

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

COI INPUT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Transcription By:

eScribers, LLC



APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Trena Turner, Chair
Angela Vazquez, Vice Chair
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Isra Ahmad, Commissioner
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Alicia Fernandez, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Kennedy, Commissioner
Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Derric Taylor, Commissioner
Pedro Toledo, Commissioner
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner
Russell Yee, Commissioner

STAFF

Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator
Katy Manoff, Comment Moderator

Also PresentPublic Comment

Ken Vogel, Retired San Joaquin County Supervisor
Marla Livengood, Senior Policy Advisor
Jack Connell, Kern County Community College District
Tim Smith, Executive Director, Ridgecrest Chamber of
Commerce
David Bratlan, Retired U.S. Air Force
Reverend Dwight Williams
Dave Ostash, Superintendent, Sierra Sands Unified School
District
Jed McLaughlin, Ridgecrest Chief of Police
Speaker 9
Betty Wilson, Executive Director, San Joaquin Business
Council
Jeremy Woods, Professor, Cal State Bakersfield
Nick Hill, President, Kern County Black Chamber of
Commerce
Chip Holloway, CEO, Desert Empire Fairgrounds
Rick Keyes
Kyle Blades, Ridgecrest City Council
Alexia Svejda, President, California City Chamber of
Commerce



Dana Chaffey, CARE Sacramento
Sukaina Hussain, Deputy Executive Director, CAIR
California
Robin Miquel
Tammy Vang, Hmong Innovating Politics
Speaker 21
Kristen Nimmers, Black Census & Redistricting Hub
Marcus Fair
Norman Alexander, President, Ridgecrest Area Association
of Realtors
Speaker 25
Debbie Darden, Chair, Golden West Side Planning Committee
Jaskeet Kaur, Jakara Movement
June Lim, Asian-Americans Advancing Justice, L.A.
Kimberly McCoy, Project Director, Fresno Building Healthy
Communities
Bernie Mondragon, Ridgecrest City Planning Commissioner
Speaker 31
Dr. Eve Castellanos, Sanger City Council
Speaker 33
Ariana Aliya
Samuel Molina
Speaker 36
Naindeep Singh, Executive Director, Jakara Movement
Speaker 38
Gloria Cardenas, CHIRLA
Gina Zanicchi
Alondra Williams-Vasquez, Regional Manager, Community
Vision Capital and Consulting
William Cruz
Amy Fuentes
Eric Payne, Director, Central Valley Urban Institute
Rey Leon, Huron City Mayor
Speaker 47
Carol Watkins



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P R O C E E D I N G S

3:00 p.m.

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2
3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Good afternoon,
4 California. Welcome. And thank you for tuning in to the
5 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities
6 of Interest Input Meeting. I'm Commissioner Turner and I
7 will be co-chairing today's meeting with Commissioner
8 Vazquez. Today, we are offering one language line in the
9 following language, Spanish. So language speakers can
10 listen to the meeting in their native language.

11 Can I please have our interpreter Johanna, provide
12 our call-in numbers? Can I have the Spanish interpreter
13 read the Spanish language line instructions, please?

14 INTERPRETER: So Commissioner, this is Margarita,
15 Spanish interpreter. I welcome the language line
16 instructions in Spanish.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful.

18 INTERPRETER: [In Spanish]. Thank you.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Margarita. Thank you.
20 And at this point, before we begin, I'm going to go
21 actually to Ravi for roll call. So Mr. Singh, if you
22 take roll call, please.

23 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez?

24 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Here.

25 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee?



1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?

3 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

6 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

8 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez?

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Presente.

10 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

12 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

15 Commissioner Sadhwani

16 MR. SINGH: Commissioners Sinay?

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

18 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo?

19 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

20 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I am here.

22 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Turner?

23 CHAIR TURNER: Here.

24 MR. SINGH: Roll call is complete, Chair.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Andersen is
2 here.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Anderson.
4 You're here, yes. Beautiful.

5 And thank you, Ravi.

6 So before we begin, we want to acknowledge all those
7 who are being impacted by the Caldor Dixie Monument and
8 McFarland fires and all the other wildfires that are
9 burning right now in California. Please know that we are
10 thinking of you, of your families, and your communities.

11 We understand that you may or may not be able to
12 participate today, but we encourage you to do so later.
13 Your voice and the voice of all Californians, they're
14 important to ensure fair and representative maps.

15 So I'll start by sharing a little bit about the
16 Commission. Every ten years after the federal government
17 publishes updated census information, California must
18 redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State,
19 Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization
20 districts so that the districts correctly reflect the
21 state's population.

22 In 2008, California voters authorized the creation
23 of the Commission when they passed the Voter's FIRST Act.
24 It authorized the Commission to draw the new district
25 lines for State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board



1 of Equalization districts.

2 In 2010, the Congressional Voter's FIRST Act added
3 the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to
4 the Commission. The fourteen-member Commission were made
5 up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and four not
6 affiliated with either of those two parties.

7 The Commission must draw the District lines in
8 conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to
9 create districts of relatively equal population that will
10 provide fair representation for all Californians. The
11 Census redistricting data was released the week of August
12 9th.

13 When the official California redistricting database
14 is available in late September, the Commission begins
15 drawing maps using six-line drawing criteria as outlined
16 in the California Constitution. One of these is
17 minimizing the division of cities, counties,
18 neighborhoods and communities of interest to the extent
19 possible.

20 Now, we can obtain the city and county information
21 from those jurisdictions, but we need the neighborhood
22 and communities of interest information from Californians
23 directly. That's why we have launched these communities
24 of interest input sessions to get that valuable
25 information directly from you.



1 We encourage all Californians to participate in this
2 process. Now, if you'd rather submit your community of
3 interest input over the internet, you can do so from our
4 website or by visiting drawmycaliforniacommunity.org.
5 That's drawmycacommunity.org. Skip the line, go online.

6 Now, I'm going to call on all commissioners to
7 introduce themselves and to say hello. We're a lively
8 bunch full of fun. And so I know you'll want to hear
9 from each and every one of them. So to see the
10 biographies for all fourteen commissioners, for
11 additional information, or to sign up for our emails,
12 just visit our website at wedrawthelines.ca.org.

13 We're going to start today with my co-chair, the
14 lovely and talented Ms. Commissioner Vazquez. Please.

15 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Good afternoon, California and
16 especially the Central Valley. So excited to hear your
17 community input today. I'm coming to you from Los
18 Angeles, California.

