

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: BAYMEC pdf Letter re proposed CA Senate District Maps & CA Assembly District Maps for N. CA - San Jose, CA

From: "Dennis W. Chiu" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, 21 Jul 2011 11:44:09 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commission:

Please find the attached Public Comment letter (pdf) regarding the proposed State Senate and Assembly District maps issued on July 16 and 18, 2011.

Thank you,
Dennis Chiu
Representing BAYMEC

Dennis W. Chiu, Esq.
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Bay Area
Municipal
Elections
Committee

*Advocating for
Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and
Transgender
Rights in the
South Bay*

WWW.BAYMEC.NET

July 21, 2011

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS & EMAIL [REDACTED]

Citizens Redistricting Commission

[REDACTED]
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: San Jose Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT)
Community Written Public Comment on the Proposed July 18,
2011 Senate & Assembly District Maps for Northern
California.**

Dear Commissioners:

The Citizens Redistricting Commission has recognized the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community as a "Community of Interest", but it is still splitting that community up in San Jose, California.

The working maps released July 18, 2011 for the FREOAK/SJOSE State Senate Districts and the new working maps released July 16 & July 18, 2011 for the SANJO/SILIV Assembly Districts are moving in the direction of **discrimination** against the LGBT community, and the Commission needs to be aware of this.

We sincerely hope this division of the LGBT community in San Jose is corrected, and the disenfranchisement of a protected class of citizens is stopped.

EQUAL PROTECTION

This is an issue of equal protection under the law for the San Jose LGBT community. We are a small population that faces discrimination, bullying, intolerance and hate, where astonishingly the courts have held that in the realm of legislation and public initiatives that the LGBT minority must convince the straight majority to preserve its civil rights.

Unless the San Jose LGBT Community of Interest is kept together in one State Assembly District and one State Senate District, it will be disempowered. No other Community of Interest in San Jose with its gigantic Hispanic/Latino, white and Asian Pacific Islander populations are placed in such a severe underdog position. The fight for LGBT civil rights is the single most important and historically significant fight of this time, and how the Citizens Redistricting Commission will be remembered is up to you.

Founded in 1984 by
WIGGSY SIVERTSEN
KEN YEAGER

A Non-Partisan Political
Action Committee
FPPC ID: 841499

[REDACTED] San Jose, CA 95150-6296 • [REDACTED]

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On behalf of the LGBT community in San Jose, BAYMEC respectfully requests a shift in the proposed SJOSE State Senate District lines and the SANJO Assembly District lines to protect the San Jose LGBT Community of Interest. (Note: The blue areas in all diagrams below are LGBT areas previously identified by Equality California with Redistricting Partners, utilizing methodology reviewed by the Williams Institute and university researchers from USC and CSU.)

Protection of San Jose LGBT Community in State Senate District Maps

The proposed State Senate Districts split the San Jose LGBT community in to two in an abuse of discretion. BAYMEC proposes that the entire San Jose LGBT community be kept in the SJOSE State Senate District by shifting the proposed border near Highway 101 and CA 87 northwest to the intersection of Highway 101 and Lafayette Street. (See Diagram 1 below.)

