in the Westborough and
Buri Buri neighborhoods as a whole, and not be divided.

Thank you to the Commission for the opportunity
to speak today on behalf of PBRC and the Fil-Am community.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now, we will have 027, and then up next
will be 022.

027, I will be promoting you now.
27, your speaker order number will be number 21,
if you’ll please make note of that for future reference.
And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you
would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. TOWNS: Yes. I would like to discuss
Richmond, California Richmond, South Richmond, North
Richmond, and Central Richmond.

So, my name is Juanita Towns, and I’m calling to
speak about the Iron Triangle in Richmond, California,
which includes South Richmond, Central Richmond, and North
Richmond.

I am the policy advocacy organizer for Building
Blocks for Kids. Building Blocks for Kids is a non-profit
organization that helps parents and caregivers to become
active advocates and leaders in their community.

I am speaking to you today to uplift the
importance of protecting communities of interest in
Richmond. In the last five years, Richmond has drastically
changed due to (indiscernible) that has displaced the black
community and caused disorder to the neighborhood.

Some of the major concerns for the black
community in this area is the violence going on in this
community due to lack of resources, as well as housing
issues that cause many people to be in fear of losing their
housing or being displaced.

What’s particularly at stake from our
organization’s perspective is the children in these
communities and their parents who are experiencing poverty
and worried about not having enough income to provide for
their families. There is a high need for rent programs,
mental health programs, as well as need for safe, clean
spaces for the homeless community.

There is also a huge educational gap for black
children, and we want better for our education for them.
The black community throughout this region shares similar
concerns and fears, and it is why we are passionate about
changing our community.

As you begin mapping, we hope that you all are
mindful of the community, so that we are able to represent
who can address these issues. I thank you for listening.
I hope you have a blessed evening.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, caller. Could you stay
on just a second?

MS. TOWNS: Yes. Please.

CO-CHAIR YEE: I just wanted to get a clear sense
of your – the boundaries that you’re speaking of. So, you
mentioned North, Central, and South Richmond. Is that all of Richmond, then, or just part of Richmond?

MS. TOWNS: That is part of Richmond.

CO-CHAIR YEE: So, what would the boundaries of that part be?

MS. TOWNS: Most of the boundaries is going to also include Park Fiesta Village.

CO-CHAIR YEE: So, would there be a street or somewhere that you could –

MS. TOWNS: Yes. It can also (indiscernible) south of Carson Boulevard, and that would be in the South Richmond area. Carson Boulevard, McDonald Avenue.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. And how far north? You’re on mute.

So, how far north would you go?

MS. TOWNS: I would go as far as – I would say Parkway, if that’s easier, Richmond Parkway.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay.

MS. TOWNS: And McLaughlin.

CO-CHAIR YEE: And McLaughlin?

MS. TOWNS: Uh-huh.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Excellent. Thank you so much.

MS. TOWNS: No worries. Have a good evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have 022, and then up next after 022 will be 015.
022, I will be promoting you now.

022, your speaker order number will be number 22, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference.

And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. SHON: Hi. I hope to speak about Oakland area from the Temescal area kind of stretching down through the Chinatown and Lake Merritt area and Oakland.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead.

MS. SHON: All right. Hi. My name is Yeri Shon, and I’ve been an Alameda County resident for the past 25 years (indiscernible) program integration and community impact at Korean Community Center of the East Bay, which is a non-profit that has been serving the Bay Area community for the past 44 years.

I’m also calling in as a member of the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

To (indiscernible) about our organization, we provide social services, health access (indiscernible) support, case management for low income seniors, immigration legal services, health (indiscernible) programs, and mental health services.

Over 80-percent of our clients are Asian Americans residing in Alameda County that are low income and low English proficient, and due to our long-time
physical presence in the City of Oakland, a significant number of our clients have also been Oakland residents. I am calling to ask the Commission to keep Oakland’s Koreatown Northgate, also known as KONO, which extends from 20th to 35th Street along the Telegraph Avenue, to – and keep it together with the Temescal area – sorry, I just lost the street – sorry – okay – together with Temescal, which is a neighborhood also centered around Telegraph, and is located immediately north of KONO.

This combined area is very diverse, with Asian American communities working and operating businesses who have similar (indiscernible) experience and common interests when it comes to small business support, language access, legal protection, and neighborhood safety.

And furthermore, this area is also a hub for many Korean small businesses that have been rooted in the community for many decades.

I also want to ask that the Commission maintains Oakland Chinatown, Uptown, and the close perimeter surrounding the Lake Merritt area within one district, as well. The boundaries for this COI is Freeway 980, Grand Avenue, 880, and the Lakeshore Avenue. These areas combined have over 10 large senior housing complexes which (indiscernible) residents, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and more.
Many of the senior committee members (indiscernible) can be found in close proximity to the Lake Merritt and Chinatown area. With a large Asian elderly population in the area, there’s a shared need and challenges, which has English access, culturally fitting community resources and programming, and (indiscernible) best that this community of interest is kept together.