19 I was born and raised in San Bernardino County and
20 my father's family hails from the Central Valley,
21 Shafter, California, to be specific. So I have ties all
22 across Southern Cal, Southern and Central California.
23 Very much looking forward to hearing, hearing from you
24 all today. Thank you.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Commissioner Ahmad?



1 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. And welcome,
2 everyone to another exciting community of interest input
3 meeting. I look forward to hearing from you all in the
4 Central Valley and surrounding areas and anyone else
5 across California who may want to call in.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

7 Commissioner Akutagawa?

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hi, everyone and welcome.
9 I do have to say that I enjoy hearing everyone's inputs.
10 We're looking forward to hearing what everyone in the
11 Central Valley is going to be sharing with us. Each time
12 we have a meeting, it's something different.

13 And for me, coming from Southern California,
14 specifically Orange County, it is something that is
15 enjoyable to hear and really helping, I think, all of us
16 to really understand better our fellow Californians. So
17 we look forward to hearing from you all.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you.

19 Commissioner Andersen?

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Afternoon California, and
21 specifically to all those people will be calling in today
22 from the Central Valley. And I'm coming to you from
23 Berkeley, California, a little east and north of you --
24 of some of you. And I'm really looking forward to
25 hearing about your communities and what makes them very



1 special. And of course, any other Californians who are
2 calling in today, not from the area. Thank you.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

4 Commissioner Fernandez?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: [In Spanish]. Good
6 afternoon, California. I'm Alicia Fernandez from YOLO
7 County, north of Central Valley. I'm very excited to
8 continue to hear about all your communities.

9 And I'm thinking my community is probably very
10 similar to quite a few of the communities in Central
11 Valley. So thank you for participating. And if you're
12 just listening in, we're hoping you'll be motivated to
13 call in.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you.

15 Commissioner Fornaciari?

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good afternoon, California
17 and the San Joaquin Valley. Welcome. Thanks for joining
18 us. I've got a beautiful picture back here of the
19 Central Valley where I live in Tracy, up in San Joaquin
20 County. Looking forward to hearing what's important to
21 you all. And thank you for joining us.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, my fellow San Joaquin
23 Central Valley Commissioner.

24 Let's see, Commissioner Kennedy?

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Good



1 afternoon, everyone. I'm joining today's meeting from my
2 home in Morongo Valley, which is a Joshua Tree Gateway
3 community in the desert of southern San Bernardino
4 County. Before that, I lived for 15 years in Palm
5 Springs. I'm very much looking forward to hearing what
6 makes your community special to you. So thank you again.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you, Commissioner
8 Kennedy.

9 Commissioner Le Mons?

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Good afternoon, California.
11 I'm Commissioner Le Mons, and I'm coming to you from
12 Southern California. And I'm looking forward to hearing
13 from you about your communities of interest.

14 As I've been saying, this has been a really
15 wonderful experience hearing from the various communities
16 across the state. And I remain excited to hear the new
17 information that we get each day. So thank you so much.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you.

19 Commissioner Sadhwani?

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Chair.

21 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Sara Sadhwani.
22 I am joining you today from Los Angeles County. While I
23 have never lived in the Central Valley, I've always felt
24 an affinity for it. I'm actually from a rural area
25 originally where I grew up in western New York State, so



1 of course somewhat different. But looking forward to
2 hearing more about your communities of interest today.
3 Thanks so much.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.
5 Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias, Chair.

7 [In Spanish]. Hello, everybody. Thank you for
8 participating today. We're really excited to hear
9 everything you have to share with us today. I serve you
10 from San Diego.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.
12 Commissioner Taylor?

13 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good afternoon, California.

14 Excuse me as I tried to save bandwidth when I am not
15 speaking, I look forward to everyone's public input.
16 It's needed. It's important. I join you today from L.A.
17 County, from The City of Altadena, unincorporated
18 Altadena, at the foothills of the San Gabriel Valley. So
19 I look forward to your testimony. And thank you very
20 much.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.
22 Commissioner Toledo?

23 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair.

24 My name is Pedro Toledo, and I'm coming to you from
25 Petaluma, California, in Sonoma County, up in the wine



1 country. I'm looking forward to hearing all about your
2 communities of interest and what makes you unique. I'm
3 hoping to have a wonderful afternoon and evening with you
4 learning all about your individual diverse communities.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you.

7 Commissioner Yee?

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair.

9 I am Russell Yee. I am here in my hometown of
10 Oakland, California. Looking forward to hearing from the
11 Central Valley and other parts of the state. I once had
12 a roommate whose family they were wheat farmers in
13 Kansas --

14 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- and he told me about traveling
16 through the California's Central Valley one time, and it
17 just blew his mind. He said it was like a gigantic
18 vegetable patch, which it is. You guys feed the state,
19 and the nation, and in the world. And so I'm sure I've
20 eaten a lot of your produce.

21 I know at the same time, you're undergoing your
22 share of our water crisis. And I'm sure that's on your
23 mind. So I'd love to hear about your concerns about that
24 or anything else about your communities of interest
25 today.



1 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

2 And myself. I'm Commissioner Trena Turner, and I am
3 coming to you from my home in Stockton. I am a -- not a
4 native, but I've been a transplant from the Bay Area.
5 But I've been in the Central Valley now for twenty-six
6 years. So I do claim it as my home.

7 And I just absolutely love the somewhat quaint
8 Central Valley. And I am super stoked when I saw all of
9 the names that have signed up to participate and share
10 your communities of interest with us. I can't wait to
11 hear. So no matter where you're calling in from today.
12 We're like tuned in, ready to hear you describe what's
13 important for you.

14 So with that, I just want to tell you a couple of
15 more things before we get started. I do want you to know
16 that we are active on social media. So even as you're
17 listening in, please share on social media. And please
18 also follow the California Citizens Redistricting
19 Commission on Social Media.

20 You can find us on Facebook, on Instagram, Twitter,
21 LinkedIn, and YouTube at Wedrawthelinesca.
22 Wedrawthelinesca, for California. And then following us
23 on social media. It's another way to get useful
24 information about redistricting and updates from the
25 California Commission.



1 So before we continue, can I please have our
2 interpreters provide our language line numbers one more
3 time as we get ready to roll here? Can I have the
4 Spanish interpreter read the Spanish language line
5 instructions, please.

6 INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair. This is Margarita, the
7 Spanish interpreter. I will read the Spanish language,
8 my instruction. [In Spanish]. Thank you.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Now, this meeting, it's
10 primarily for communities of interest testimony that's
11 focused on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San
12 Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare Counties -- and Tulare
13 Counties and also surrounding areas. However, if anyone,
14 anyone can call in to provide input, don't just have to
15 be from those areas.