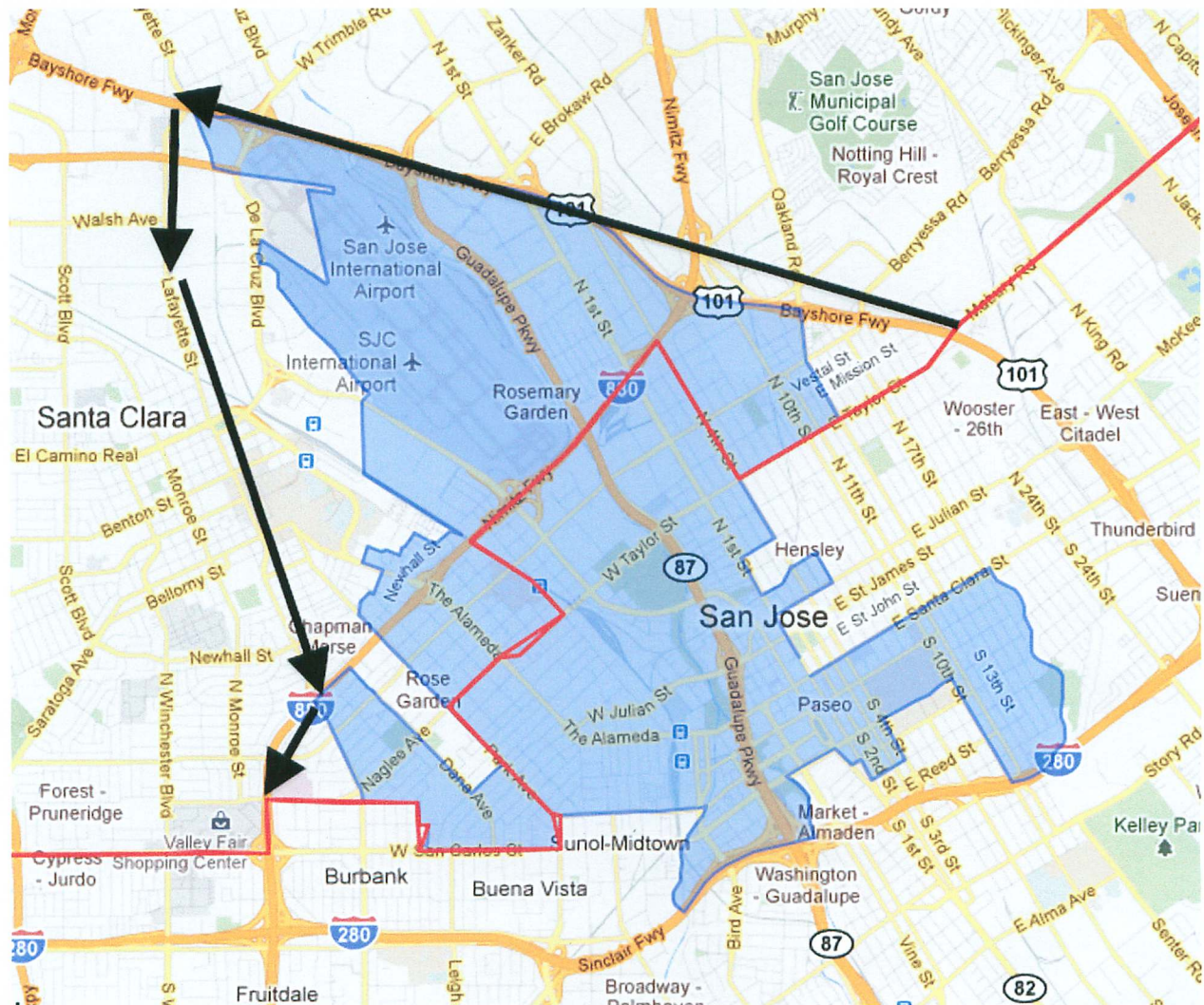


Diagram 1

Protection of San Jose LGBT Community in State Assembly District Maps

BAYMEC's position remains the same as in its letter dated July 17, 2011. To correct the disenfranchised Newhall-Sherwood and Rosegarden communities, BAYMEC requests that the northwestern boundary of the SANJO Assembly District shift southwest to include the major corner of W. San Carlos Street and N. Bascom Avenue. (See Diagram 2A below.)