So, overall, I’m asking the Commission –

MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

MS. SHON: -- COIs, the first one is KONO and Temescal, second one being the Chinatown, Uptown, and the (indiscernible) neighborhood to be unified –

MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

MS. SHON: -- neighborhoods for the Korean and greater (indiscernible) community. Thank you for your time and your effort and supporting the communities to thrive.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Caller, could you stay on just a bit? Could you – more –

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Just a moment.

022, if you could please unmute, the Chair had some additional questions for you.

Go ahead, Chair.

MS. SHON: I’ve unmuted myself.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Hi, caller. Thank you so much for
your input. Could you give us just a little bit more
detail about the boundaries for KONO and Temescal?

MS. SHON: So, it’s along the Telegraph Avenue.
KONO extends from 20th, 35th Street, and Temescal is actually
right above, like kind of north bordering 35th Street, and
also along the Telegraph Avenue.

CO-CHAIR YEE: So, how far north would you go -
Telegraph - Temescal?

MS. SHON: I could actually submit a more
detailed map, actually, in like in a written or the - as a
document if that helps.

CO-CHAIR YEE: That would be excellent. Yes.
Please do.

MS. SHON: We can do that. Yeah. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: And you can reference you’re - the
caller number, number 22, today, and we’ll link that up.
Yeah. Thank you so much.

MS. SHON: Okay.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

If I could ask the Tagalog interpreter to please
make themselves available, as we have unique I.D. 015 has
chose to raise their hand?

I will be promoting you now.

TAGALOG INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in
Tagalog]
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 015, your speaker order number will be number 23, if you’ll please make note of that.

You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

Interpreter?

MS. MAXION: Good evening. I will be speaking to Alameda County directly to the Union City area.

MR. MANOFF: 015, do you require interpretation?

MS. MAXION: No for this one.

TAGALOG INTERPRETER: Not for this one.

MR. MANOFF: Please stand by just a moment.

Go ahead.

MS. MAXION: Hello. My name is Daisy Maxion, and I’m currently the civic engagement organizer for Filipino Advocates for Justice. I was born and raised in Alameda County and have lived here for 24 years.

Filipino Advocates for Justice is an advocate for immigrant worker and civil rights. I am also with the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

FAJ serves more than 130,000 Filipinos who call the East Bay area home, through our offices in Oakland’s Chinatown and Union City.
For the past 45 years, we have held the most marginalized in the Filipino community navigate challenges in the U.S. through middle and high school aged youth, low wage workers, vulnerable to exploitation immigrants, and tenants and families in working class neighborhoods.

FAJ also holds space for a lot of youth leadership development through our after-school activities and civic engagement opportunities in Union City.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the AAPI community makes up 53.4-percent of the population in Union City. Union City geographically covers 19.4 square miles, but has increased in growth since 2010 by 5.8-percent. The total population is currently at approximately 73,000, with a population density of 3,773 people per square mile. This is a considerable amount of Asian immigrants who reside in Union City.

The Asian community in Union City continues to grow, with the Filipino community being more than 20-percent of the population. The Asian communities, as a whole, have shared concerns regarding socio-economic, education, and healthcare interests.

I ask the Commission to keep Union City all together, going into a new assembly, state senate, and congressional districts. I recommend that the Commission also keep Union City with its neighboring areas, such as
Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo as a whole to respect our community of interest, from sharing the same businesses, community organizations, churches, and educational institutions, Filipino Americans of Alameda County have created a sense of belonging with one another. Therefore, it is imperative to keep these communities intact. Thank you again for your time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now, we will have 021, and up next after that will be 020.

I would like to invite 014 to use the raise-your-hand button at the bottom of your screen if you wish to give comment.

021, I will be promoting you now.

021, your speaker order number will be number 24, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Michael Deegan-McCree, and this evening I will be talking about (indiscernible) West Contra Costa County, specifically Richmond, California, and I will also be talking about Alameda County closer to the East Oakland
area, as well.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Thank you so much. Again, as I stated, my name is Michael Deegan-McCree, and I’m a long-time resident of Richmond and Oakland, California.

Tonight I’m speaking as a representative of the California Black Census and Redistricting Hub. In addition to my own experience as a black Californian, our coalition of Bay Area based organizations engage members from all across the Bay Area to collect a greater understanding of the historical implications of redistricting on our community.

Tonight I decided to call in to summarize and uplift the communities of interest identified by our coalition members, and the community members engaged in seven community feedback sessions with more than 54 Bay Area residents.

Our coalition partners are (indiscernible) Rising, the Safe Return Project, Lift Up Contra Costa, the Rise Center, Black Women Organized for Political Action, and Building Blocks for Kids. Each spent months engaging members in the community to get a greater understanding of the issues most prevalent for our community in this region.

Each session we held provided an opportunity for our community to come together and discuss the importance
of redistricting, as well as the impact it will eventually have on our families, our friends, and the future generations of black people in the Bay Area.

We are able to shed light on how they could engage in this process, and the significant opportunity we have to ensure equitable district lines are drawn to protect our communities.