16 Now, general public comment will take place at the
17 end of this meeting. Although the Commission has divided
18 up California into eleven zones and we're focused on this
19 zone right now, we want you to know that in no way is
20 this related to or reflective of redistricting lines or
21 boundaries. The Commission created the zones to assist
22 commissioners and staff in their outreach efforts only
23 not as an indication of planned boundaries.

24 Today, we're also joined by our line drawing team,
25 HaystaqDNA and Q2 Data and Research LLC, who will be



1 displaying a map of the area that attendees describe. So
2 when you call in, please start with the area you would
3 like to discuss and be as specific as possible. Be as
4 specific as possible about the boundaries of where your
5 community is located.

6 It is our goal to find the area on the map you'd
7 like to discuss prior to your testimony. So if you are
8 within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please
9 mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your
10 area, your time will begin.

11 Attendees will not be able to share their screen.
12 We got you. We are also joined by Spanish interpreters
13 and Katy, our comment moderator, who will be introducing
14 attendees when it's their turn to speak.

15 So when you join the meeting, please use the raise
16 hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the
17 queue. If you have registered for a time slot, we
18 encourage you to call in during your appointment time
19 slot.

20 When it's your turn to speak, Katy, our comment
21 moderator, will be identifying you by your assigned
22 unique ID number. You will then be reconnected to the
23 session with the ability to enable your own video and/or
24 audio. We'd love to be able to see your video when you
25 can.



1 Registrations are not required to participate in
2 this public input meeting. The public has the option of
3 calling in during this meeting to get in the queue to
4 speak. Now, if you do not have an appointment and you
5 wish to call in to provide public input, the number is
6 877-853-5247. Again, the number to provide input is 877-
7 853-5247.

8 You will need to enter meeting ID 88913953415.
9 Meeting ID 88913953415. This call information -- call in
10 information and access code is also listed on the
11 livestream. You'll need to dial this number in order to
12 give public input.

13 So today there will be Spanish interpreters
14 available to interpret non-English input at this call-in
15 number. The comment moderator will assign you a Speaker
16 order number before you begin speaking, and please make a
17 note of this for future reference. You'll be able to use
18 this number to identify your community of interest
19 testimony on our website at a future date.

20 So the Commission today will be enforcing a three-
21 minute time limit for English speakers and a six-minute
22 time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be
23 a warning and thirty seconds and at fifteen seconds
24 remaining. But please know at three minutes you will be
25 cut off at that time. So be aware.



1 At the beginning of your input, you're going to see
2 a map on the screen. Please remind the mapper what area
3 you'd like to see on the screen and be specific as
4 possible about those boundaries of where your community
5 is located.

6 Now, if at the conclusion of the meeting, there's
7 still a need to allow for members of the public in the
8 queue to speak, we're going to continue this community of
9 interest input meeting at a new date. If we just run out
10 of time, we'll continue at a new date and time and we'll
11 attempt to schedule a meeting of the members of the
12 public for the allotted three minutes.

13 Now, please monitor the website as we expect to post
14 a continuation of this agenda within twenty-four hours
15 should we need to? I want to just switch a little bit
16 and talk a bit about the communities of interest tool.
17 While there are no clear rules on how to define a
18 community of interest, we've identified some ways for you
19 to describe your community.

20 So like I've said, begin with your county or city.
21 Mention the street names and significant locations in
22 your neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of
23 your community. What are your shared interests? What
24 brings you together? What is important to your
25 community?



1 Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district
2 with? Are there nearby areas you don't want to be in a
3 district with? Why or why not? And has your community
4 come together to advocate for important services, better
5 schools, roads or health centers in your neighborhood?

6 Also, we invite you to use the communities of
7 interest tool to draw a map and describe your community
8 by visiting drawmycacommunity.org. This website is
9 available in sixteen languages. And as we said, skip the
10 line, go online. Submit your C-O-I input today and
11 please encourage at least three other people to do the
12 same.

13 So as a reminder, even though we're focusing on
14 those counties, we talk about Californians from anywhere
15 in The State are welcome to provide input. So we're
16 going to now begin public input sessions. And we're
17 going to start with The People who are registered and
18 then open the phonedlines if there's time before the next
19 session.

20 So if you're calling without an appointment, please
21 don't hang up as you will lose your place in line if you
22 hang up. So I'm going to pass this over now to Katy, our
23 common moderator. But right before I do, I just want to
24 say again, as you're describing, when you use north,
25 south, east, west, north to where? Remember to give



1 those boundary names to the best extent possible. Okay?
2 So we're going to go to Katie. But right now, let's see.
3 Yeah, I think we're ready, Katy. I think I've gotten
4 through all of our instructions. So are you ready, Ms.
5 Katy?

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I am, Chair.

7 CHAIR TURNER: All right.

8 Welcome to the public input session. Please use the
9 raise hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter
10 the queue. When is your turn to speak, I will identify
11 you by the assigned unique ID number from your invite.
12 You will be reconnected to the session with the ability
13 to enable your own video and/or audio.

14 You will then be assigned a speaker order number
15 before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your
16 Speaker Order number for future reference. The
17 Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit
18 for those with -- for English speakers and a six-minute
19 time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be
20 a warning at thirty seconds and fifteen seconds
21 remaining.

22 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on the
23 map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
24 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large
25 city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to



1 locate your area, your three or six-minute testimony will
2 begin. Attendees will not be able to share their screen.

3 At the end of your public input or at the end of
4 your time, you will be reconnected in a listen and view
5 only mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind
6 the member of what area you would like to see on the
7 screen.

8 At this time, we will have 002. And then up next
9 will be 007. 002, I will be promoting you now. 002,
10 your speaker order is number 1. If you'll please note
11 that for future reference. And if you will, please let
12 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
13 floor is yours.

14 MR. VOGEL: Yes, I would like to discuss San Joaquin
15 County.

16 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

17 MR. VOGEL: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon. And
18 thank you for the opportunity to again address this
19 Commission in regards to San Joaquin County. My name is
20 Ken Vogel, a retired San Joaquin County supervisor and a
21 director of The County Farm Bureau.

22 In my presentation on the fourth, I pointed out the
23 unifying base of agriculture for our county and our
24 economy. The almost \$6 billion ag economy includes many
25 ag related industries, not just the raw products of up to



1 200 different crops produced here. A vital part of our
2 agricultural economy I didn't mention before, is our
3 local banks. One of these banks alone does some \$200
4 million of business in agriculture per year.

5 Also, our local educational entities, San Joaquin
6 Delta College and the San Joaquin County schools offer
7 agriculture facilities and programs to support
8 agriculture. I say all of this to again emphasize the
9 unifying basis for San Joaquin County.

