
Subject: Submission re: Sacramento

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011 10:04 PM

From: Bill Wong <[REDACTED]>

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Submission re: Sacramento

On behalf of the Asian American Education Institute, I am submitting the following comment regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of interest in Sacramento to be considered by the Commission.

Thank you.

Bill Wong

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Bill Wong LLC

黄健安

[REDACTED]
Sacramento, CA 95818

T: [REDACTED]

F: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

W: www.billwong.net

Twitter: [REDACTED]



ASIAN AMERICA EDUCATION INSTITUTE

May 22, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners,

As you begin to draft your first set of maps it is important to unite people of similar social and economic needs. The voters passed Proposition 11 and created the Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw districts that respected city and county lines, neighborhood boundaries, and communities of interest while being contiguous and compact.

As you well know, the current configuration of districts is not aligned with these accepted redistricting best practices. City boundaries themselves can follow odd lines and many times result in dividing cohesive communities of interest. AAEI is predominantly concerned with preserving Asian American and Pacific Islander communities of interest. One such community is in South Sacramento, aptly referred to as "the finger" because of its shape. The following is a graphic used by the Sacramento Bee in their Editorial "Time for appendage to join Sacramento"



This finger jets up into the southern portion of the city of Sacramento and includes the unincorporated communities of Fruitridge, Lemon Hill, Parkway and Florin. These communities are completely surrounded by the city of Sacramento and in the northern most section of the finger you can walk from the city of Sacramento into the incorporated section and back into the city of Sacramento in the matter of minutes having no idea when you left or reentered the city.

These unincorporated communities are home to a significant population of ethnic minorities, similar to those in surrounding neighborhoods in the city of Sacramento. As such, it is important that they are unified in the new legislative maps. These communities exist along Highway 99 and share the same local transportation routes, stores, restaurants and places of worship.

AAEI urges you to take into consideration the interests of the communities in the "finger" when drawing lines and don't separate this segment from the larger South Sacramento community south of the American River. The residents here are a minority urban community of interest and in this case the neighborhoods and region need to be united across oddly shaped city boundary lines.

Attached to this letter you will find maps of our communities and the density of Latino, African Americans and Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the South Sacramento area. Also attached is an editorial from the Sacramento Bee arguing that this community is like its neighbors in the city of Sacramento.

Thank you for considering our concerns related to this community. Please feel free to call me at 916-708-2828 if you have any questions regarding our concerns.

Sincerely,



Bill Wong
Executive Director

501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization, FEIN# 20-4919872 Post Office Box 188858, Sacramento, CA 95818