Looking at the issues that impact us, the impact of the tech boom over the past two decades has been especially difficult, as (indiscernible) alters the fabric of our communities. It has ushered in an unaffordable cost of housing, which has pushed our community out of areas we have historically called home.

Business pushed black folks in the East Bay area further north across the Cartinas Bridge, and more have done what they can to relocate east into Pittsburg, Antioch, Pleasanton, and as far as Discovery Bay or Tracy.

In addition, the conditions of environmental hazards that have threatened both Richmond by way of Chevron and Oakland, especially East Oakland by way of the Oakland Airport, have been issues that continue to threaten our health. Lack of similar life experiences by elected officials on the state level has stunted representative advocacy, and prolonged the issues plaguing our community.

Also, scarcity in quality education due to failed
support of –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: -- OUSC and West Contra Costa Unified School District by the state, inadequate levels of emergency beds with a threat of another hospital closure, and continuation of core relationships between law enforcement and our people stands as good reason for the black community –

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: -- to be taken seriously during this process.

The ability to live in an environment safely, securely, confidently, is the foundation from which existing communities (indiscernible) thriving communities. Division is only possible if we have representation from elected officials who understand –

MR. MANOFF: Time.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Caller, if you could stay on?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

021, if you could please unmute, the Chair has some questions for you.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Yeah. Of course.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you so much for your input. We wanted to get just a clearer sense of the geography that you have in mind.
MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Yeah. So, when I’m talking about Richmond, I’m mostly talking about South Richmond and North Richmond that push all the way to Point Richmond. So, the areas that mostly border along the 80 Freeway and down, and then also reaching all the way to the Richmond San Rafael Bridge.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. And then you also mentioned East Oakland?

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Yes. So, then if you go over to East Oakland, most of the area that I’m talking about is if you go - if you do the intersection of International and Hegenberger, so around the Havenscourt neighborhood, and then pulled all the way down to the area of the Oakland Coliseum, all the way further down to the Oakland International Airport.

CO-CHAIR YEE: So, further south (indiscernible)


CO-CHAIR YEE: That’s actually where I grew up. That’s a ways.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: There you go. So, those two areas specifically.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good. Thank you so much.

MR. DEEGAN-MCCREE: Thank you so much, Commissioners. I appreciate it.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now, we will have 020, and then up next after that will be 014.
I’d also like to invite those that have called in today to press star-nine on their telephone keypads. This will raise your hand if you wish to give comment.
020, I will be promoting you now.
020, your speaker order number will be number 25, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference.
You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. NG: All right. Can you hear me?
SF County.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.
MS. NG: All right. My name is Tiffany Ng. I’m the civic engagement director at the Chinese (indiscernible) Association. We’re participating with the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative to share about our communities of interest in San Francisco County.
My org is membership-based, and we primarily work with low income working class immigrant Chinese community over the past 50 years.
We have a range of services and programs, such as
a worker rights wage clinic. We do voter education. We have PPE distribution, and we’re very active in doing specific neighborhoods that include Chinatown, Excelsior, and the Oceanview, Merced, Ingleside Heights neighborhood that we call OMI, because it’s really long.

Chinatown is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods, and serves as a major hub that connects people from across San Francisco to community services, language resources, and job opportunities. And as of 2017, the median household income in Chinatown was really low, at 31,700.

Many Chinatown residents struggle with affordability and finding livable housing. Many of them live in single room occupancy residential housing.

I also wanted to highlight the important connection between the Excelsior and the OMI – the Oceanview, Merced, Ingleside Heights neighborhood. These neighborhoods share many demographic (indiscernible) and interests that are actually part of the – and they’re actually part of the same supervisorial district 11 -- (indiscernible) a lot of shared political power in San Francisco, both in the OMI and Excelsior, residents have concerns about affordability, food security, and access to adequate healthcare services.

The San Francisco’s OMI neighborhood had
experienced a lot of population shifts over the past few decades with the Asian population making up 54-percent.

The general boundaries of the OMI neighborhood begin with the Holloway Avenue to the north, extending to the 280 Freeway to the east and south, as well as the Brotherhood Way and Junipero Serra Boulevard to the west. And the Excelsior boundaries can be drawn starting north along Silver Avenue with eastern and western boundaries of the University Street and Mission. Its southern boundary follows Geneva Ave, and includes John McLaren Park.

In closing, I’m asking that the Commission unite Asian American communities in the Excelsior and the OMI neighborhoods, while respecting the integrity of Chinatown. Thank you for your time and consideration.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have 014, and then up next after that will be 028.
014, I will be promoting you now.
014, your speaker order number will be number 26, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
Good evening. 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 and official program of the U.S. 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 and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

These include COIs in Berryessa, Milpitas, Evergreen, and Silver Creek, Santa Clara, Union City, Fremont, Oakland Chinatown, KONO, Oakland Eastlake, San Francisco Japantown and Chinatown, Daly City, and Excelsior and OMI neighborhoods.