10 A recent survey done by the county has reinforced
11 this view as a two top areas of concern were preserving
12 and enhancing agriculture and the issues about water we
13 depend upon so much. All of this leads again to our hope
14 that our requests for our unique county be seriously
15 considered.

16 The census numbers recently released give us the
17 population to be included in one Congressional District
18 and one State Senate District. This would be basically
19 the fifth Senate District as now constituted. We also
20 believe that the county can be basically nested in two
21 assembly districts within that state Senate districts.

22 When such districts are created, we are of course
23 hopeful that as much of our agricultural economy and our
24 cultural and ethnic balance can be unified and
25 represented. Thank you again for your consideration.



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 Right now we will have 007. And then, up next will
3 be 014.

4 007, I will be promoting you now. 007, your speaker
5 order number is number 2. If you will, please make note
6 of that for future reference. And if you will, please
7 let the mapper know what area would like to discuss, the
8 floor is yours.

9 S1: Hi. I'd also like to discuss San Joaquin
10 County.

11 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

12 S1: Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to
13 share additional comments on my community of interest San
14 Joaquin County. My name is Marla Livengood, and I had
15 the opportunity to comment before the Commission in July.

16 When I commented, I commended the commissioners from
17 2010 on their work uniting San Joaquin Valley four
18 communities through Senate District 5. Senate District 5
19 District is located at the northernmost point of the San
20 Joaquin Valley.

21 All parts of the District are free from geographical
22 barriers such as the Altamont to the West and the Sierras
23 to the east. The District encompasses all of San Joaquin
24 County, and it includes portions of Stanislaus for
25 population equity.



1 These two counties both have shared demographics and
2 shared interest in the success of agriculture,
3 transportation, warehousing and affordable, livable
4 communities. It's important to point out that these
5 shared interests are not found with our other neighboring
6 counties.

7 I ask that the Commission build on the example of SD
8 5 enabling San Joaquin County residents to be represented
9 with one Congressional District encompassing nearly all
10 of San Joaquin County, one state Senate district that
11 maintains SD 5, which, again, encompasses all of San
12 Joaquin County and portions of Stanislaus, and two
13 Assembly Districts nested within the Senate district.

14 Supporting this request is recent census data, which
15 shows San Joaquin County's population has grown to
16 779,000. That said, our population supports the model of
17 SD 5, and it supports one Congressional District as well
18 as the two Assembly districts.

19 Also supporting this request are the responses of
20 community members who took part of a recent San Joaquin
21 County redistricting opinion survey. The majority of the
22 respondents wanted to see San Joaquin County represented
23 by one single Congressional District. A majority of the
24 respondents also wanted to see SD 5 remain the same. And
25 a majority wanted to see Assembly Districts solely



1 represented by San Joaquin County -- or within San
2 Joaquin County.

3 In addition, looking at issues of importance, the
4 survey revealed protecting the delta and water quality
5 issues and agriculture are among the most critical issues
6 amongst all San Joaquin County communities.

7 Again, thank you for the opportunity to share my
8 comments and for your work on redistricting. It's much
9 appreciated.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

12 Right now, we 1014. And then up next, after that,
13 we'll be 013.

14 014, I will be promoting you now. Oh, there, there.
15 014, your speaker order number will be number 3. If
16 you'll please make note of that for future reference.
17 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower left
18 corner of your screen. If you will, please let the
19 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
20 floor is yours.

21 MR. CONNELL: Thank you. I enabled the video and
22 audio both. For the mapper, could I ask that he or she
23 draw a little oval around the area around Bakersfield,
24 Kern County. It's in the northeast. There we go.

25 The areas I would like to look at in sort of a



1 boomerang is Bakersfield, about forty-five -- also about
2 forty-five miles north is Porterville. And about seventy
3 miles east is Ridgecrest. If you could back out a little
4 and circle those three together, I would appreciate it.

5 MR. MANOFF: Go ahead, please.

6 MR. CONNELL: I think we all have the right -- same
7 idea there. Chairman Turner -- Chairman Turner and
8 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak
9 today. My name is Jack Connell C-O-N-N-E-L-L. I live in
10 the Kern River Valley in the northeast corner of Kern
11 County, and I lived there for forty years.

12 I am a trustee of the Kern County Community College
13 district. And I'm here to speak about the effect that
14 redistricting could have upon the District and its
15 colleges.

16 The District predominantly located in Kern County in
17 the 23rd Congressional District, has three colleges:
18 Bakersfield College, Porterville College, and Cerro Coso
19 College, located in Ridgecrest, and educating up to
20 42,000 students prior to the ongoing pandemic.

21 Additionally, each college has a number of satellite
22 campuses, including Delano, Southwest Bakersfield,
23 Tehachapi, California City, Kern River Valley, and other
24 remote sites broadly spread out over the District.

25 What I am addressing today and pointed out on the



1 map is the core of the District and the three colleges
2 together located in Porterville, Bakersfield, in
3 Ridgecrest. Since the District and the colleges came
4 together almost fifty years ago, they have bound
5 themselves together, relied upon each other, and strongly
6 relied upon and benefited from Kern County.

7 The District and the colleges also benefit from
8 federal support in educational policies, grant funding,
9 and recent earthquake recovery in Kern County, rebuilding
10 the Lake Isabella Dam, and other federally appropriate
11 support.

12 I believe it would be detrimental to the Kern County
13 Community College district and the individual colleges
14 with the college district to be divided among the
15 different congressional districts. It is important to us
16 that the college district and its colleges remain within
17 the same Congressional District.

18 Dividing the core of the college district and their
19 colleges among two or more Congressional Districts would
20 have the effect of increasing the workload of the overall
21 college district and slowing and complicating the efforts
22 of each of the colleges regarding federal matters.

23 But overall, redistricting is a difficult and
24 challenging necessity. I urge you to keep the core of
25 the Kern County Community College district and all --



1 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

2 MR. CONNELL: -- three colleges: Bakersfield,
3 Porterville, and Cerro Coso in Ridgecrest, in a single
4 Congressional District. Keeping the colleges together in
5 the same Congressional District with all the communities
6 they serve will eliminate additional work, confusion --

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MR. CONNELL: -- and frustration to the District in
9 each of the colleges over the next ten years. Again,
10 thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this
11 important matter.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Connell.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 Right now we have 013. And then, up next will be
15 021.

16 013, I will be promoting you now. 013, your speaker
17 order number is number 4. If you will, please make note
18 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
19 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
20 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
21 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

22 Uh-oh. We cannot hear you, sir. And you are not on
23 mute. If you can check your audio settings, see if your
24 microphone is set to your -- no. Try another one. Click
25 them all.