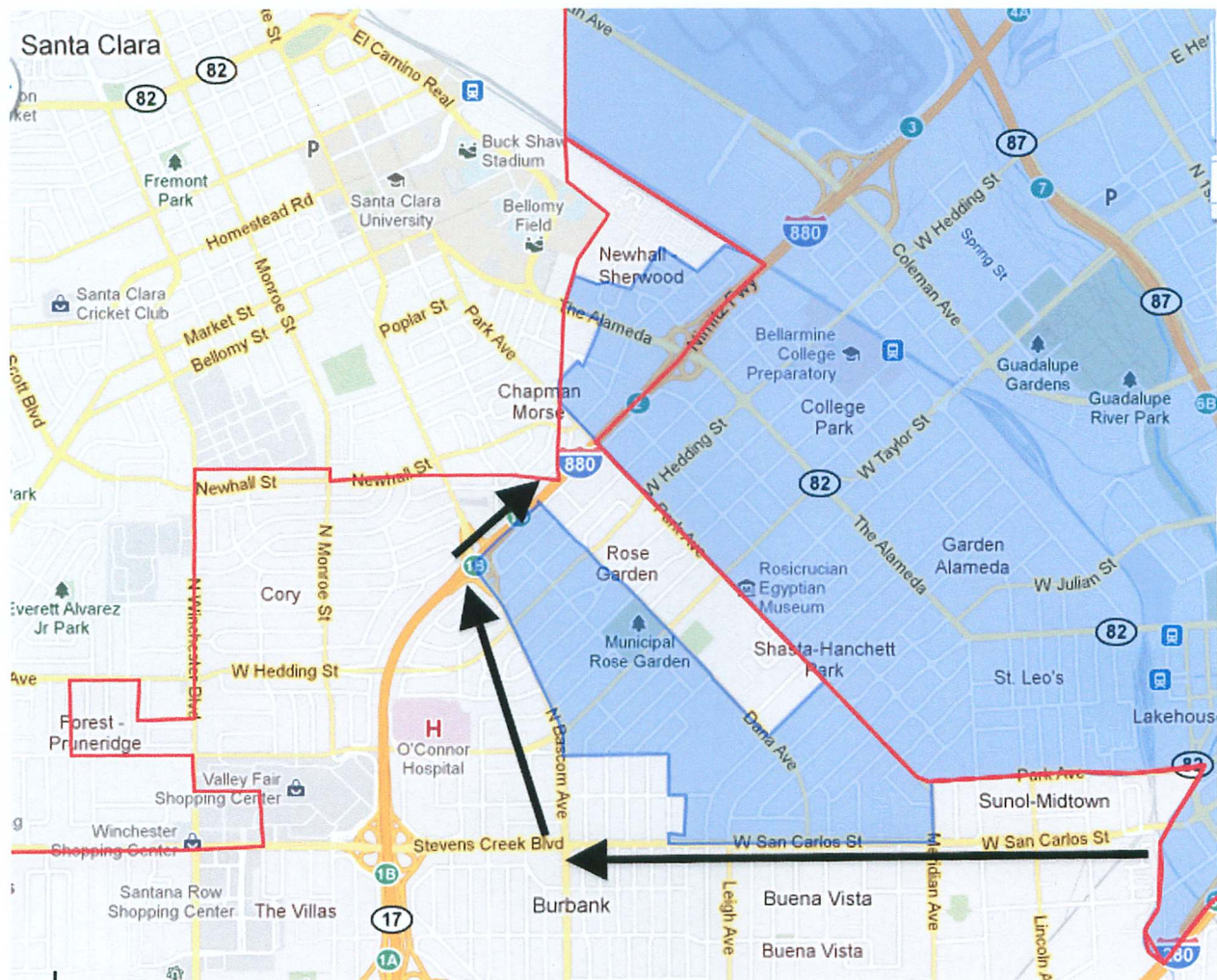


Diagram 2A

In the alternative, BAYMEC proposes a simpler line change for the proposed SANJO Assembly District. The southwestern boundary for the proposed SANJO Assembly District could follow W. San Carlos Street / Stevens Creek Blvd to the Valley Fair Shopping Center. (See Diagram 2B on the next page.)