The AAPI and AMEMSA community is a large and fast-growing part of the Bay Area. The latest census data show that the Asian American population in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties grew considerably more in the last decade than the counties’ overall populations.

The Asian American community grew by over 30-percent in each of the aforementioned counties, with the highest growth in Contra Costa County at 44-percent.

Similarly, the Pacific Islander community grew by 32-percent in Contra Costa.
Given the substantial growth, the AAPI and AMEMSA communities now comprise more than one-third of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties.

Our communities make up over half of the communities in Daly City, Union City, Fremont, Sunnyvale, and Milpitas, and over 40-percent of San Jose, South San Francisco, and Santa Clara. More than half of AAPI and AMEMSA communities in these counties are immigrants with percent of foreign born communities ranging from 52 to 62-percent. In some of the cities where our COIs are located, such as in Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, and San Leandro, over 50-percent of AAPI community members are limited English proficient, meaning they speak English less than very well. Over 70-percent of Chinese Americans in Oakland and – Oakland, and Korean Americans in Union City are LEP, and over 60-percent of Vietnamese Americans in Oakland, San Jose, San Leandro, and Union City do not speak English very well.

There are socio-economic differences in the AAPI and AMEMSA communities that vary across counties and across cities and ethnic groups within these counties.

When we look at the cities –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. LIM: -- in which the COIs identify by our collaborative are located, our communities experience
significant economic disparities.

I will submit to the Commission data maps and (indiscernible) files of these communities of interest with my written testimony, and including the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative ask the Commission to respect –

MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

MS. LIM: -- the integrity of the communities of interest presented today. Thank you for your time.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have 028, and then up next after that will be caller 8913.

028, I will be promoting you now.

028, your speaker order number will be number 27, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. EBRAHIMI: Excuse me. Sorry. Is this for 028?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It sure is. That’s okay.

Your speaker order number will be number 27, if you’ll make note of that. And if you’ll let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
MS. EBRAHIMI: West Contra Costa.

Hello, everyone. My name is Jamileh Ebrahimi. I’m calling in to represent the RYSE Center and covering Richmond and West Contra Costa.

RYSE is a safe and welcoming center for diverse West Contra Costa youth ages 13 to 21, and we seek to build youth power and leadership towards the larger vision of personal and community health and transformation.

Since opening in 2008, RYSE has served over 5,000 youth members and reached 15,000 more through outreach workshops, census education and outreach, civic and voter mobilization, and community events in Richmond and West Contra Costa County.

As an extension of our census and voter education efforts, we conducted a local COI session where black (indiscernible) and AAPI adults who grew up in or live in Richmond and West Contra Costa County.

Young people in Richmond and West Contra Costa County bear the burden of multiple systemic inequities, and face persistent dehumanization, stigma, and criminalization by schools, police, media, and public systems. These inequities are exacerbated by historical disinvestment, jobs, food, transportation deserts, and escalating displacement and push out.

Also – Excuse me. In our COI session, residents
lifted up the need for investment in violence prevention that truly addresses the root causes of violence, reallocating money from criminalization to programs for youth and mental health supports, education equity for public schools, ending gender based violence, increasing supports and programs for the unhoused, addressing public work issues, such as more stop signs, preventing flooding when it rains, littering and illegal dumping, supporting communities negatively impacted by the pandemic, and ensuring protections for renters. Many of these strategies are present and need continued support and investment to increase their impact.

In my work at RYSE, I’ve had the opportunity to work with BIPOC young leaders who have (indiscernible) adults that represent systems in government to listen, partner, and implement solutions grounded in visions and expertise of local residents. This has been possible by building unity and solidarity, and when our representatives are committed to listening and being responsive to our most vulnerable community members.

It’s imperative that Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo, and all cities represented in the West Contra Costa Unified School District remain together so that BIPOC residents’ voices are elevated and listened to by those who are voted in to represent them and their interests on
behalf of –

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. EBRAMIHI: -- RYSE, we appreciate the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have caller 8913, and then up next after that will be caller 6145.

I would also like to invite those that have called in today to press star-nine to raise your hand, indicating you wish to give comment.

Caller 8913, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 8913, your speaker order number will be number 28, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 28: Thank you. I am a resident of the Silicon Valley, and I work in the high tech Silicon Valley industry. Interested in having (indiscernible) for the (indiscernible) Asian American community is very invested in the Silicon Valley’s economy, from start-ups, to CEOs of big companies, corporations, and a number of media and tech companies. They share (indiscernible) in
the politics (indiscernible) not reflected in the politics
and I believe having an Asian American (indiscernible)
community (indiscernible) diversity of the (indiscernible)
but unfortunately (indiscernible) Can the Commission ensure
that we have more representation of the Asian American into
(indiscernible) There are a number of ways to bring
diversity into the (indiscernible) origin will surely be
(indiscernible) to join (indiscernible)

With that aspect, my recommendation is if you
could include (indiscernible) Sunnyvale, Cupertino and
Santa Clara into the congressional district 18, which will
(indiscernible) to have (indiscernible) from the
(indiscernible) the interest of the Asian American
community.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will
have caller 6145, and then up next after that will be
caller 3029.

