

**Asian Law Alliance**

• San Jose, California 95112-5153

June 27, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Facsimile: (916) 651-5711

Re: Response to Commissioners' Questions at June 25, 2011 Hearing

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to hold a hearing in San Jose to provide us with the opportunity to respond to the Commission's first draft maps. During the hearing, Commissioner Connie Galambos Malloy asked several questions of the audience. I would like to respond in more detail.

- 1) **Should Milpitas, a part of Santa Clara County, be placed by itself in an Alameda County District?** The short answer is "No." In the past, when a small part of one county is placed in a district dominated by another, the residents in the smaller portion usually do not have a voice. For example, in the past, Milpitas has been placed in an Alameda County Assembly District. With a current population of 66,790 (Census 2010 data), Milpitas would be a mere 14.3% of an assembly district with Alameda County, not large or significant enough to have a say in what happens at the state level. If a district crosses county lines, there should be balance in population between the two counties. In addition, the two areas should have shared interests and concerns, otherwise, the smaller community in the district will have little or no voice in that district.
- 2) **Should San Jose share a district with Livermore?** No. These two communities do not have any or enough shared interests to warrant placing both communities in one district. As I mentioned previously, balance and shared interests are critical if county lines are crossed. Otherwise, the two communities will be at cross purposes, and one of the communities may be left voiceless for the next ten years.

Thank you for your consideration in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquelyn Maruhashi".

Jacquelyn Maruhashi,  
Staff Attorney