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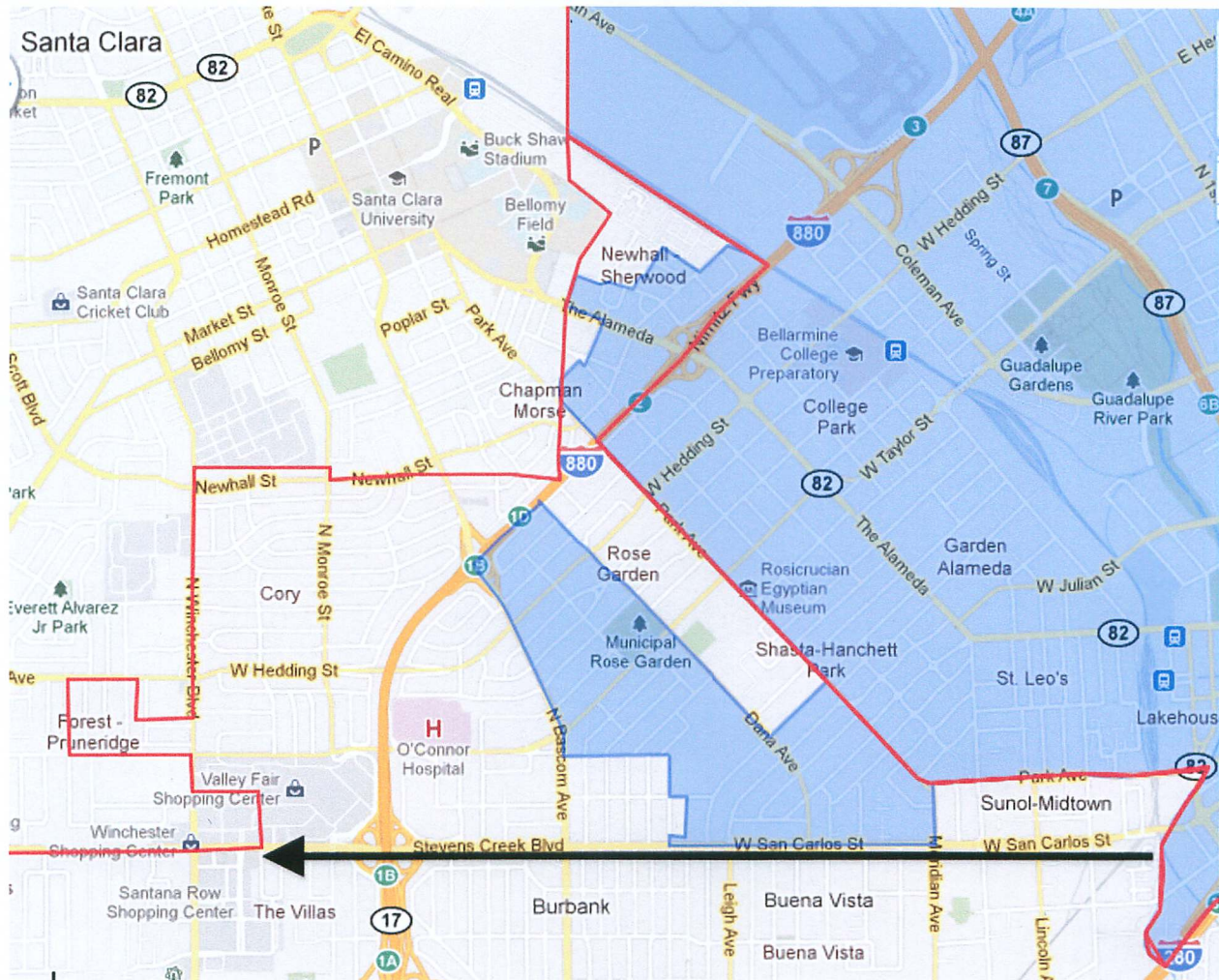


Diagram 2B

SUMMARY

We hope the Commission will understand the gravity of our situation, and how the San Jose LGBT Community is in danger. Without keeping the LGBT high concentrations areas in one political district, its voice will be diluted or deemed politically insignificant. Please enact our proposals above. Thank you for all of the work you have done thus far, and for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Thanh Ngo

Thanh Ngo, President
BAYMEC

cc: Dennis W. Chiu, Esq.
Equality California