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OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

CITY HALL
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5TH FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2604

May 11, 2011



Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Importance of a Single Congressional District for the City of Sacramento

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on redistricting as it relates to the City of Sacramento. While the city has no specific comments on the realignment of California Senate and Assembly Districts, there are several compelling reasons why we believe the city should continue to be represented by a single Congressional District.

- Sacramento's 466,000 plus residents are today part of the 5th Congressional District and can continue to be accommodated within a single district. As California's capital city and the region's urban core, we are a community of interest worth preserving.
- The city is a vibrant collection of cohesive neighborhoods and boasts more than 100 distinct neighborhood associations that meet quarterly with the city staff through Community Partnership meetings.
- Sacramento is well known for its rich ethnic diversity which is celebrated through scores of local festivals annually. The city is pleased that your criteria includes encouraging respect for the geographic integrity of cities, communities of interest, and neighborhoods to minimize their division to the extent possible.

Our city faces many challenges over the next decade with flood protection and the need to construct a multi-modal transportation facility topping the list of complex projects involving federal participation. We believe strongly that the city's interests will be best served by continuing to be represented by a single voice in the nation's Capitol on these issues and other important community priorities.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William H. Edgar
Interim City Manager

cc: Mayor and Council Members

City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department Neighborhood Services Division

[Skip Navigation](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)

[About the City](#) • [Departments](#) • [Jobs](#) • [News](#) • [Business](#) • [Emergency](#)

Search

Go

Neighborhood Services Division

Your Neighborhood

[Neighborhood Associations Directory](#)

[Resources for Neighborhoods](#)

[Maps and Boundaries](#)

[Starting a Neighborhood Organization](#)

Get Involved!

Need Help?

News

About Us

[Public Meeting Calendar](#)

Quick Links

Contact Us

FAQs

Employment

[Customer Service Commitment](#)

Neighborhood Associations Alphabetical List

[29th Street Neighborhood Association](#)

[65th St. Redevelopment Advisory Committee \(RAC\) - New Address Effective 1/5/2010](#)

[Alkali and Mansion Flats Historic Neighborhood Association](#)

[Army Depot Redevelopment Advisory Committee \(RAC\) - New Address & Phone Effective 1/5/2010](#)

[Avondale/Glen Elder Neighborhood Association \(AGENA\)](#)

[Ben Ali Community Association](#)

[Beverly Way Neighborhood Association](#)

[Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Boys & Girls Club of Greater Sacramento](#)

[Brentwood South Neighborhood Association](#)

[Brookfield Homeowners Association](#)

[Cabrillo Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Campus Commons Homeowners Association](#)

[Capitol Area Development Authority \(CADA\)](#)

[Capitol Area R Street Association \(caRsa\)](#)

[CARE/Colonial Park Arts and Recreation Effort - Neighborhood Association](#)

[Carella Gardens Neighborhood Association](#)

[Center Crossroads Neighborhood Association](#)

[Charter Pointe Neighborhood Association](#)

[Chinatown Mall Committee\(Business & Property Management\)](#)

[College Plaza Neighborhood Association](#)

[College/Glen Neighborhood Association](#)

[Colonial Manor Neighborhood Association](#)

[Colonial Village Neighborhood Association](#)

[Creskide Natomas Neighborhood Association](#)

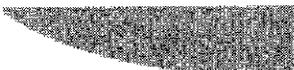
[Deer Field/Mesa Grande Neighborhood Association](#)

[Del Paso Boulevard Partnership](#)

[Del Paso Heights Improvement Association](#)

[Detroit Neighborhood Association](#)

[Downtown Sacramento Partnership](#)