ASIAN AMERICA EDUCATION INSTITUTE

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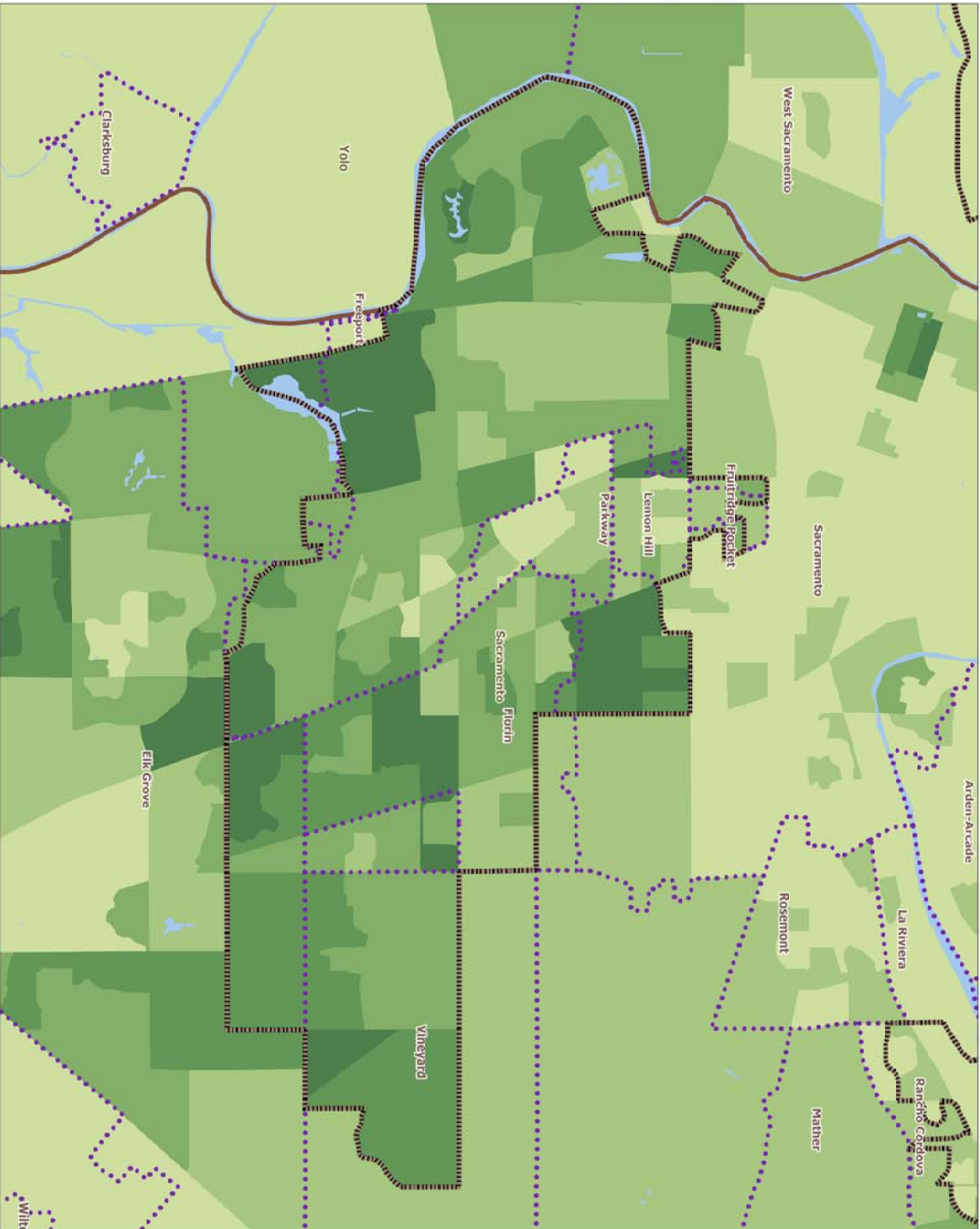
Sincerely,