And again, I would like to invite those that have
called in to press star-nine if you have not given comment
today.

Caller 6145, if you’ll please follow the prompts
to unmute at this time.

Caller 6145, your speaker order number will be
number 29, if you’ll please make note of that for future
reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 29: Hi. My name is Arjin, and I’m a citizen of Silicon Valley. I would like to talk about Congressional District 19, specifically my concerns with the district lines of the congressional district.

So, currently, Hispanic Americans constitute over 40-percent of the district’s population, making them the largest ethnic group in the district. But there’s never been a Hispanic congressional representative from CA-19 in American history. This poses a direct threat to the Hispanic community of not only Congressional District 19, but generally the Hispanic American community of California.

The Hispanic population is currently the largest ethnic group in California. And despite their contributions to both the Californian and American economy, their interests as an ethnic group have often been ignored in politics. This is especially true in CA-19, because it has always lacked a Hispanic congressional representative. This reality is in violation of what the Voting Rights Act stands for. The Voting Rights Act was obviously passed with the intention of protecting minorities from voting discrimination. But currently, the Hispanic population of CA-19 is unfortunately facing discrimination as their
voices are not heard because of the district lines today. So, I think this problem can be resolved by moving areas of San Jose from CA-17 and TA-18 that have a Hispanic majority into CA-19 to ensure that a Hispanic representative is elected in CA-19 for the first time.

Thank you for giving me this time, and thank you to the redistricting commission for all of your work.

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Caller, please stay on.

MR. MANOFF: They are still connected.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Could you – You mentioned portions of San Jose. Could you be more specific about the geography of which portions you would like to see in CA-19?

SPEAKER NUMBER 29: Yeah. Sure. I would like – Unfortunately, I’m not entirely sure which areas have the largest Hispanic populations, but I’m specifically targeting those areas of San Jose that are perhaps closest to CA-19 and have a large Hispanic population from CA-17 and CA-18, and moving those to CA-19.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Are there particular neighborhoods that you have in mind, or anything you could --

SPEAKER NUMBER 29: Sorry. I don’t have anything more specific, unfortunately.

CO-CHAIR YEE: It’s okay. Thanks so much.

SPEAKER NUMBER 29: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 3029, and then up next will be caller 9743.

Caller 3029, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 3029, your speaker order number will be number 30, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 30: Sure. Thank you so much. Can you hear me?

CO-CHAIR YEE: We sure can. Go ahead, please.

SPEAKER NUMBER 30: Okay. So, now my name is Ohm Batchu (phonetic). I’m not a representation for any PAC or any party or (indiscernible) or anything. I’m representing (indiscernible) mainly for Asian community.

I’ve been in the California for about 27 years, paying taxes in California. So, I lived in Congressional District T-17, and I work in the Congressional District 18.

So, the (indiscernible) difference (indiscernible) Asian communities here is very wide, and Asian community serves (indiscernible) innovations here. And I would like to see some kind of (indiscernible) distribution between 17 and 18, because 17 actually has about a 50-percent of (indiscernible) in 17, but whereas 18 has less than 20-percent of workers here. Even though I
work in District 18, and all the property taxes and the company taxes will be paid in 18 when we don’t get the advantage of having our representation in the policymaking in the congress. So – even the problems, such as (indiscernible) crime, and transportation (indiscernible) we contribute into the – in the world of innovation technology, and all that, and we are the worst in the transportation conveniences. If I try to take a transportation from my home to office it takes about three hours (indiscernible) the public transportation. So, that is like insane. So, the optimal way of doing that is the people who actually represent this community, Asian American community, and all that, would be ideal, and it hasn’t been any such voices in the congress so far (indiscernible) reshuffling some of (indiscernible) I heard other voices before me, you know, moving some of the District 18 to District 19 for protecting the Hispanic, you know. I welcome that in the same manner from District 17 to 18. If we can move that mainly for Santa Clara, you know, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino and (indiscernible) in other districts into 17 to keep up the total population there, as well. You know, that will be ideal.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 9743.
And I would like to invite those that have called in today that have not given comment that wish to do so.

Caller 2326, if you would like to do that, please press star-nine on your telephone keypad.

All right. Now we have Caller 9743.

Caller 9743, your speaker order number will be number 31, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

CALLER NUMBER 31: The area (indiscernible) is Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

CALLER NUMBER 31: Hi. My name is Kishor (phonetic). I’ve been living and working and paying taxes in (indiscernible) for the past 15 years. First, we thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak here.

(Indiscernible)I am very much interested in having an Asian representative from Congressional District 18. I’ve seen how the demography and landscape change over the years. Every time I see someone relocate out of California or a segment of population (indiscernible) Asian Americans ending up on the receiving end, I feel there needs to be someone who can put their hand up and try to do something about it. And that someone needs to understand the relevant local issues very well, issues concerning the
Asian American community, the education, public services, immigration, healthcare, and so on and so forth.