[Dreher Tract Neighborhood Association](#)
[East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce](#)
[East Sacramento Improvement Association](#)
[East Sacramento Preservation, Inc.](#)
[Elmhurst Neighborhood Association](#)
[Environmental Council of Sacramento \(ECOS\)](#)
[Florin Road Partnership](#)
[Folsom Blvd Business and Property Owners Association](#)
[Freeport Renovation On the Move - FROM](#)
[Friends of Grant Park](#)
[Friends of West Tahoe Park](#)
[Fruitridge Manor Neighborhood Association](#)
[Fullertown Homeowners Association](#)
[Gardenland/Northgate Neighborhood Association](#)
[Golf Course Terrace Estates](#)
[Greater Broadway Partnership - Business Improvement District](#)
[Hagginwood Community Association \(HCA\)](#)
[Hampton Station Neighborhood Association](#)
[Harmon Johnson Neighborhood Association](#)
[Henrietta Drive Neighborhood Association](#)
[Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association](#)
[Lake Greenhaven Homeowners Association](#)
[Land Park Community Association](#)
[Lawrence Park Neighborhood Association](#)
[Little Pocket Neighborhood Association](#)
[Marina Oaks Homeowners Association](#)
[Marshall School New Era Park Neighborhood Association](#)
[McClatchy Park Drug Free Zone](#)
[McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association \(MENA\)](#)
[Meadowview Development Committee](#)
[Meadowview Neighborhood Association](#)
[Medical Center Neighborhood Association](#)
[Midtown Business Association](#)
[Midtown Neighborhood Association \(formerly Winn Park\)](#)
[Morrison Creek Estates](#)
[Natomas Community Association](#)
[Natomas Park Master Association](#)
[Neighborhood Advisory Group N.A.G.](#)
[Nepenthe Homeowners Association](#)
[Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association](#)
[North Franklin District Business Association](#)
[North Laguna Creek Neighborhood Association](#)
[North Natomas Alliance](#)

[North Natomas Community Association](#)

[Oak Park Business Association](#)

[Oak Park Neighborhood Association \(OPNA\)](#)

[Oak Park Redevelopment Advisory Committee \(RAC\) - New Address & Phone Effective 1/5/2010](#)

[Park Place South Homeowners Association](#)

[Park River Oak Estates Homeowners Association](#)

[Parkway Oaks, #5](#)

[Phoenix Park](#)

[Point West Transportation Management Authority \(TMA\)](#)

[Pollack Ranch Neighborhood Association](#)

[Power Inn Alliance](#)

[Regency Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Regency Place](#)

[Reith Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Richmond Grove Neighborhood Association](#)

[River Grove Homeowners Association](#)

[River Oaks Community Association \(ROCA\)](#)

[River Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Riverlake Community Association](#)

[Riverwind Place Owners Association](#)

[Robla Park Community Association](#)

[Sacramento Old City Association](#)

[Sacramento Riverfront Association](#)

[Sacramento Roundtree Homeowners Association](#)

[Sacramento Transportation Equity Network \(SACTEN\)](#)

[Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association](#)

[Sierra Oaks Neighborhood Association](#)

[Sierra Vista Neighborhood Watch](#)

[South Land Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[South Pocket Homeowners Association](#)

[Southeast Village Neighborhood Association](#)

[Southgate Meadows Neighborhood Association](#)

[Southside Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Stockton Blvd. Redevelopment Advisory Committee \(RAC\) - New Address & Phone Effective 1/5/2010](#)

[Stockton Boulevard Partnership](#)

[Strawberry Manor Neighborhood Improvement Association](#)

[Swanston Estates Neighborhood Association](#)

[Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association \(TPNA\)](#)

[Tallac Village Neighborhood Association](#)

[Terrace Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[The River District](#)

[Twin Rivers South Community Council](#)

[Valley Hi Neighborhood Association](#)

[Valley View Acres Community Association](#)

[Washington Park Neighborhood Improvement Group](#)

[Wildwood Homeowners Association](#)

[Witter Ranch Community Alliance](#)

[Wood Park Area](#)

[Woodlake Neighborhood Association](#)

[Z'Berg Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[[City of Sacramento](#) > [Neighborhood Services](#) > [Your Neighborhood](#) > [Neighborhood Associations Directory](#) > Neighborhood Associations Alphabetical List]

Page last modified 11/24/2008 at 4:53 PM

Region 9: Sacramento - 05.19.11.E

#9

Written Testimony to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission - Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA
Alex Eng, Sacramento Asian American and Pacific Islanders

My name is Alex Eng. I am a commissioner on the Sacramento Adult and Aging Commission, an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues relevant to the older adults in the Sacramento region. Prior to my appointment 2 years ago, I've been an active participant advocating on behalf of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and their issues for over 20 years...serving on the boards of OCA, CACS, APSEA, chair of APISP and CHC.

