

**PUBLIC COMMENT OF LGBT LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS  
REGARDING EASTERN SAN FRANCISCO ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
AND DILUTION OF LGBT VOTING STRENGTH**

June 27, 2011

Submitted by:

Equality California ( [REDACTED] )

National Center for Lesbian Rights ( [REDACTED] )

San Francisco LGBT Community Center ( [REDACTED] )

Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club ( [REDACTED] )

Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco ( [REDACTED] )

The above organizations, all committed to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) civil rights and political representation, jointly submit this statement regarding the proposed boundaries of the Eastern San Francisco Assembly District. The Eastern San Francisco Assembly District, currently the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, is one of the most critical districts in California for the LGBT community.

The current tentative map greatly dilutes and divides the LGBT community of interest in San Francisco by removing several heavily LGBT neighborhoods from the Eastern San Francisco district and placing them in the Western San Francisco district. By doing so, the tentative map undermines the ability of the LGBT community to be fully represented. **We request that the committee modify the map to add the following neighborhoods: Diamond Heights, Glen Park, Twin Peaks, Cole Valley, Haight-Ashbury, Laurel Heights.** Each of these neighborhoods has a significant LGBT population. See the Equality California LGBT community of interest map for San Francisco attached to the end of this comment.

We believe this map offers a number of advantages. It moves the fewest number of voters, creating consistency for thousands of San Franciscans. Furthermore, it preserves the basic framework for a district that made a breakthrough by electing an LGBT representative after the Special Masters' maps in 1991. This district allowed our community to unify and elect a series of LGBT leaders. Eastern San Francisco has been a critical seat for the LGBT community, and we hope it remains so.

As leaders in the LGBT community, our organizations work to advance our community's civil rights, which is why we have come together to submit this comment. Equality California is a non-partisan statewide organization committed to electing pro-LGBT elected officials of all parties and advancing pro-LGBT legislation and policy. The National Center for Lesbian

Rights advocates for the LGBT community in the courts and the public policy arena. The San Francisco LGBT Community Center provides critical services to LGBT people, provides space for the LGBT community to organize, and acts as a hub for the community. The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club and Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco are partisan organizations seeking to advance the LGBT community within their respective political parties and in the community. Together, these five organizations represent a broad swath of the LGBT community and span the political spectrum.

## Eastern San Francisco

The map below shows the boundary of our proposed district. It essentially encompasses the previous Eastern San Francisco district (the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District), but also adds the Laurel Heights neighborhood, which has a high percentage of LGBT families.



## Redistricting Data: Eastern San Francisco

Below you will find demographic data for the proposed district. Furthermore, please refer to the map produced by Equality California (depicted at the end of this comment) showing the LGBT Community of Interest in San Francisco. As you can see, this map unites nearly all of the community into a geographically compact district.

### Population

Total Population: 466,799  
0.24% variance from ideal population

Ideal Population: 465,675  
Original District: 444,835

Universe: Total Population  
Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census  
Data Year: 2010  
Data Level: Census Block

<b>Total Population</b>	466,799
<b>Ideal</b>	465,675
<b>Variance</b>	0.24%
<b>Original District</b>	444,835

### Citizen Voting Age Population

10.35% Hispanic or Latino  
18.72% Asian  
0.73% American Indian/Alaska Native  
8.88% Black or African American  
0.38% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Alone  
60.46% White Alone  
0.48% Two or More Races

Universe: Citizen Population 18 Years of Age or Older  
Datasource: Statewide Database at the University of California Berkeley  
Data Year: 2010  
Data Level: Census Block

	Our District 13	Original District
<b>Hispanic or Latino Citizen Voting Age Population</b>	10.35% 35,442	10.51% 34,224
<b>Asian</b>	18.72% 64,144	18.60% 60,563
<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	0.73% 2,492	0.75% 2,457
<b>Black or African American</b>	8.88% 30,404	9.15% 29,776

<b>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino, Citizen Voting Age Population</b>	0.38% 1,298	0.38% 1,223
<b>White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino, Citizen Voting Age Population</b>	60.46% 207,139	60.13% 195,738
<b>Citizen Voting Age Population Belonging to the Remainder of Two or More Races, Not Hispanic or Latino</b>	0.48% 1,659	0.48% 1,559