(Indiscernible) the Congressional District 18 has never had a minority congressional representation, even though Asian Americans are the largest minority community of the district. The redistricting in Silicon Valley should ensure that more Asian Americans will have a chance to be elected to congress.

So, my request for the Redistricting Commission is if they can please ensure that more Asian Americans have a chance to be elected to congress, and if – can the commission group communities of interest so that (indiscernible) surroundings are a specific ethnic group have political representation (indiscernible), and my specific recommendation is you include the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Santa Clara in to Congressional District 18, which will group the Asian community into District 18, and will help with the chance to have an Asian representation from the Congressional District 18, actually to help with a chance to have Asian representation from both Districts 18 and 17.

So, thank you for hearing me out, and for your efforts (indiscernible) everyone, in particular (indiscernible) represent the Asian American community. And I hope you will draw the lines to favor
CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 0564, and then up next will be caller 8441.

Caller 0564, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 0564, if you could press star-six one more time? There you are. Your speaker order number will be number 32, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. SHAH: -- District Number 18, California.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MS. SHAH: Yeah. My name is Manisha Shah, and I see there’s a very low representation of the Asian community in Congressional District 18, and we need to have a voice in Washington. And basically, you need to redistribute District 17 with 18, because (indiscernible) from Santa Clara to (indiscernible) to the (indiscernible) exchange because of the Silicon (indiscernible), so we are a large number of Asian Indians and Asian Chinese, which represent the minority community, and we have no voice in Washington. So, we need to regroup this District 17 and 18.

Hello?
CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes. So, can you be more specific about which communities or cities you have in mind?

MS. SHAH: Yes. I think Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Milpitas, Fremont, Palo Alto (indiscernible) Saratoga (indiscernible) because that actually represents the large chunk of the Silicon Valley with its tech workers, and they are the minority, and they are not – never represented in District 18. So, we need our representation in Washington to hear our voice over there, so that I think 17 and 18 need to be regrouped and merged according to the (indiscernible) that we have, so we can have an elected representative over there in Washington.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 8441, and then up next after that will be caller 2326.

Caller 8441, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 8441, your speaker order number will be number 33, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. DAVIDSON: Yeah. I’d like to discuss the area of Hercules, California, where I’m from. My name is Charles Davidson.
And Mike Thompson is our representative, and I live in Contra Costa County. And I think it would be more appropriate for our district for Rodeo and Hercules, maybe East Crockett, who are in Contra Costa County to be included in DeSaulnier’s district, number 11, as opposed to Mike Thompson’s number five, because our demographic is very, very similar in our area to the rest of Contra Costa County, that we live right near each other. We’re only separated by hills along the San Pablo Bay. We go to each other’s stores, and people go to each other’s churches in the various cities, and we go back and forth to work. So, I think it would be more appropriate, especially because our demographics are very, very similar in our area, and the children go to each other’s schools, such as Richmond and Hercules both have the same school district. So, it would be really – I think – more appropriate for us to be in District 11, which is DeSaulnier’s district that includes a large part of Contra Costa County. So, thank you very much. And if there’s any questions, I’d be more than happy to answer them. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have caller 2326, and then up next after that will be caller 5927.

Caller 2326, if you’ll please follow the prompts
to unmute at this time.

Caller 2326, your speaker order number will be number 34, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 34: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Tutapo Misee (phonetic). I am from Silicon Valley, and I am working in the Silicon Valley high tech industry for last 21 and-a-half years. Thank you for listening to me.

I am very much interested in having an (indiscernible) Silicon Valley Congressional District 18. The Asian American community is (indiscernible) in the (indiscernible) of Silicon Valley’s economy, and we – but we don’t have much say in politics.

Having Asian American (indiscernible) mobility of our community. So, Asian Americans are the largest (indiscernible) community of Congressional District 18, but the district has never had a minority congressional representative (indiscernible) commission ensure that the more Asian Americans have a chance to be elected to congress. Can we please group communities of interest so that residents in our city, neighborhood, or ethnic group have (indiscernible) representation (indiscernible) voting. The redistricting in Silicon Valley could ensure that more
Asian Americans will have a chance to be elected to Congress.

My recommendation is to include (indiscernible), Cupertino, and Santa Clara into Congressional District 18, which will group Asian community into District 18, and will have a chance to have Asian representative from both the Congressional District 18 and 17. Thank you for addressing the needs of Asian American communities. We hope you will redraw the lines in favor of our community.

Within District 18 we have a (indiscernible) with thriving economies of Palo Alto, Mountainview, Menlo Park (indiscernible) San Mateo and Santa Cruz County. That has (indiscernible) with –

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 34: -- yeah. I’m sorry.

MR. MANOFF: You still have time remaining.

SPEAKER NUMBER 34: Oh, okay. So, I submit that you kindly consider moving the (indiscernible) line into Congressional District 20 which has similar issues. Our (indiscernible) residents complain of our lack of representation –

MR. MANOFF: Five seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 34: (indiscernible) congress (indiscernible). Yeah. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now, we will have caller 5927, and then up next will be caller 8766.