1 MR. SMITH: And how about --

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And there you are. There
3 we go.

4 MR. SMITH: Sorry about that, everyone.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's all good.

6 Today we get to talking about the Congressional
7 District 23, Kern County and Ridgecrest, including the
8 Navy base at China Lake.

9 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

10 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Commissioners. And
11 thank you for the opportunity to share today. My name is
12 Tim Smith. I'm a resident of the city of Ridgecrest and
13 Kern County. And I am the executive director of the
14 Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce.

15 Today, I am calling to request that Ridgecrest
16 remain with the current Congressional District lines, as
17 it has been since 2011. Ridgecrest is a remote and rural
18 desert community located on the eastern side of the
19 Sierras. It is the only incorporated town within the
20 valley and is adjacent to China Lake Naval Air Weapons
21 Station, which accounts for an approximate eighty-six
22 percent of our local economy.

23 As a remote and rural community, we are dependent on
24 our close ties and public services, business, labor,
25 economics, health care, education, public safety and



1 recreation with the rest of Kern County.

2 From earthquakes to pandemics, our county has
3 supported our rural communities. The two major
4 earthquakes in July 2019 vividly demonstrated the
5 interdependence and relationship shared across Kern
6 County and the critical importance of maintaining our
7 23rd district and county lines as it pertains to disaster
8 recovery resources.

9 The earthquakes proved how Ridgecrest and our Valley
10 rely on the emergency resources and services from Kern
11 County Fire Department, search and rescue teams and
12 sheriff's department.

13 In addition, as we see the state fire season change,
14 we know how important it is that The City of Ridgecrest
15 and IWV airport district contract with Kern County Fire
16 Department for year-round fire protection services.

17 COVID has been difficult on all of us, but our small
18 businesses benefited from the current recovers PPP
19 grants. Our community, our base and our small businesses
20 are stronger because of our county's interconnectedness.
21 As it pertains to our neighboring counties and districts.

22 We have no commonalities with the urban centers
23 found in L.A. and San Bernardino counties. I, like many
24 of the people who live and work in the rural areas of
25 eastern Kern, move here to get away from urban



1 overcrowding, hectic lifestyles, and to enjoy the wide-
2 open spaces.

3 As I stated previously, the Naval Air Warfare Center
4 at China Lake accounts for a significant portion of our
5 local economy and has a unique mission along with Edwards
6 Air Force Base. The two military bases share the common
7 mission of Aerospace Defense Research --

8 MR. MANOFF: Thirty-seconds.

9 MR. SMITH: -- development and testing, which
10 require unique knowledge and understanding.

11 Our residents and local businesses benefit from the
12 relationships that have been forged within our county.

13 And so we request that we remain within --

14 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

15 MR. SMITH: -- Kern County, state and federal
16 district lines. Thank you.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

19 Right now we have 021. And then up next after that,
20 will be 003.

21 021, I will be promoting you now. 021, your speaker
22 order number is number 5. If you will, please make note
23 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
24 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
25 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would



1 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

2 MR. BRATLAN: Thank you so much. My area of
3 interest is California City in Kern County, the eastern
4 side. And we are currently part of the Congressional
5 District 23.

6 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is David
7 Bratlan (phonetic). I'm a thirty-two-year resident of
8 California City and Kern County. I'm a retired U.S. Air
9 Force and also retired from my second career as a systems
10 engineer working at flight testing at Edwards Air Force
11 Base.

12 California City is a rural high district -- the high
13 desert community located on the eastern side of Kern
14 County. And geographically, we're the third largest city
15 in California. It is within close proximity of Edwards
16 Air Force Base, Mojave Air and Space Port, and the Naval
17 Warfare Center at China Lake.

18 I would describe California City as a bedroom
19 community of approximately 14,000 residents, and the
20 majority of our working residents work outside the
21 community at various aerospace facilities.

22 I have two points to make. First, California City
23 has a lot in common with the other communities in the
24 rural high desert east southern Sierra region. And being
25 a part of Kern County is more -- a more reflective



1 relationship than being part of the Los Angeles area or
2 even San Bernardino area.

3 Kern County as a whole is almost completely rural
4 and understands and works closely with all of the small
5 communities in our county. Having the rural east,
6 southern Sierra communities as part of Kern County is
7 just logical when it comes to representation.

8 Secondly, having worked in Flight Test for thirty-
9 two years in the region consisting of Edwards Air Force
10 Base, Mojave Air and Space Port, and the Naval Warfare
11 Center at China Lake, I have witnessed the symbiotic
12 relationship between all these locations based on a
13 common objectives of research, development, and testing.
14 Also, all of these entities are participating in Kern
15 County wide initiatives to support and grow the aerospace
16 sector.

17 To me, it is logical that all these entities require
18 a unique knowledge and understanding of those efforts in
19 order to provide proper representation at the federal
20 level. So those are my inputs, and thank you for the
21 opportunity to provide public input to the Commission.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Well, thank you.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
24 003. And then up next to be 023.

25 003, I will be promoting you now. 003, your speaker



1 order number would be number 6. If you will, please make
2 note of that for future reference. You can now enable
3 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
4 screen. If you will, please let the mapper know what
5 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I would like to discuss San
7 Joaquin County.

8 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Chairwoman Turner, and members of the
10 Commission, I am Reverend Dwight Williams, lifelong
11 resident of The City of Stockton and of course, of San
12 Joaquin County. I'm a local pastor and nonprofit
13 developer here in The City of Stockton.

14 I'm here to speak specifically on the issues of San
15 Joaquin County, specifically being an incredibly diverse
16 community. Stockton being, of course, our capital city
17 within the county, representing one of the most diverse
18 cities in America, but our county is an incredibly
19 diverse community with a strong agricultural base. It is
20 (indiscernible) and at its core.

21 We participated off in various discussions with a
22 number of stakeholders and across all ethnic lines the
23 overwhelming consensus of those stakeholders was the need
24 of keeping San Joaquin County whole and together.

25 The neighbors on the side of us in Contra Costa



1 County, which would more or less make up the District of
2 CD 9 a significantly different set of view than is of
3 within an area in San Joaquin County. Contra Costa is
4 significantly different. It has more of a Bay Area based
5 route element to it, and thereby it does not really fit
6 the conditions that fits here within San Joaquin County.

7 San Joaquin County, by and large in and of itself
8 has a tremendous amount of diversity, agriculture, and
9 business which is contiguous with counties like
10 Stanislaus County.