### Ethnicity / Race

16.07% Hispanic or Latino

49.50% White alone

7.39% Black or African American alone

23.08% Asian

0.60% Some Other Race

3.37% Two or More Races

Universe: Total Population

Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census

Data Year: 2010

Data Level: Census Block

Original District = Blue line

	Our District 13	Original District
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	16.07% 75,018	16.50% 73,403
<b>White alone</b>	49.50% 231,052	48.83% 217,222
<b>Black or African American alone</b>	7.39% 34,475	7.59% 33,749
<b>Asian</b>	23.08% 107,740	23.13% 102,910
<b>Some Other Race</b>	0.60% 2,803	0.60% 2,688
<b>Two or More Races</b>	3.37% 15,711	3.34% 14,863

**Additional Information**

Beyond the interest of uniting the LGBT community, this district shares many features. The area is heavily reliant upon public transportation in ways that the more geographically spread out neighborhoods of Southern and Western San Francisco are not. Much of the Marina neighborhood consists of young renters who, while mainly heterosexual, have much in common with the LGBT community in terms of shared social and economic values.

The LGBT community is a diverse one, but we share many common values. With the growing gentrification of the inner core of San Francisco, especially in areas such as Mission Bay and South Beach, the community also shares many of its values with the northern part of the city. We face similar issues, use the same medical facilities, and are reliant on the same transportation system.

Furthermore, this district preserves the strength of the Asian-American community in the Eastern San Francisco district. This map enables both the LGBT community and the Asian-American communities to remain intact.

**Conclusion**

In summary, the map provided here creates the least instability in San Francisco and unites the LGBT community. The district is critical to our community. We hope that we will continue to remain a strong force by ensuring that we are consolidated into one Assembly District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Equality California  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
San Francisco LGBT Community Center  
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club  
Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco



# LGBT Community of Interest Map

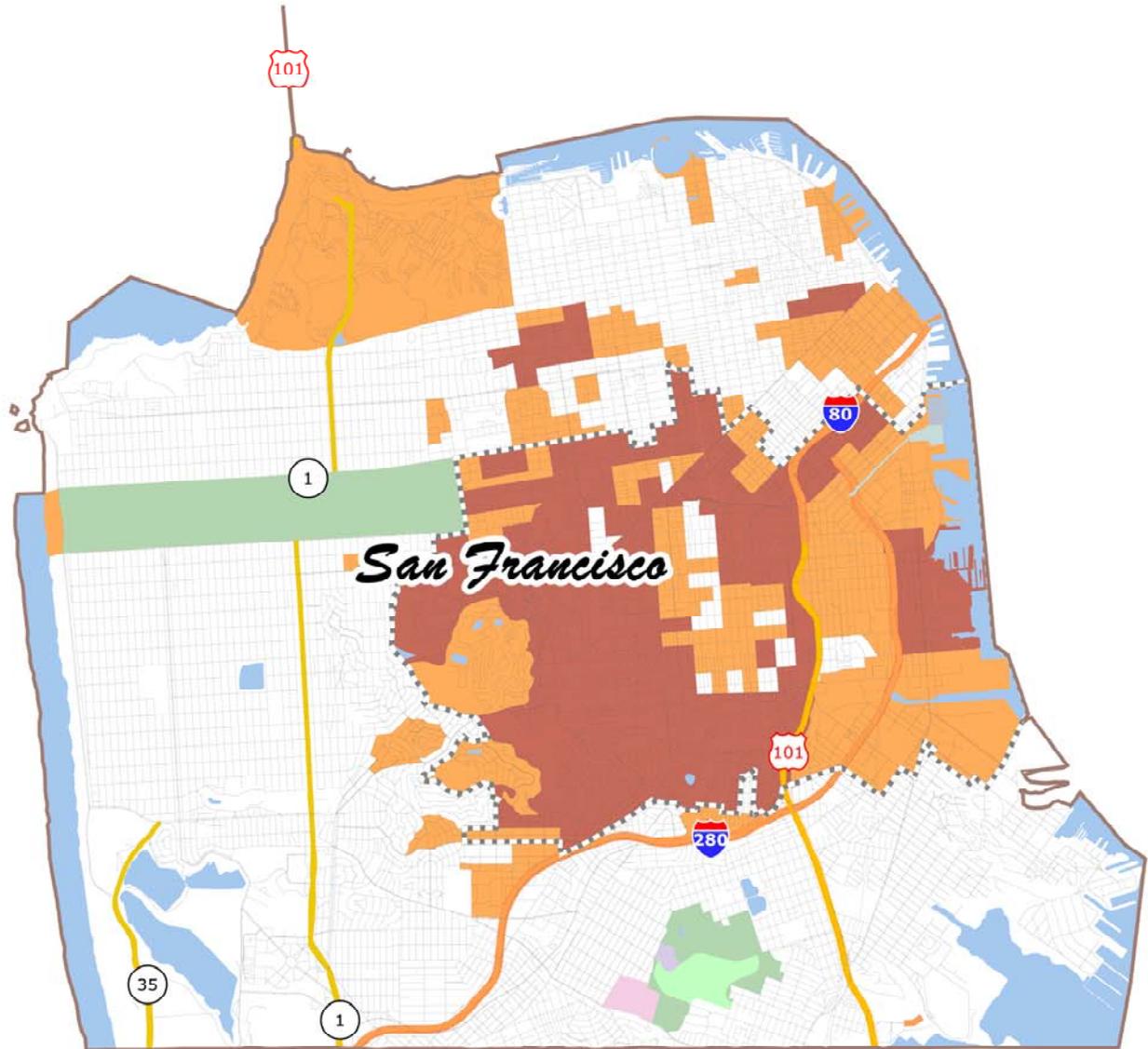
## CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Equality California | eqca.org

