

**Subject:** Expanded comments by Speaker 102 from the 20 June 2011 Meeting in San Diego California

**From:** James Udan [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 22 Jun 2011 23:36:57 -0700

**To:** [REDACTED]

Commissioners:

Let me once again thank the Commissioners of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission for extending the time allowed for public comment that allowed me, and a handful of other speakers, to comment on the first draft of the redistricting maps that the commission has released. Let me further thank the Commission for all the hard work and time sacrificed in attempting to fulfill the goals of Proposition 11 that created it. It must be difficult to balance the different competing interest that have been stated during the public meetings, and those that are sent to the commission electronically, while following the multiple legal requirements set forth within existing laws.

A little bit about me before I continue. My name is James Udan, and am a Filipino American. Although not born in the State of California, I have been fortunate enough to be a natural born Citizen of this great Nation, and have been a Resident of our great State since moving from New York in 1984. I am a member of Filipino American Community Empowerment, and organization woes stated goals is to increase Filipino American participation in the political process. I am also a member of the San Diego Young Republicans, having been an active, all be it minor, participant in every election in San Diego County since I was honorably discharged from the Army at the end of 2003. All that being said I cannot speak on behalf of these organizations, and can only speak for myself.

Within the brief period of time allotted to me I brought up two areas of concern, the City of Chula Vista, where I presently reside, and the Filipino American community here in San Diego County. The primary reason why I am submitting these expanded comments are to expand on my statements of 20 June 2011.

Chula Vista is the second largest incorporated city in San Diego County, with a population in the 2010 census of 243,916. Furthermore, it is the fourteenth largest city in the State, and seventy-seventh largest in the nation. It is economically and ethnically diverse stretching from the lake shores of Low Otay Lake to the waters of San Diego Bay. That being said at the Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional levels, the city is divided in two using different dividing lines at each level. Although it can be remarked that the economic and ethnic makeup of the city east and west of Interstate 805 differ, the city is itself an indivisible community of interest. Many residents may

live on one side of a given dividing line, and work and do business in another. To divide the community at each level means that the elected official at that level will not weigh the interest of the residents of Chula Vista (as a whole) as heavily, when it comes to voting the interest of those residents, as she/he would if the entire city was within her/his District.

Although it can be argued that two elected official are better than one, if either of those representatives do not weigh the interest of the residents of Chula Vista heavily in her/his decisions than it is like having no representative at all. From the statements given by some of the speakers who drove from Imperial County who requested their County be separate from South San Diego County, as they believed in the past redistricting their interest were not weighed as heavily as the interest of the more populace communities on the other side of the Pacific Crest Trail. To divide the population of the second largest city in San Diego County means that the interest of the city as a whole will not be given as much weight by its elected official(s) as it would if the city would remain undivided in the redistricting. Please reconsider the present congressional maps IMSAND and CHNC, state senate maps CSAND and ISAND, and state assembly maps SSAND and LMSAND when drawing up the second draft.

Filipino Americans are a significant portion of Asian Americans, being the second largest population within the grouping in the 2000 census. In the 2010 Census, the community has continued to grow nationally, with different sources varying on whether or not Indian Americans have grown to become a larger ethnicity within the Asian American grouping. Within the continental United States, 1 in 4 Filipino Americans reside in Southern California, and although Los Angeles has a greater population of Filipino Americans, as of 2000 San Diego County remains the only county in the continental United States where Filipino Americans make up the majority of Asian Americans. As I had stated on the night of 22 June, this is only duplicated in the Hawaiian counties of Kauai and Maui.

Therefore, it is significant that within the county there voice of the Filipino American community does not carry a significant weight amongst elected officials. Within the County of San Diego, the Filipino American community is dispersed from Rancho Bernardo in the north, to Otay Mesa in the south, within significant concentrations in Mira Mesa, Southeast San Diego, National City, and Chula Vista in between. Given that different assembly, state senate, and congressional districts divide the community, the weight of the community as a whole is diminished when attempting to express our interest to those multiple elected officials. Amongst academics, the term "invisible minority" has been used to describe the Filipino American population, as although amongst the largest groups of immigrants to the United States, the community as a whole has the highest rate of cultural assimilation, and therefore the community is a virtual unknown nationally, and has lead to its interest as a community to languish politically.

I understand that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to keep all areas where there are significant Filipino American populations together given how geographically dispersed the community is. That being said, if the committee can do its best to divide as little as possible the community, it would give the community a greater weight when attempting to express its interest to its elected officials.

Thank you,

James Udan

Chula Vista, California