



LATINO LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

June 21, 2011

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

Esteemed Commissioners:

The Latino Leadership Alliance would like to express our vehement opposition to the “San Jose” Assembly and Senate District visualizations that were released by the commission on June 7, 2011. The proposed districts identified the “San Jose” map represent a dilution of the political voice of the voters of East San Jose. By removing large segments of East San Jose from the rest of Central and East San Jose and placing our community in districts to the north Alameda County as well as with San Benito and Monterey County you would for all intents and purposes be removing our political voice at the state level.

Our community has historically been disenfranchised. In the past, city leaders purposely incorporated around East San Jose in order to leave the high concentration of working class Latinos outside the city limits. As such, residents of East San Jose had no voice in city affairs as evidenced by the fact that our East San Jose neighborhoods were some of the last ones to receive sidewalks and other city services. Unfortunately, it seems that we are being forced to relive this dark chapter of our recent history and our voice is once again being silenced. The present visualization of the “San Jose” Assembly and Senate districts would cut out a large segment of East San Jose and place it in a district that is completely distinct from us. Furthermore, you place other sections of East San Jose of in a district to the north whose demographics are completely inconsistent with ours. The proposed boundaries for the San Jose districts are completely unacceptable and cannot in good conscience be given further consideration.

The Commission’s visualization divide the historic, “Sal Si Puedes Neighborhood,” where civil-rights leader Cesar Chavez lived and began his activism, into three districts. The heart of Chicano activism is split into two when you cut King Road and east San Jose in half. Our largest East San Jose Elementary school district, Alum Rock Union School District, is split up into three assembly and senate districts

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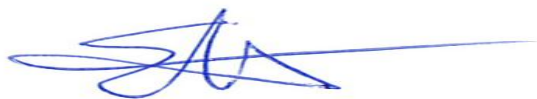
which will completely dilute the districts voice at the state level. The ramifications of proposed 'San Jose' district are too numerous to include in this letter. As a community of interest, East San Jose must be kept whole with the rest of East and Central San Jose. The needs of East San Jose in terms of public safety, public transportation and other factors require that we are kept whole.

An alarming trend in this redistricting process is the fact that in every proposed district for San Jose, from Congress to State Assembly, the Latino vote is split up and consequently diluted. In Congress, the Latino population decreases by approximately 8% and in the Assembly Latinos lose approximately 10%, according to the data provided by Redistricting Partners. We can only assume that the proposed senate district further dilutes the Latino vote, since at this moment the data for the proposed district has not been released by the commission.

Our request is that you provide a visualization and subsequently adopt a Central and East San Jose Assembly District that that includes McKee Road as the northern boundary all of east san Jose or at the very least up to the urban service area boundary line. To the west, use Highway 87 as the western boundary in the northern part of the district and use your discretion to create a district that avoids a major drop in the current ethnic populations as is the case with your current visualization where the Latino population falls by 10%. Furthermore, the current 23rd and 28th Assembly districts should be combined to create a "Santa Clara/Monterey County" State Senate District.

I urge you to reassess your visualization for San Jose and East San Jose. The East San Jose community and consequently the Latino community of East San Jose have steadily been making progress. If any semblance of what you have proposed makes it to the final maps, the effects would be extremely detrimental to our community.

Respectfully,



Eddie García
President
Latino Leadership Alliance