11 So I am encouraging this Commission to keep San
12 Joaquin County whole and also to use the maps of SD 5
13 specifically to keep those boundary maps contiguous with
14 one Congressional representative on the federal level and
15 no more than two Assembly representatives contiguous
16 within Senate District 5.

17 We feel like that is more contiguous with the
18 agricultural rural-based nature and the light urban mix
19 that fits off within the valley -- the Central Valley
20 particularly well. Contra Costa is more urban and more
21 of a higher, faster pace, if you will.

22 So I encourage this Commission to keep this whole.
23 And I want to thank this commission and all the work that
24 you do.

25 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.



1 MR. WILLIAMS: -- to hear the voices of the people.

2 Thank each and every one of you.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Reverend Williams.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we have 023.

5 And then, up next, will be 005.

6 023, I will be promoting you now. 023, your speaker
7 order number will be number 7. If you will, please make
8 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
9 let the mapper know where you would like to discuss, the
10 floor is yours.

11 MR. OSTASH: Hello. For the mapper, my area of
12 interest is current Congressional District 23 and Kern
13 County and Ridgecrest -- City of Ridgecrest, including
14 the Navy base at China Lake.

15 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

16 MR. OSTASH: Right there. Thank you. Good
17 afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Dave Ostash, and
18 I'm the superintendent of Sierra Sands Unified School
19 District. And I'm also a Ridgecrest and Kern County
20 resident for twenty-five years now.

21 Sierra Sands Unified School District serves over
22 5,000 students from transitional Kindergarten through
23 12th grade, as well as adult school. We serve students
24 all throughout the Indian Wells Valley and maintain a
25 fleet of district busses to transport students from a



1 wide and remote geographic area.

2 Sierra Sands actually unified back in the 1970(s),
3 combining four separate and disjointed districts into one
4 unified district. Incidentally, up until that point of
5 unification, one of the four districts serving this
6 eastern region of Kern County was the Kern Union High
7 School district going back to the 1940(s).

8 I mention that because this Eastern region in Kern
9 County has very deep roots with government and agency
10 integration within the Kern County existing federal
11 district lines.

12 Sierra Sands operates very successfully under a
13 comprehensive support structure provided by the Kern
14 County Superintendent of Schools. The Kern County
15 Superintendent of Schools Office offers two prominent
16 joint powers agreement organizations that we rely very
17 heavily upon: School Legal Services and Self-Insured
18 Schools of California.

19 When it comes to safety at all ten of our district
20 schools, we have long standing partnerships with the Kern
21 County Fire Department and Kern County Sheriff's
22 Department. In fact, one of our schools is not in the
23 city limit, and we are reliant upon the Kern County
24 Sheriff's Department for law enforcement response.

25 While we appreciate our local health providers in



1 Ridgecrest, our school district also enjoys long standing
2 partnerships with county led programs such as college,
3 community health services and various hard to find
4 services such as mental and behavioral services are
5 provided through those county resources.

6 Lastly, we do not have a four-year university within
7 the eastern region of Kern County, but we do have a
8 California community college. It was mentioned earlier.
9 Cerro Coso Community College is one of the colleges and
10 the current community college district, and it's located
11 right here in Ridgecrest.

12 We're extremely fortunate to have long standing
13 articulation agreements and pathway opportunities, such
14 as dual and concurrent enrollment programs that are
15 strongly supported by the Kern Community College district
16 and our students rely heavily upon.

17 In my twenty-five years of experience in the Sierra
18 Sands Unified School District. I have seen firsthand how
19 integrated our district is with agencies --

20 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. OSTASH: -- and services within Kern County.
22 Continued representation by our elected officials within
23 current district lines will be absolutely vital for the
24 continued success of our public school district, which
25 serves a very diverse student body over here on the



1 eastern side of town.

2 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

3 MR. OSTASH: Thank you so much for the opportunity
4 to provide public input to your Commission and for my
5 chance to share this important information for your
6 consideration. Thank you.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Ostash.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
9 005. And then, up next, after that will be 016.

10 005, I will be promoting you now. 005, your speaker
11 order number is number 8. If you will, please make note
12 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let
13 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. Thank you. The current area
16 of interest is current Congressional District 23, Kern
17 County and The City of Ridgecrest.

18 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. As you've heard
20 already, Ridgecrest is a remote and isolated high desert
21 community located east -- on the east side of Kern
22 County, adjacent to the Naval Weapons Center.

23 My name is Jed McLaughlin. I'm a Ridgecrest and
24 Kern County resident now for about twenty-seven years,
25 and I'm currently the chief of police for The City of



1 Ridgecrest.

2 As a remote and isolated community, we're dependent
3 on our close ties throughout the county. Kern County is
4 comprised of one major city and several rural cities.
5 And due to the geographical makeup of Kern County, we
6 share many of the same needs.

7 Our needs are different than L.A. or San Bernardino
8 Counties. It is important to maintain consistency in
9 Kern County representation at all levels of government to
10 better serve all of our citizens. Maintaining public
11 safety throughout Kern County is a priority which has
12 been validated by the citizens passing tax measures to
13 maintain police and fire services.

14 As a member of the current Chiefs Association, I
15 have built relationships with all the other public safety
16 alliances located in our county. As the local leaders
17 and public safety, we consistently meet to discuss how to
18 better serve the citizens in our communities. The
19 association has provided us opportunities to build
20 relationships with our elected state and federal
21 representatives.

22 In July 2019, I was able to use these relationships
23 to help my community. On July 4th and 5th, we
24 experienced two major earthquakes, a magnitude 6.3 and
25 magnitude 7.1. I was the incident commander for this



1 disaster. And after the first quake, I immediately
2 started calling my resources for assistance. Within a
3 short period of time, The City of Ridgecrest and the
4 Indian Wells Valley had a plethora of resources readily
5 available.

6 Because of the relationships and continuity built
7 with all the levels of government represented in Kern
8 County, we did not lose a single life and our property
9 damage was minimized. Our state and local
10 representatives long understood the unique community
11 issues and concerns. We were immediately -- and were
12 immediately instrumental in both the response and
13 recovery efforts.

14 These representatives not only work hard hand in
15 hand with Ridgecrest Community and the IW residents, they
16 also helped the --

17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- neighboring city in another
19 county and district. It is vitally important that
20 Ridgecrest remain within Kern County state and federal
21 district lines as we rely on the continuity and
22 consistency --

23 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- that has been built over the
25 years to better serve and protect all of our residents.



1 To change representation would upset the stability of the
2 IWP throughout the county. Thank you, Commissioners, for
3 your time and allowing me to give my input.

