

Commissioners of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on 7.13.11 Assembly District Visualization for National City

Dear Commissioners:

I am the President of Council of Philippine American Organizations (COPAO) located in East National City. COPAO has a membership of over 50 Filipino American organizations in San Diego County. COPAO has been working closely on the redistricting maps with the Southwest Center For Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL), the lead organization for CAPAFR SAN DIEGO.

We support the Unity Map submitted by CAPAFR and supported by MALDEF and AARC for San Diego County Assembly and Senate Districts. We support the comments submitted by SCAPAL on July 14 and by SCAPAL and APALC on July 15 to your visualizations for our area. We also support the proposed mapping changes for San Diego County submitted by CAPAFR yesterday.

We write to focus your attention on the Assembly lines you have drawn for National City based on the visualization of July 13th. The dividing line between east and west National City you have drawn is South Euclid Avenue. This line basically isolates Filipino Americans residing in East National City in SSAND, which is a Section 2 Latino Votings Right Act District.

Our Filipino American community has testified both in person and by electronic mail before this Commission that residents of East National City prefer to be in the adjoining LMSAND AD. Their voices will be joining a significant number of other Filipino Americans in Alta Vista, Paradise Hills, Bay Terrace, Bonita, and east Chula Vista who are already in LMSAND. (This also applies to the Senate districts.)

Our 5-page attachment will clarify where we would like the boundary lines drawn for East National City. Page 1 is the proposed changes to your lines for East National City, which is essentially what is in the Unity Map. Page 2 is a map with street identification and boundary lines drawn by the Commission and proposed by CAPAFR. Page 3 lists the street designations for East National City we support. Pages 4 and 5 identify the Filipino American institutions in East National City.

As testified previously, East National City is the hub for social, cultural, health and economic interests and needs of Filipino Americans as well as the larger Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities of Paradise Hills, Bay Terrace, Bonita and Chula Vista. APIs come to National City to work, socialize, worship, shop and access health and social services. This area is a contiguous community of interest that should be kept together so their residents have an equal and fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and attachment for your consideration. We look forward to your next set of visualizations.

Sincerely,

Marita (Merly) Ferrer
President, Council of Philippine American Organizations