**LGBT COI Rank**

- 98th Percentile
- 99th Percentile
- Other

Field	Value
Population	802,355
pdi_domesticpartner	9,886
Prop 8 No	75%
Yes on Prop 8	25%
Prop 22 No	68%
Yes on Prop 22	32%
Prop 8 Donors	9,332
Prop 22 donors	1,338
LGBT Organizations	50,220
Men_SSHH	5,326
Women_SSHH	1,892
POSSLQ_Count	18,611





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL 2011

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COUNCILMEMBER

BARRY M. NAGEL, CITY MANAGER

June 27, 2011

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
901 P Street, Suite 154-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

**Re: Redistricting – South San Francisco Communities of Interest**

Dear Members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of South San Francisco (“City”), I want to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Commission’s issuance of the First Draft Maps for the Assembly, Senate and Board of Equalization Districts (“1st Draft Maps”).

Currently, the City of South San Francisco is entirely within a single Assembly (19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District) and Senate (8<sup>th</sup> Senate District) district, which encompasses the vast majority of the communities in Northern and Central San Mateo County. However, the 1st Draft Maps issued this month propose to split South San Francisco into two separate Assembly districts as well as two separate Senate districts, between San Mateo County districts and San Francisco County districts.

We believe that the entirety of South San Francisco should be placed in a single Assembly District and a single Senate District that is placed with the Northern and Central San Mateo County cities. As you are aware, Article XXI recognizes the importance of maintaining the geographic integrity of cities, explaining that “a community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.” (Cal. Const. Article XXI, Section 2(d)(4).) Dividing South San Francisco, as proposed in the 1st Draft Maps, will not only marginalize our representation for South San Francisco’s residents, it will not comply with Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution, to use a mapping process that respects ‘communities of interest’ when drawing Assembly and Senate District boundaries.

South San Francisco is a distinct ‘community of interest,’ in and of itself. South San Francisco shares a number of social and economic interests, including but not limited to, a citywide

school district (South San Francisco Unified School District) and an extensive and vibrant citywide public parks and recreation department, which enhances the City's community cohesiveness. Additionally, South San Francisco is a part of a larger community of interest, which is San Mateo County. San Mateo County provides numerous countywide services, which plays a critical role in shaping the quality of life for those cities, South San Francisco included. These services include transportation services (SamTrans), animal care and control (Peninsula SPCA), the court system and the criminal justice system, environmental compliance (for example: countywide NPDES permit), just to name a few. Effective Assembly and Senate representation is critical to ensuring that countywide services adequately serve its residents. San Mateo County shares additional similarities, such as geography and communication methods (the San Mateo Daily Journal). Although South San Francisco is close to the City and County of San Francisco, its relationship and interaction with San Francisco is characterized in the same manner as other San Mateo County cities, not with the City of San Francisco itself.