I recently formed the API Seniors Partnership; a coalition that provides resource information for seniors to the leaders of underserved AAPI groups. The needs of our older adults in our respective communities are often overlooked. Housing, health and nutrition are very serious concerns; but without transportation many, especially the frail and disabled are isolated and cannot access public resources or professional services. The economic downturn has affected everyone; with funding extremely limited, forming partnerships and combining resources is something we all need to consider in order to provide much needed services to our constituents.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a long and rich history in the Sacramento area, comprising 12% (145,000) of Sacramento's population. The largest Asian American group in Sacramento is the Chinese, followed by the Hmong, Filipino, Japanese, Vietnamese, Laotian, and East Indian communities. These ethnic groups are organized into smaller organizations within their own communities. What separates Sacramento from other cities is the formation of the coalition, CAPITAL (Council of Asian Pacific Islanders for Advocacy and Leadership.) To the best of my knowledge, no other organization has a membership of over 90 ethnic CBOs which collaborate to address issues such as health, education, crime, gambling and other problems specific to AAPIs. Through CAPITAL we work collectively with mainstream agencies and decision makers on policy issues and projects on gang violence, hate crimes, mental health, domestic violence, etc.

While AAPIs are a diverse group, we share many similar concerns and needs. Sacramento's high rate of foreign born residents translate into low rates of English language proficiency. We also have a higher rate of poverty and health issues (ie., liver cancer, diabetes) than the general population. Because AAPIs are scattered all over Sacramento, defining district boundaries has been a tremendous challenge.

Historically in the 1890s the Chinese and Japanese Community settled in parts of downtown Sacramento. In the late 40s and 50s the development of Sacramento's downtown business district, forced them to move to South Sacramento (Greenhaven and later Pocket). Because of discriminatory practices at the time, Asian Americans were discouraged from residing in other areas of Sacramento. Today, as our community has grown and a new generation has grown up, the largest concentration of AAPIs can be found from Fruitridge Road) south to Elk Grove.

As immigrant groups (including Southeast Asians, Pacific Islanders, and East Indians, and others) move into the Sacramento area, they tend to settle in the more affordable (poorer) areas of Sacramento. So we find pockets of APIAs residing and establishing businesses in North Highlands, Citrus Heights, and Rancho Cordova, Meadowview, and West Sacramento. On the other hand, many professional and affluent AAPIs reside in South Sacramento, Elk Grove, North Natomas, Folsom, and Roseville.