Caller 5927, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 5927, your speaker order number will be number 35, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 35: Yes. Thank you very much.
The (indiscernible) Sunnyvale. Yeah. So, my name is (indiscernible) Alay (phonetic). Very good evening to all of you.

I live in Sunnyvale, and work in Palo Alto, as part of the information technology industry. As we are all aware, there is a considerable (indiscernible) of Asians in the San Francisco Bay area. I’m a (indiscernible) immigrant to the United States myself, and have been living in the Bay Area with my family for the last (indiscernible) years. However, the Asian population (indiscernible) congressional districts. Specifically, congress (indiscernible) has (indiscernible) population, whereas Congresswoman (indiscernible) district 18 has around 20-percent. Asians have contributed significantly to the success of the high tech industry in the Silicon Valley.
And through hard work, innovation, technical (indiscernible) we continue to (indiscernible) Silicon Valley forward. However, our community has not got its fair share of representation in government and (indiscernible) the commission draws lines to redistribute Asians evenly, then (indiscernible) Asian representative from District 18, the heart of Silicon Valley will (indiscernible) help Asians like me (indiscernible) to empower us to engage in (indiscernible) policymaking matters. So, considering that, my sincere request to the Redistricting Commission is that you include the city of Sunnyvale where I live, and the nearby areas like Cupertino and Santa Clara into District 18. Asian Americans are the largest minority community in District 18, but this district has never had a minority congressional representation (indiscernible) which I’m requesting, will give a fair chance for the Asian community to elect a representative from their community for District 18. Thank you so much for your consideration.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

Just so everyone knows, our next (indiscernible) will come at 6:15.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have caller 8766, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.
Caller 8766, your speaker order number will be number 36, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. NGUYEN: Good evening. My name is Tam Nguyen. I’m speaking on behalf of the (indiscernible) organization. It’s 38 years old agency, so (indiscernible) Rock Spring and McLaughlin neighborhood.

I would like to bring your attention today to the (indiscernible) community in that area surrounded by to the north (indiscernible) Those are the general area that a lot of (indiscernible) people concentrate. And it has (indiscernible) monuments that I want to share with you. The community (indiscernible) want to keep those (indiscernible) Thank you very much for your consideration.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, caller. Could you stay on just a minute, please?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

Caller 8766, the Chair had some additional questions for you, please.

Go ahead, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes. Thank you so much for those landmarks and various places that you mentioned. Could you maybe describe the outer boundaries that would include all the areas that you mentioned?
MR. NGUYEN: The outer boundary would be (indiscernible) the north is Story (phonetic) Road, and the south is (indiscernible) Expressway. From the west is like Monterey Road, and from the east is Highway 101.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Perfect. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That was our last caller at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Why don’t we go ahead and read the instructions for public comment, and get started on that?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I can sure go ahead and do that.

In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking community of interest input and general public comment for items not on the agenda by phone.

To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live stream feed, it is 87919203919 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

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it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says, “the host would like you to talk,” and to press star-six to speak. If you would like to give your name, please state and spell it for the record. You are not required to provide your name to give public comment.

Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak, and, again, please turn down the live stream volume.

And at this time, Chair, we do not have anyone in the queue.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you. (Indiscernible) roll our five-minute video, and then go straight into our break, and then I’ll return at 6:30.

(Off the record at 6:15 p.m.)

(Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.)

CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of Interest Input Meeting.

If you’re just joining us and would like to listen in on the meeting in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, or Russian, we have listening lines for you, and call-in information for those is on the live stream web page.

We also have separate lines for those who wish to
give their public input via interpretation in one of those languages.

And right now, for one last time, let’s have the instructions for that read by our various interpreters.

So, if we could start with our Spanish language interpreter, and we could have the full call-in instructions, please?

Is there a Spanish interpreter available?

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Sorry about that. The full call-in instructions, Chair?

CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes, please.

We’ll be taking public input, as well as public comment in this final session.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Spanish]

Thank you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

And if we could have our Mandarin interpreter provide the full call-in instructions?

MANDARIN INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Mandarin]

Thank you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

And our Cantonese interpreter, the full call-in instructions, please?
CANTONESE INTERPRETER: Thank you, Commissioner Yee. The following is the full call-in instructions in Cantonese.

[Instructions read in Cantonese]

Back to you, Commissioner Yee.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you so much. Very good.

And then our Russian interpreter, full call-in instructions please. You’re muted. One more time. You’re still muted.

RUSSIAN INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Russian]

Thank you. Back to you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

So, as a reminder, this final segment we will be taking public input whether or not you had an appointment, as well as any public comment anyone wishes to make.

We’ll take calls, and anyone who is in line before 7:00 o’clock p.m. we will get to you. So, time looks like it’s getting short and close to 7:00. Don’t worry, as long as you’re in line we will get to you.

I will now pass this over to Katy, our comment moderator.

