



Asian Pacific American Legal Center Presentation to California's Citizens Redistricting Commission February 26, 2011

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
LEGAL CENTER



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FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE



Overview of Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC)

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1983 and based in Los Angeles
- Leading organization in Southern California providing legal and civil rights support to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community
- Work includes legal services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, and leadership development
- Website at www.apalc.org



Overview of Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR)

- Statewide network of AAPI organizations and individuals, anchored by APALC
- Structured as network of 10 regional coalitions
- Outreach and education conducted at local level, with efforts coordinated on statewide basis
- Website at www.capafrr.org





APALC and CAPAFR's Redistricting Goals

- Community empowerment: Help AAPI community members to participate in redistricting
 - Outreach and education
 - Train community members how to testify
- Fair representation: Secure new districts that keep AAPI communities of interest together
 - Submission of statewide Assembly proposal
 - Submission of statewide Senate proposal



CAPAFR's Regional Coalitions

- Sacramento County
- San Francisco and San Mateo Counties
- Alameda County
- Santa Clara County
- Fresno County
- Los Angeles Metro
- Los Angeles San Gabriel Valley
- Los Angeles South Bay
- Orange County
- San Diego County



CAPAFR's Educational and Community Input Activities

Community Mtg #1

July - Aug. 2010

→ Provide education re: redistricting

Community Mtg #2

Sept. - Nov. 2010

→ Collect input re: communities of interest (COI)

Community Mtg #3

Jan. - Feb. 2011

→ Collect feedback on potential district scenarios prepared based on COI input

Community Mtg #4

Apr. - May 2011

→ Review proposed districts



APALC and CAPAFR's Redistricting Principles

- Voting Rights Act (VRA): Prioritize VRA compliance including with respect to other communities
- Communities of interest (COI): Consider variety of interests and factors, including but not limited to race, to identify COIs that would benefit from common representation
- Collaboration with other stakeholders: Work with others, including other racial and ethnic communities, to reach common ground



Recommendations – Outreach

- Publicize language assistance: Increase publicity re: availability of language assistance; place in-language statement prominently on website indicating that language assistance is available
- Publicize community-based redistricting efforts: Increase awareness re: efforts of community-based organizations (CBOs) so that individual community members can plug into those efforts; set up webpage listing such efforts (separate pages for nonprofits versus other entities)



Recommendations – Process and Timeline for Mapping and Hearings

- Allow time for CBOs to submit proposals: Allow time for CBOs to submit proposals prior to commission releasing draft map; give CBOs until May 31 to submit proposals; commission should release its draft map in June, not May (see proposed timeline)
- Robust commissioner attendance: As many commissioners should attend input and feedback hearings as possible



Recommendations – Process and Timeline for Mapping and Hearings

- Regional balance in hearings:
 - Given its size (1/4 of state's population), Los Angeles should have at least two pre-map hearings and two post-map hearings
 - San Jose, as third-largest city in California, should serve as at least a second hearing location within its region



Recommendations – Staffing

- Hire VRA counsel who will promote trust: Hire one attorney (not two), and specifically someone who will engender trust of California's diverse communities, such as someone with experience in vindicating VRA claims
- Transparency and substantive evaluation in hiring of mapping consultant: Increase transparency of hiring process; evaluate candidates for qualifications and impartiality