If the current boundaries reflected in the 1st Draft Maps remain unchanged, it would negatively impact the city of South San Francisco. It would interfere with the City's ability to advance its interests in a cohesive and efficient manner and the City of South San Francisco would be faced with the challenge of coordinating the efforts of two Assembly and two Senate Members who would likely have competing interests with the other communities that they represent. This would cause a wide range of impacts, including, but not limited to: securing funding for freeways and road improvements, ensuring that transportation services are provided efficiently, maintaining an efficient operation of the criminal justice system, and influencing County supervisors.

Accordingly, any redistricting effort should continue to keep South San Francisco within a single Assembly and Senate district, rather than dividing the City between two districts. Furthermore, the majority of each district should be populated by San Mateo County cities. We believe this can be achieved and still satisfy the higher priority criteria established by Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution. Thank you for considering our input and please contact my office if you desire any further information.

Very truly yours,



Kevin Mullin  
Mayor, City of South San Francisco

cc: City Council  
Barry M. Nagel, City Manager

[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
June 26, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Public Input Hearing  
Fort Mason Center  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Commissioners,

I am deeply appreciative of the job you've done so far. You seem to be proving that passing Proposition 11 – which Potrero Hill Democratic Club of San Francisco strongly endorsed – can indeed result in fairer redistricting and an end to partisan gerrymandering. The issue of clean and fair elections is extremely important to me personally, and to the Club that I lead.

Ours is, or aims to be, a representative democracy. Your choice in assigning a number to the new San Francisco State Senate district will have an impact in this area. Because even-numbered Senate districts will not elect their Senators until 2014, if you assign our new citywide district an even number, then my half of the city, the eastern (less wealthy, more diverse) neighborhoods, would be deprived of our own elected representative for two years. On the other hand, giving our district an odd number would mean we have a Senate election in 2012, and thus would deprive neither the east nor the west side of San Francisco of representation. Please continue to act fairly, and choose the alternative that does no harm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Joni Eisen

[REDACTED]  
President, Potrero Hill Democratic Club

[REDACTED]  
Coordinator, San Francisco Working Group for Clean and Fair Elections  
[REDACTED]



DENNIS J. HERRERA  
City Attorney

June 27, 2011

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

Re: Importance of assigning an odd number to San Francisco's State Senate District

Dear Commissioners:

I write to urge the Citizens Redistricting Commission to assign an odd number to San Francisco's remaining State Senate District.

Designating the district as odd would be the simplest, most elegant approach to avoid a highly problematic scenario in which the majority of the City and County of San Francisco's population would be forced to go without elected representation in the California State Senate for two years. Such a loss of representation—even temporarily—would be far worse than a mere inconvenience to thousands of San Franciscans. It would be a potentially devastating setback to the particular rights and interests of all of California's LGBT citizens, who have historically looked to San Francisco's elected legislators for leadership on issues of concern to their community.

As we were powerfully reminded by the New York State Senate's narrow approval of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples last Friday, our nation's LGBT community is in the midst of an historic time in its long and difficult struggle for equality. California has been among the states at the forefront of that movement, and no municipality has been more forcefully in the vanguard than San Francisco. Should a quirk in the numbering of State Senate districts eliminate San Francisco's representation during this critical time, the detrimental effects would reach far beyond my own City's borders. It would be gravely unfair to Californians who have been too long marginalized, and too often denied rights to which they are entitled.

In amending our State Constitution, California voters charged the Citizens Redistricting Commission with establishing legislative districts that ensure fair representation. Surely, that charge requires recognition for the particular leadership some districts offer to statewide constituencies. Perhaps no legislative districts are more important to California's LGBT community than San Francisco's. The commission can secure the worthy objective of fairness for all here by simply assigning an odd number to San Francisco's State Senate seat. I appreciate your consideration of my request, and I thank you for your hard work in the difficult task of leading California's redistricting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J. Herrera".

DENNIS J. HERRERA