And Katy, after reading your instructions, please also invite the Tagalog interpreter to provide site translation at the beginning of open line instructions.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

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And can I ask the Tagalog interpreter to please
interpret the public comment instructions?

TAGALOG INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Tagalog]

Thank you, Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

And right now, we will be going to caller 3985, and then up next will be caller 0085.

Caller 3985, if you'll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller 3985, good evening. Your speaker order number will be number 37, if you'll please make note of that for future reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Jana Johnson. I’m a Richmond resident. And I would like to speak on congressional redistricting.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. Thanks. I am very concerned that we - that Richmond remain in Congressional District 11. This is - We want to be with our neighbors in West County. We share many concerns. I’m an environmental justice organizer. And we have several refineries here, both in Richmond and in Rodeo. Those are the closest ones. And we also have other concerns, the toxic waste sites that
ring the Bay. So, our neighbors in West County – We need to stay together, and we need to stay in District 11, that congressional district. Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Caller?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

Caller 3985, if you could please follow the prompt to unmute? Caller 3985, if you could please press – I think they’re gone, Chair. I’m sorry.

CO-CHAIR YEE: No worries. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 0085, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

And then up next after that will be caller 4163.

Caller 0085, your speaker order number will be number 38, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

CALLER NUMBER 38: Hello. Hi. This is (indiscernible) – So, I want to voice my opinion about including Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Santa Clara in Congressional District 18, so that the Asian community (indiscernible) District 18 can have better representation.

So, as you know, the Asian American (indiscernible) largest community of the Congressional District 18. The (indiscernible) representation. Can the redistricting commission ensure that the more Asian
Americans have a chance to be elected to the congress? Can you please group the communities of interest so that the residents in a city, neighborhood, or ethnic group have quality (indiscernible) to ensure that the (indiscernible) Asian American will have a chance to be elected to the congress.

So, my recommendation is that you include the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Santa Clara into Congressional District 18, which will group all the Asian community into District 18 and will help with the chance to have an Asian representation from both the Congressional Districts 18 and 17.

Thank you for addressing the needs of the Asian American community. We hope you will redraw the lines to favor our community. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

And right now, we will have caller 4163, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

Caller with the last four 4163, if you will please press star-six at this time to unmute?

Hi. You are unmuted. Your speaker order number will be number 39, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
CALLER NUMBER 39: Thank you. I want to say – My name is Maureen (indiscernible). I live in Rodeo in Contra Costa County. And I wish to be part of District 11 and represented by Mark DeSaulnier.

Mike Thompson is a nice guy, but his interests lie in Napa County and Solano.

So, please let all of Contra Costa be part of Contra Costa District 11. It just makes so much sense.

Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

That was all of our callers at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Katy. We will wait a few minutes. And while we wait, I’ll mention that in the coming weeks we will have additional communities of interest input meetings.

The first is tomorrow, the 25th, same time, 3:00 p.m. We’ll be back in the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas, in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislas, and Tulare Counties, and the surrounding areas.

Then on Friday the 27th at 3:00 p.m. we’ll go out to the coast and focus on Monterey, San Bonito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura Counties and their surrounding areas.

And on Monday the 30th, we’ll head south and focus
on San Bernardino, the largest county in the nation, and Riverside Counties and their surrounding areas.

All those days we’ll have Spanish listening lines, as well as Spanish interpreters available. You do not need to request those ahead of time.

Registration for each of those meetings closes two calendar days before, at 5:00 p.m., however, you do not need to register to give input. We simply recommend it in order to secure a time slot and to help us prepare for any interpretation needs they have.

Our next business meeting will be on August 31st at 9:30 a.m.

As always, for all our meetings, community of interest meetings, you’re not limited to the area that we are focusing on. You’re always welcome to give your input on any part of the state.

If you do need an interpreter, please request that ahead of time. And you can do that through our office at (916) 323-0323. And if you can give us five business days of advance notice, we can arrange that for you. And also e-mail us at interpreter.request@ca.gov.

As always, we encourage you to check out our website at wedrawthelinesCA.org. There you can sign up for e-mails and learn more about commission meetings. You can see videos of past commission meetings, and eventually
you’ll be able to view the input that we’re getting at
doe these community of interest input meetings, as well as all
the other input that we’re getting through other channels.

   We’re also on social media, and you can check us
out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, LinkedIn, and You
Tube. Our handle is @wedrawthelinesCA.

   It looks like we don’t have any other callers.

   Katy, do you want to read instructions for raised
hands one last time?

   PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

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And Chair, we do not have any callers in the queue at this time.

CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Katy.

One last chance? Anyone want to raise hand? If not, thank you to all our staff today, especially our several interpreters. I love listening to you guys. And thank you so much for your help.

Thank you to Katy, our moderator, and Kristian, handling all the tech and video background.

Thank you to our mapping staff and commission staff.

And so, our next meeting will be tomorrow, same bat time, same bat channel.

With that, our meeting is adjourned.

(Session recessed until August 25, 2021.)
REPORTER’S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of November, 2021.

PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367