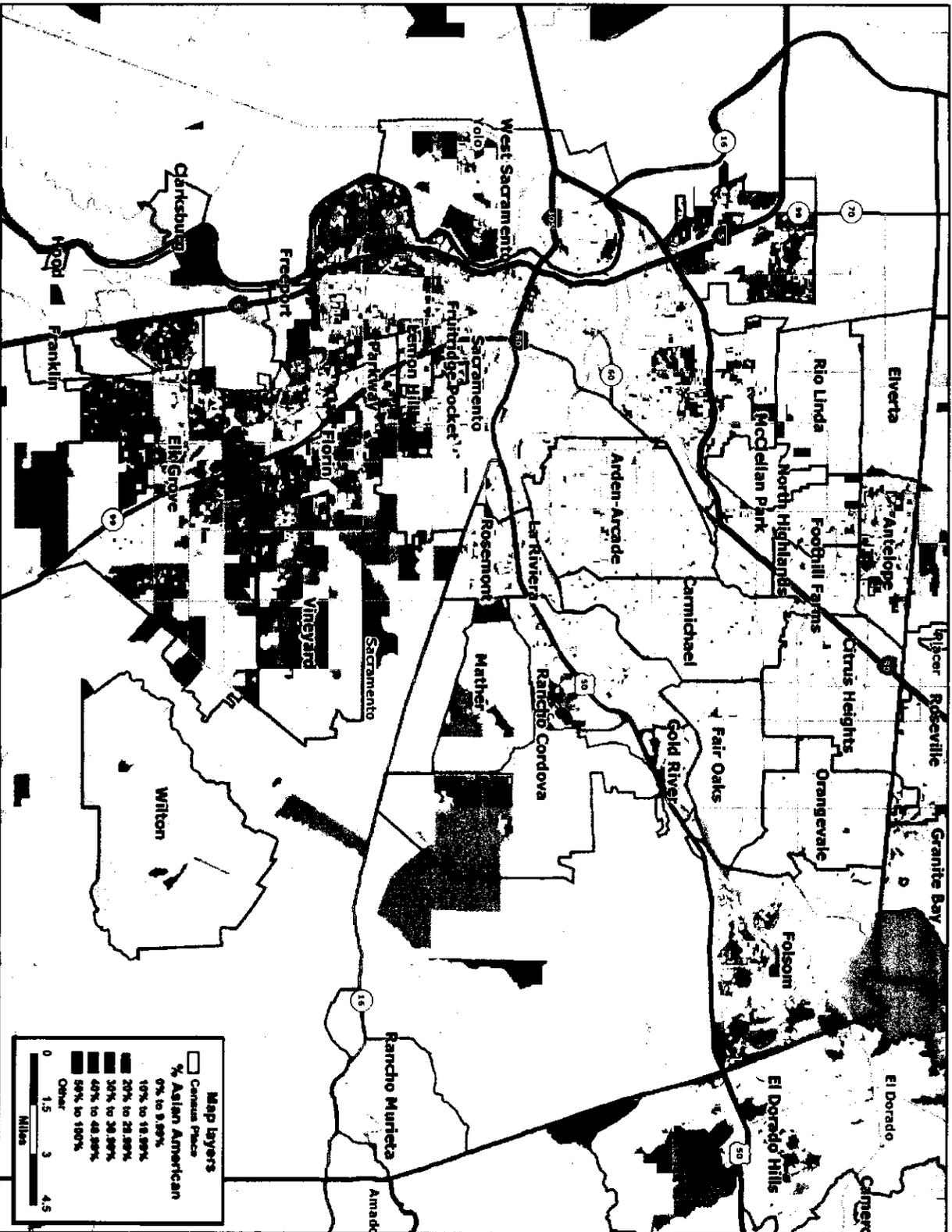
In spite of being located all over Sacramento, AAPIs do tend to live in certain neighborhoods, with the largest concentration in South Sacramento and Elk Grove, North Natomas, and West Sacramento. The map attached to my written statement illustrates this. Because of the common bonds the various AAPI communities share, and because of the concentration of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in South Sacramento and Elk Grove in particular, I'm asking your consideration to keep these two areas together.

Thank you.

Alex Eng
Sacramento Adult and Aging Commission
Community Housing Coalition
Asian Pacific Islander Seniors Partnership
Member CAPITAL-CAPAFR

*Map Submitted in Support of Testimony by Alex Eng Presented to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA*

Map of Asian Americans in Sacramento County¹



¹ U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census PL 94-171. Race Category includes both single race and multiracial individuals.

Written Testimony to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA

Lilia Rivera
KAPITBAHAY – Filipino Community

My name is Lilia Rivera, president of the Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity. I am a Manager of KAPITBAHAY, the Activity Center of the Filipino community. *Kapitbahay* means “neighbor” in Tagalog. Its main goal is to unite the numerous Filipino organizations through partnerships in community services and events.

KAPITBAHAY has individual as well as organizational members and operates with an all volunteer staff that is committed to make a difference in the community. KAPITBAHAY programs include not only providing resources for those looking for job opportunities, but also training for public speaking and leadership workshops for young and old. One of its outreach projects was to participate actively in the Census outreach in South Sacramento and neighboring Elk Grove areas.

Sacramento and Elk Grove are home to many Filipinos. There are over twenty Filipino organizations that exist in both places. Filipino migration began around the early 1920's with the arrival of single male Filipinos recruited to work in the farms of Stockton and Sacramento. At the beginning, Filipinos males were not allowed to bring their families. Marriage between whites and non-whites were forbidden, so the Filipino male had to go back to their country to marry and bring their wives. Times changed and soon they were able to marry outside their own ethnic group and establish their families near the farms of Sacramento and Stockton. For example, the Florin area of South Sacramento was well known for its strawberry farms

It was around the 1960's that the next migration of Filipino occurred. Professionals consisting of nurses, doctors and other professions such as teachers, accountants, and engineers arrived. The majority of them were related to the early settlers, or attracted to the area due to the presence of Filipinos already established in the South Sacramento area. There is now a large presence of third generation Filipinos in South Sacramento and Elk Grove mixed with new residents coming from different places like the San Francisco area. Filipino organizations, as well as other community groups, draw their members from both Sacramento and Elk Grove. That is why the Filipino community project to build a cultural center in South Sacramento is supported by residents of both communities.