4 CHAIR TURNER: If you would, hold on one second.
5 One moment, please. Just a quick -- basically, you're
6 wanting to stay where you are in the --

7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

8 CHAIR TURNER: -- congressional District 23. Okay.
9 Okay. Because you mentioned, Kern and surrounding
10 counties, I just wanted to make sure with our mappers
11 what your community of interest testimony was. Okay.
12 Beautiful.

13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
15 016. And then, up next, after that will be 001.

16 016, I will be promoting you now. 016, your speaker
17 order number will be number 9. If you will, please make
18 note of that for future reference. You can enable your
19 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
20 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
21 would like to discuss, the floor is yours. 016? There
22 you are.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening, Commissioners.



1 And I would like to have San Joaquin County, please. I
2 was speaking specifically about Stockton, specifically
3 for the black community in these areas. So specifically,
4 I want Stockton to be kept in with the -- in the San
5 Joaquin County.

6 And my focus -- once again, my name is
7 (indiscernible) Folisha (phonetic). I've been a citizen
8 of the state and -- for almost sixty years. We lived
9 also in Stockton for the same year. So the COI area in
10 Stockton in our eight-mile road southbound and the Davis
11 Road in Stockton eastbound, eight-mile road southbound
12 and Davis Road eastbound all to be kept in San Joaquin.

13 There are many common issues identified with the
14 black community in Stockton and this includes parks,
15 schools, housing, and -- this is mostly located -- and
16 the blacks are mostly located in the south and southeast
17 of Stockton.

18 So someone said earlier Stockton is one of the most
19 diverse city a like city in U.S. and yet racially
20 marginalized. We don't want to see the black community
21 being separated due to redistricting so we can have all
22 the amenities necessary for development on this.

23 I grew recently there have been gentrification from
24 Bay Area, mostly blacks, you know, and especially they're
25 coming to this area that I just mentioned, clustering the

1 place (indiscernible). So mostly they know a lot of us
2 for socioeconomic impact in this community. So
3 redistricting, I believe, is going to handle among the
4 black, going to be able to bring us together, bringing
5 equity like schools, parks, and all of these are very,
6 very common that bind us together.

7 So it to provide also a black representation in
8 position of authority to open their voices has been
9 heavily impacted by this problem of -- that I mentioned
10 earlier.

11 In 1938, redlining of south and Southeast Islip
12 attracted the black community --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to some disadvantage with
15 low expectancy, economically risk and insecurity
16 pollution on site --

17 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and it was a priority for
19 this committee. So I strongly believe that we keep this
20 black community together in Stockton. I want to thank
21 you for your time on the --

22 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. I'm going to need to get the
23 caller back, Mr. Folinsha (phonetic). Can you bring him
24 back for a quick moment, please?

25 MR. MANOFF: Sure thing, Chair. Just a moment.



1 016, if you could please unmute, the Chair had some
2 additional questions for you.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Folisha, thank you for your
5 testimony. A couple of questions, please. Your
6 community of interest is the black communities you said
7 within The City of -- within Stockton.

8 You wanted to stay within the San Joaquin County,
9 but you also mentioned southbound, eastbound and would
10 love to have you identify to find those streets. Where
11 do you see the boundaries? What street names?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. You can see right
13 there, eight-mile road southbound. Yeah. So it eight-
14 mile road southbound. Yeah, right there.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Eight mile. Eight mile.
16 Okay.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, eight-mile road.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Uh-huh.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and on the west is --
20 that's going to be Thornton eastbound -- Thornton
21 eastbound. Yeah, I can see that. Thornton eastbound.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, Thornton Road. Yes. Uh-huh.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Yeah. Those are the
24 areas.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. It's eight-mile, Thornton.



1 And then east is?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: East? East is within Omar.
3 I see Omar all the way down 99.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you so much.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No problem. Thank you so
8 much for your time.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
11 001. And then, up next, after that will be 010.

12 001, I will be promoting you now. 001, your speaker
13 order number is number 10. If you will, please make note
14 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
15 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
16 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
17 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

18 MS. WILSON: Hi. I would like to address San
19 Joaquin County, please.

20 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

21 MS. WILSON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
22 My name is Betty Wilson. And I am the executive director
23 for the Business council, San Joaquin County. I had the
24 opportunity to speak at the last meeting for Zone-F, and
25 I'm looking forward to sharing my testimony once again



1 today.

2 We feel the 5th State Senate District is a great
3 model for the future with our Congressional District and
4 two Assembly Districts nested in that Senate District, we
5 would be meeting our goals of communities of interest,
6 equal representation of our population, cover the Voting
7 Rights Act, show contiguity and respect geographical
8 boundaries.

9 Prior to 2011, San Joaquin County was carved into
10 numerous districts. At that time, not a single
11 representative lived within the boundaries of San Joaquin
12 County, and that made it very difficult for the
13 community's collective voice to be heard on issues of
14 importance to its residents.

15 When the maps were drawn in 2011, San Joaquin County
16 was, for the most part, kept together. Keeping the
17 county together over the last ten years has been
18 extremely important for the residents of San Joaquin
19 County, and our goal is to ensure that this momentum can
20 be maintained in the future.

21 San Joaquin County has been able to work together on
22 agricultural issues, which accounts for almost \$6 billion
23 being contributed to our economy job creation, food
24 insecurities, education opportunities, homeless
25 solutions, broadband issues in our rural and underserved



1 areas, and our unique transportation issues.

2 Our communities are concerned about continuation of
3 agricultural production, water shortages, affordable and
4 livable communities, and well-paying jobs for the
5 families that live and work in San Joaquin County. We
6 have come together to advocate for important services,
7 better schools, roads and health centers for the people
8 that live and work in our in our area.

9 We request the Commission to seriously consider
10 keeping our community of interests together and retain
11 boundaries with other communities with similar
12 characteristics so our residents can continue to speak
13 with one voice on issues that influence their region.
14 Thank you again for your consideration and for everything
15 you're doing. Thank you.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
18 010. And then, up next, after that will be 017.

19 010, I will be promoting you now. 010, your speaker
20 order number is number 11. If you will, please make note
21 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let
22 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
23 floor is yours.

24 MR. WOODS: Hi. Thanks so much. My name is Jeremy
25 Woods. I'm an entrepreneurship professor from Cal State



1 Bakersfield. And the region in question is basically a
2 triangle in Kern County with Bakersfield at the western
3 edge and then Ridgecrest in the northeastern corner, and
4 Edwards Air Force Base down there in the southeastern
5 part.

