

June 26, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Esther Peralez-Dieckmann. I am employed by the County of Santa Clara as a mid-level manager overseeing the Office of Women's Policy. I am a Latina resident of San Jose and would like to provide serious input about the proposed redistricting plan and how it will affect our community here in San Jose.

As someone who has worked extensively on issues affecting the Latino community in a career that has spanned the public, private and non-governmental sectors, I have witnessed both the ever-growing economic and political power of Latinos in California and throughout the Southwestern U.S. and also the disproportionate burden of social problems that impact this community, including lagging educational performance and college enrollment, over-representation of Latinos in the criminal justice and child welfare systems, and health disparities resulting not only from individual behaviors but also as a result of unhealthy and unsafe environments where Latinos live and work.

I have two recommendations for the Commission to consider:

**RECOMMENDATION 1: Give serious consideration to the changes submitted by the South Bay Committee on Fair Redistricting map**

**RATIONALE:**

In San Jose, many of these issues are evident in areas where Latinos comprise the highest percentage of the population, such as central, downtown and East San Jose. These areas are also where you will continue to find committed and concerned Latino leaders and citizens working collaboratively to address problems, look for sustainable solutions and effectively advocate for resources and representation.

The proposed redistricting plan as it stands will have a negative impact on representation of Latinos in the areas. At a time where it is critical that we continue to make progress in addressing the needs of the Latino community, the current plan will effectively cut into the heart and vital organs of the Latino community in San Jose. It dilutes our voting power and our ability to elect candidates that possess the knowledge and values necessary to make informed decisions about policy and resource allocation that can improve the lives of Latinos in San Jose. Equal representation and resources are essential to our ability to effect necessary change and leverage the growing political and economic power of Latinos. These gains will not only benefit Latinos, they will improve our economy and move us closer to a more equitable, sustainable and just society – locally, nationally and globally.

**RECOMMENDATION 2: Please consider changes that will allow Assembly District 23 and 28 to remain intact and combine these to form one Senate District along with Monterey and San Benito Counties.**

**RATIONALE:**

In addition to giving an opportunity for Latinos to have an opportunity to elect Senate representation and have a greater political voice, we already share an important relationship in the area of social services and public safety. A great deal of the work I do lies in the area of public safety, particularly on violence against women, including addressing domestic violence and human trafficking.

We have strong relationships and collaboration with our neighboring counties, including Monterey and San Benito and frequently have to coordinate our resources and efforts to meet the needs of the community. Victims of violence can surface on any day of the week and any hour of the day or night. It is imperative that our law enforcement agencies (locally and federally) and social service agencies (non-profits and governmental) have to be coordinated and ready to respond to rescue victims (both children and adult). The urgency of these situations is often a matter of life and death and we must work together to provide immediate rescue and crisis intervention and to ensure that victims are moved to safe, secure locations (often across our county boundaries) so that they can get support and services they need.

It stands to reason that since we already have a strong relationship by sharing and coordinating our resources, we should be allowed to share a unified voice when it comes to choosing who will represent us and ultimately who has the power to give us the needed resources so that we can do this important work.

Thank you for your hard work and public service and your consideration of my recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Peralez-Dieckmann

[REDACTED]

San Jose, CA 95125

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Public Comment: 7 - Santa Clara

**From:** Jason Spitzer <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 6/26/2011 12:04 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Jason Spitzer <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Comment re: Proposed Assembly District Lines

Message Body:

I noticed in proposed map for the Assembly district that includes the Evergreen area of E. San Jose - this area is being cobbled together with a much larger area of mostly rural Monterey county. It seems that - in terms of political interests - that Evergreen residents are being somewhat disenfranchised by this proposal. Could you please reconsider this plan? Thank you. Jason Spitzer

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Quyen Vuong - Written testimony to Redistricting Commissioners

**From:** "Quyen N. Vuong" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** 6/26/2011 6:44 AM

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Hi,

I waited for 3hrs at the public hearing on 6/25/2011 in San Jose. I was next in line when the commission asked us to yield to others whose ideas have not been presented. Since my colleagues and community members have reiterated my issues of concerns, I yielded.

Below is my written testimony. I've also attached the file.

Thank you for taking on this challenge.

Quyen

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Quyen Vuong

[REDACTED]

June 25, 2011

Written Testimony to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Public Input Hearing: June 25, 2011 in San Jose, CA – re: Santa Clara County

My name is Quyen Vuong. I have lived in the City of Santa Clara for 13 years. I am the Executive Director of International Children Assistance Network (ICAN), a nonprofit organization with offices in San Jose and Milpitas working with the Vietnamese families and children throughout Santa Clara County.

I appreciate your efforts in taking on the redistricting challenge. I urge you to please follow the Voting Rights Act and keep communities of interest together in drawing the district boundaries, specifically:

- 1) Keep Evergreen whole together in San Jose and together with Little Saigon.
- 2) Place Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino and Santa Clara in one district.
- 3) To avoid fragmentation of Latino community, please do not to put Alum Rock and East Foothills with a rural district to the east, but instead with downtown San Jose.

The draft map for assembly and senate districts as currently proposed by the Commission will have the effect of silencing the voice of the Vietnamese community, one that is fast growing and has made many contributions to the Bay area and the state of California, and deserves to have its voice heard. Your maps currently divide the Evergreen neighborhood into 3 different assembly districts and 3 state senate districts. Much of Evergreen is split from Little Saigon, thereby fragmenting the Vietnamese community. The neighborhoods of Evergreen and Little Saigon belong together. Many Vietnamese families who first resided in Little Saigon after coming to the United States now live in Evergreen and still have ties to Little Saigon. Many of them still have shops in Little Saigon or go there to shop and eat. As children grow up and become more established and mobile, they move to Evergreen, but their parents still stay in the Little Saigon area where they can walk or take public transportation to get around. Moreover, Evergreen does not belong with the rural district to the east; it belongs with the urbanized feel of San Jose. Please unite Evergreen, Little Saigon and downtown San Jose into one San Jose-centered district.

The commission's currently proposed maps also split up a community of interest consisting of Santa Clara, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Mountain View. Santa Clara shares overlapping school districts and common transportation concerns with these cities. My neighbors in Santa Clara city go to work for HP in Cupertino. My friends from Mountain View

come down to work at Intel and Oracle in our area. My family and I often go to exercise, eat and shop in Sunnyvale etc. For the reasons mentioned above, please unite Santa Clara, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Mountain View into a Santa Clara County district. These cities share common interests and should be kept together.

I support the CAPAFR response maps which will be submitted sometime in the week of 6/27/2011.

Please help keep our communities intact so our voice can be heard. Thank you.

Quyen Vuong ( [REDACTED] )

— Attachments: —

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Quyen Vuong - Testimony to Redistricting commissioners 2011-06-25.pdf

24.9 KB