The social network of residents consisting of families and friends, not only of the Filipinos, are residents of either Elk Grove or South Sacramento. The proximity and similarity makes it seem like one big neighborhood. Residents of both make use of the same social and commercial services. Social problems such as gang related crimes go beyond each others boundaries and need to be addressed by both communities. An example of partnership by South Sacramento and Elk Grove government, non-profit agencies, and public groups is the *Cause Initiative*, an outreach program on preventing and assisting victims of domestic violence. Representatives from both Sacramento and Elk Grove communities are involved in this collaboration. The

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Region 9: Sacramento

*Written Testimony to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA*

Elaine Abelaye
Asian Resources Inc.

My name is Elaine Abelaye. I am the Executive Director of Asian Resources Inc. (ARI). ARI is a nonprofit, community-based organization in Sacramento. We provide a wide spectrum of social services to low-income and limited English speaking residents in Sacramento County. Although the word "Asian" is in our organizational name, we serve any low-income or limited English speaking resident in the County. ARI has three offices. Our original office and headquarters are on Stockton Boulevard in South Sacramento and serves the South Sacramento and Elk Grove community. Our second office is in the Broadway Corridor which serves the downtown area and even families in West Sacramento. Our northern office is located in Citrus Heights and reaches communities in the northern part of the City of Sacramento such as North Natomas and North Highlands.

We provide naturalization services, English-as-a-second-language (ESL) classes, and employment services. We also provide traditional social services to low-income residents such as assisting residents in applying for low-income public utility programs. Because we serve a diverse population, our staff can speak 13 different languages, including Hmong, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Russian. Each office services a different population because of the demographic make up in the surrounding areas.

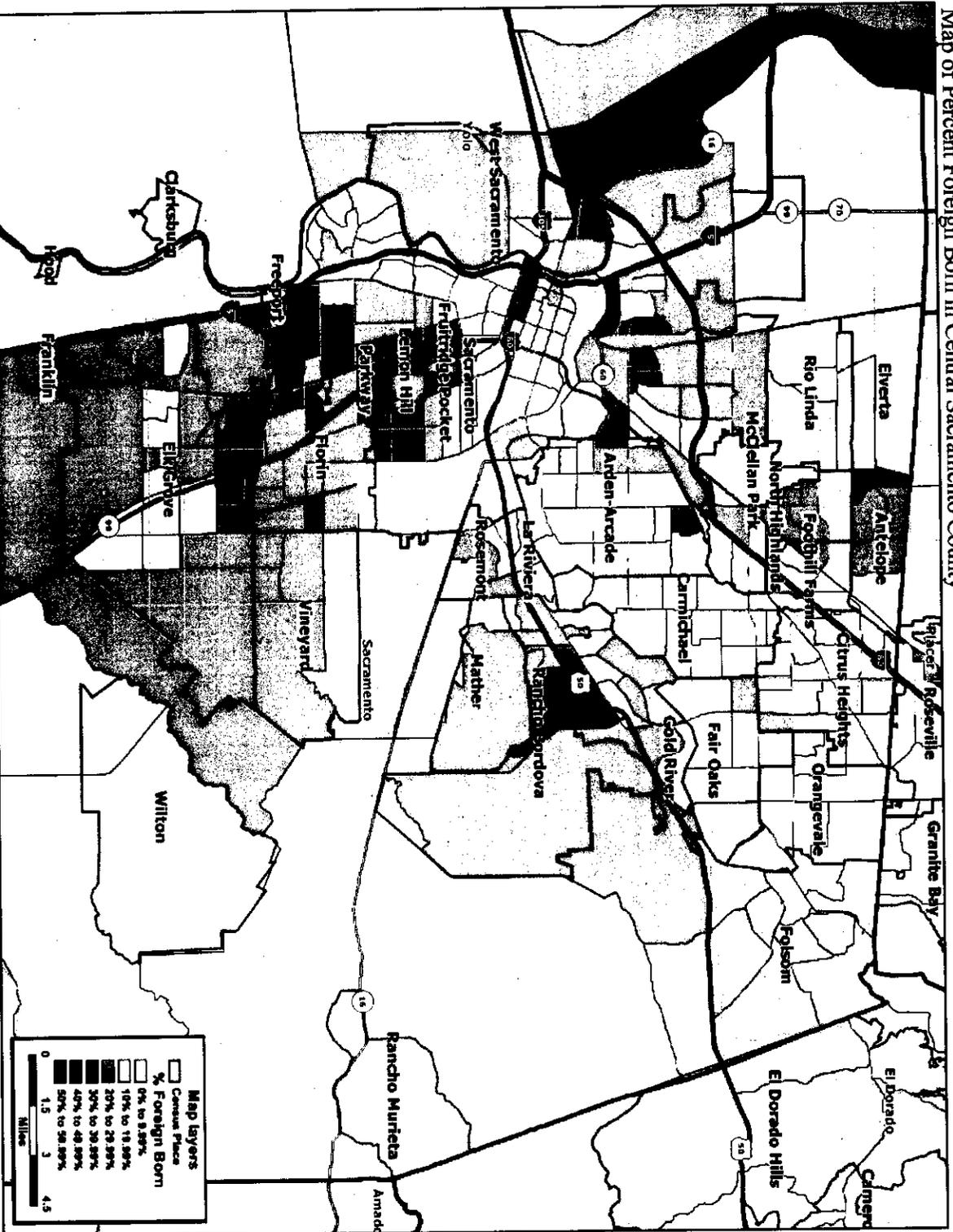
Our South Sacramento office serves a large Southeast Asian population. The Southeast Asian population we serve face a number of barriers to accessing all the resources our community has to offer, and ARI provides a number of community services such as ESL classes to help eliminate the barriers. ARI also serves as a bridge for newcomer Southeast Asian communities as we connect them to opportunities for civic participation. For example, each year, ARI helps hundreds of newcomers become citizens and as a result of their integration into the community, their contributions are visible in a host of ways.