Bill Wong
Executive Director

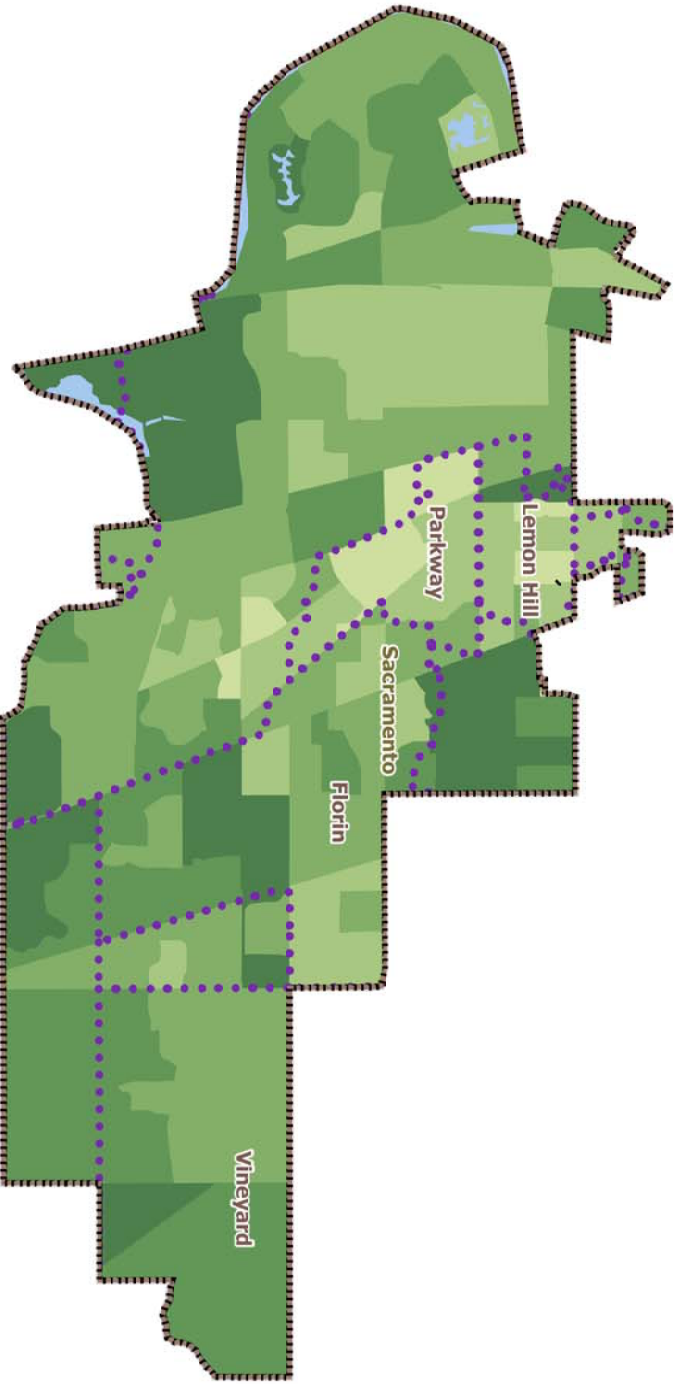


Field	Value
District	99
Population	292456
Deviation	-173,218
% Deviation	-37.2%
Black	48392
% Black	16.55%
Asian	81039
% Asian	27.71%
Hispanic Origin	80979
% Hispanic Origin	27.69%





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Editorial: Time for appendage to join Sacramento

Published: Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010 | Page 14A

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/13/3181493/time-for-appendage-to-join-sacramento.html>

Take a cursory glance at the city map and it's clear where Sacramento needs to grow first – across a tattered stretch of unincorporated Sacramento County officially known as Florin-Fruitridge but more often just called "the finger."

These 3,700 acres jut into the city like an appendage – hence its nickname – from about Florin Road to 14th Avenue.

At its tip, where it crooks eastward, the finger is just a few blocks wide. Major Sacramento city thoroughfares Florin Road and Fruitridge Road and Elder Creek Road crisscross the finger, dipping out of the city into the county and then back into the city within a few blocks. Stockton Boulevard, which runs north-south along the length of the finger, passes in and out of the county and city several times. Along some stretches, one side of Stockton is in the city and the other side in the county. It's confusing even for longtime residents.

Terry Johnson, director of the Stockton Boulevard Partnership, recalls calling the county recently to report trash dumped at 47th Avenue and Stockton Boulevard, only to be told the address he referenced was in the city.

Alleviating confusion is one reason the city ought to annex the area. Streamlining and improving efficiency in the delivery of services is another. It makes no sense for city garbage trucks to pick up trash on one side of Stockton Boulevard and not the other. It makes no sense for city maintenance of water and sewer lines to stop for a few blocks and then resume again a few blocks later. Ditto for street, sidewalk and gutter maintenance.

Most critically, police services are fragmented in Florin-Fruitridge. There's a fair amount of crime in this poor area, but county sheriff's patrols are dangerously inadequate. The lack of a strong law enforcement presence in the county may well have a spillover effect, resulting in more crime in the city.

Because Florin-Fruitridge is largely a low-income, residential neighborhood, it would cost the city more to provide municipal services than the area would generate in property or sales taxes. Despite that, the city has tried unsuccessfully to annex the area three times. Residents voted down the last proposal in 1970. Back in that pre-Proposition 13 era they worried about higher city property taxes. The proposition largely eliminated those disparities.

Still, even now, the city's higher utility fees and landscaping and lighting assessment district would mean slightly higher costs for residents under annexation, but it would also bring consistent and more intensive municipal services to a community that badly needs them.

So as Sacramento considers its future boundaries, it should start with "the finger." Bring it into the city.