The Stockton Boulevard corridor is home to many Southeast Asian restaurants and retailers that have established themselves over the past three decades. This area was designated "Little Saigon" by the City of Sacramento to pay tribute to the many Vietnamese refugees who resettled into the area after the Fall of Saigon in the late 1970's. The City's designation is Stockton Boulevard from Fruitridge to Florin Boulevards. There are many opportunities in this corridor particularly because the area has continued to grow new development and attract business owners from Southern California and the Bay Area who are interested in doing business with many of the unique and specialty retailers. In early 2011, a group of local Southeast Asian business owners founded the Greater Sacramento Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce to provide support and build capacity of existing Southeast Asian businesses.

And as Southeast Asian families have grown in size and accumulated resources, we have seen our client population move further south into the Elk Grove area. The Census data poignantly captures the dramatic shift in demographics of the City of Elk Grove as more Southeast Asian

*Map Submitted in Support of Testimony by Elaine Abelaye Presented to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA*

Map of Percent Foreign Born in Central Sacramento County¹



¹ U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates: Percent of individuals born outside of the United States; not including individuals born in Puerto Rico; U.S. island areas or born abroad to American parents); United States Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, Table B05002.

Region 9: Sacramento - 05.19.11.H

#12

*Written Testimony to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA*

Catherine Ofa Mann

To'utupu Oeotu Felenite Association (TOFA)

Coalition of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Leadership & Advocacy (CAPITAL)

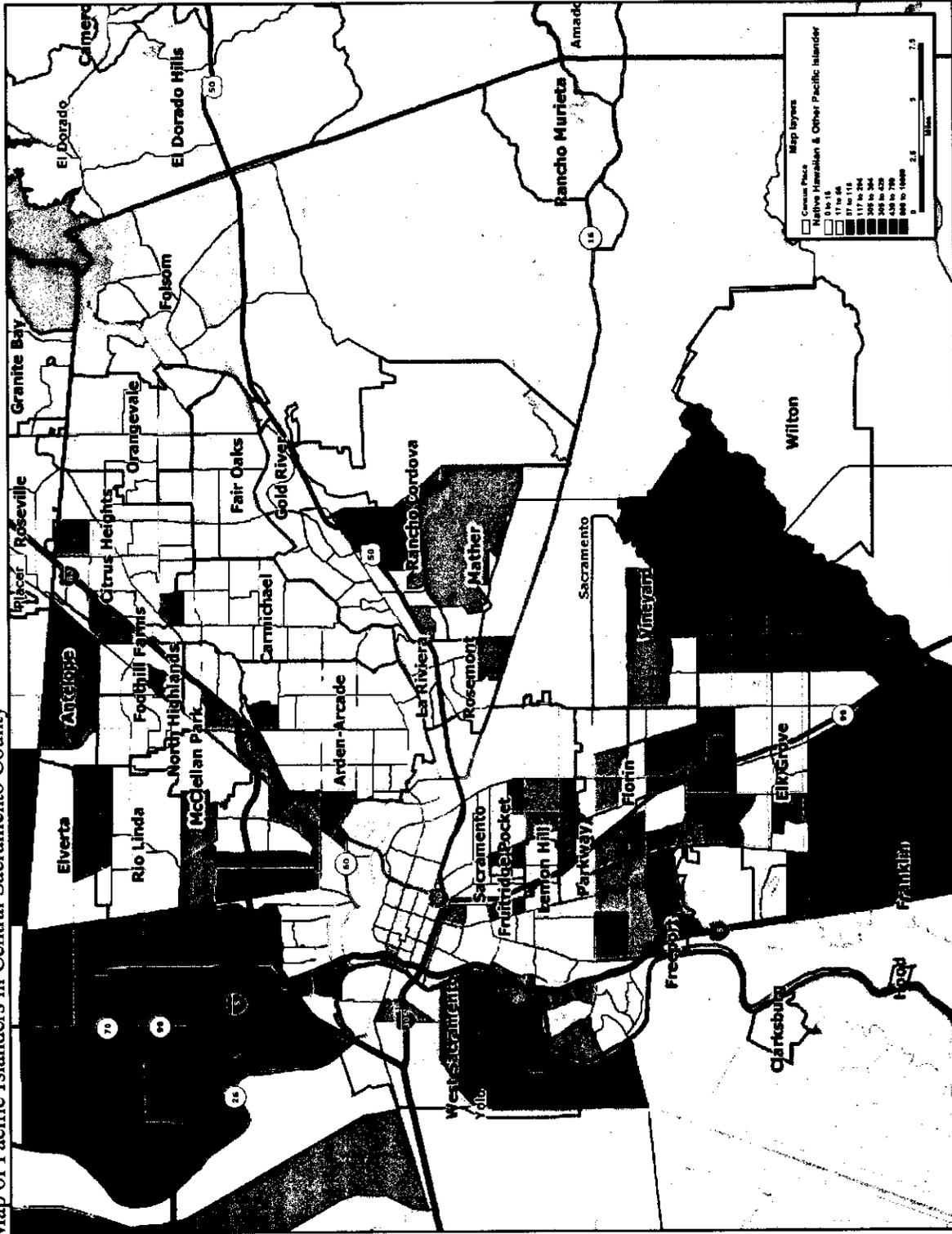
I am Catherine Ofa Mann. I am president of TOFA, To'utupu Oeotu Felenite Association. I am also an officer of CAPITAL, the Coalition of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Leadership & Advocacy. Thank you for holding this hearing so that residents of Sacramento can provide input in the redistricting process. TOFA is a community based organization in Sacramento working to preserve the Tongan culture, empower our youth, and unite our community. CAPITAL is a membership organization in Sacramento County with over 90 organizational members. CAPITAL includes members from various Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations including those focused on the Tongan, Samoan, Hawai'ian, Chinese, Philipino, Japanese, Korean, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Indian communities.

The Pacific Islander communities can be found in three general areas around Sacramento: South Sacramento/Elk Grove, North Natomas/North Point area, and West Sacramento. In South Sacramento and Elk Grove, Pacific Islander and Asian Americans works well together in building relationships, resources, expertise and leadership, creating stronger working relationship for the Asian and Pacific Islander community. Pacific Islander communities in North Natomas/North Point share commonalities with the northern portion of the City of Sacramento since many immigrants live in that area. Pacific Islander communities in West Sacramento are more connected with Sacramento than other parts of Yolo County due to types of services available to them (e.g: medical health facilities, low income community programs, Asian markets, mental health services and church services).

Thank you for considering our communities input.

Map Submitted in Support of Testimony by Catherine Ofa Mann Presented to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Input Hearing: May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA

Map of Pacific Islanders in Central Sacramento County¹



¹ U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census PL 94-171. Race Category includes both single race and multiracial individuals.