6 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

7 MR. WOODS: Okay. So like I said, I'm a Jeremy was
8 an entrepreneur professor from Cal State Bakersfield.
9 And you know, as one of the leaders of our
10 entrepreneurship community here in Kern County, in
11 addition to working with our West Kern AG and Aerospace
12 sectors, I've been working a lot over the last couple of
13 years with the East Kern Aerospace Corridor.

14 And the synergies among our local AG energy and
15 Aerospace sectors for federally funded technology
16 transfer related economic development are absolutely
17 critical to this region's competitiveness and its
18 contribution to the California economy.

19 Breaking these industries up into separate
20 Congressional Districts, and currently we're all on the
21 23rd, would significantly weaken that competitiveness at
22 a federal level. Furthermore, just to give you a little
23 bit of an idea here, the major aerospace and defense
24 assets in what we like to call Aerospace Valley or the
25 Eastern Sierra Aerospace corridor, have been known for



1 the better part of the century as the center of the
2 aerospace testing universe.

3 And really the communities of kind of Ridgecrest,
4 which certainly is right there next to China Lake Naval
5 Air Walker Center, Lancaster and Palmdale, which are home
6 to Edwards Air Force Base, Air Force Plant 42, and the
7 Air Force Research Labs Rocket Division, as well as
8 Mojave Aerospace Port in Mojave, they really function
9 synergistically as a single community, and they all share
10 expertise, technology and economic development resources.

11 Additionally, as some of my fellow speakers have
12 said, we share a real culture and we really -- the East
13 Kern side of the District really depends heavily on
14 public safety, health care and disaster recovery services
15 from the west side of the county.

16 So growing any of those aerospace valley, eastern
17 Sierra Aerospace corridor assets into another
18 Congressional District is dominated by large urban
19 centers such as the L.A. Basin. It would subject our
20 aerospace sector to complete competition for resources
21 from a community that really doesn't understand the ins
22 and outs of that economic development community.

23 And I firmly, firmly recommend that we keep them all
24 together in a in a single community. So thank you very
25 much for your time. And I yield the floor back to



1 whoever's next.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Professor Woods, a couple of
3 questions for you.

4 MR. MANOFF: Mr. Woods, just a moment.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

6 MR. MANOFF: 010, if you could, please unmute.

7 MR. WOODS: Yes, Yes. I'm unmuted again. Sorry
8 about that.

9 MR. MANOFF: Thank you.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Professor Woods, real
11 quick on the -- what East Kern cities?

12 MR. WOODS: So the East Kern cities, really all of
13 them -- but the ones that I mentioned in particular are
14 Mojave --

15 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

16 MR. WOODS: -- Edwards, which is basically Lancaster
17 and Palmdale --

18 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

19 MR. WOODS: -- but Edwards there right next to
20 Rosamond and Ridgecrest up in the northeast corner.
21 California City, is also a big part of that community as
22 well.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. And also all of Bakersfield?

24 MR. WOODS: Yes, so Bakersfield on the west side is
25 where all of our four-year university resources are based



1 right now. We work heavily with the Eastern aerospace
2 sector.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Okay. Beautiful. Thank you
4 so much.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
6 017. And then, up next, after that will be 006. I would
7 like to invite 008, 015 -- 008 and 015 to use the raise
8 your hand button at the bottom of your screen as you have
9 appointments during the session and you will have
10 priority. I see your hands. Perfect. So right now we
11 will have 017. And then, up next will be 006.

12 017, I am promoting you now. 017, your speaker
13 order number will be number 12. If you will, please make
14 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
15 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
16 the floor is yours.

17 MR. HILL: Good afternoon, everyone on the
18 Commission. My area I'd like to discuss with the near
19 South Chester Avenue and Plans in The City of Bakersfield
20 going north to California Avenue, and then coming back
21 down all the way down to Cottonwood.

22 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

23 MR. HILL: Okay. My name is Nick Hill. I am the
24 president of the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce
25 here. And we are on a economic side of this



1 redistricting. And so our main concern right now is that
2 central Bakersfield has been underrepresented for at
3 least eight to ten years.

4 And so with that, we're dealing with a housing
5 crisis right now as far as with the rise of renting and
6 things like that, because as you know, in the African-
7 American community, in that area, a lot of people are
8 renting and they are not homeowners.

9 You know, and if the rent keeps going up, we're --
10 number 1, we're going to be forced to be homeless. And
11 this is going to be indicative for quite a few residents.
12 And during this time in this last eight to ten years,
13 we've had no African-American political representation in
14 this area.

15 So therefore, there's no one that's been a champion
16 for our values. And this is quite evident in the funds
17 that's been awarded lately, I'd say in this last 30 days.
18 And we're, in the Hispanic community and other
19 communities, they've awarded millions and millions of
20 dollars for economic recovery and other advantages.

21 But in the African-American community, they have not
22 awarded nowhere near this amount. So like we suffer from
23 the economic standpoint, but also with the housing in the
24 political process, because like I said, we have no one
25 that's representing our values for the African-American

1 process.

2 So if these areas are split up, that's going to
3 decrease the population of the African-American community
4 and just make us more minute than we already are. So I'm
5 asking the Commission to make sure that they keep us all
6 concentrated in this area under this one redistricting
7 lines and make sure that we're not spread out too thin
8 where we cannot be seen or represented.

9 And like I said, with the streets --

10 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum?

11 MR. HILL: -- we need to have these streets -- these
12 areas --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 MR. HILL: -- repaved and everything else. But like
15 just to reiterate, I want to say the political process --
16 we have no say in the political process and we want to
17 make sure --

18 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

19 MR. HILL: -- that our schools are properly
20 represented and that we can get affordable housing. And
21 right now, I'd like to say thank you for your time and I
22 hope you understand where I'm coming from.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Hill?

24 MR. HILL: Yes, ma'am?

25 CHAIR TURNER: And before you hang up, you mentioned



1 central Bakersfield. Can you give me street boundaries
2 again?

3 MR. HILL: Yes, that's South Chester Avenue --

4 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

5 MR. HILL: -- and Plans. And I want to go all the
6 way north to California Avenue.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

8 MR. HILL: And then I want to come all the way down
9 east, all the way down to Cottonwood, in between Union
10 and then there's Cottonwood. Those areas are -- they've
11 always been neglected.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay. We got it. Thank you,
13 Mr. Hill.

14 MR. HILL: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 Right now, we will have 006. And then, up next,
17 will be 020. Again, I'd like to invite 011, 015, and 017
18 to please use the raise hand button. Or 017 just spoke,
19 but the other ones 011, and 015 to use the raise hand
20 button at the bottom of your screen as you do have
21 appointments during this session.

22 006, I will be promoting you now. 006, your speaker
23 order number is number 13. If you will, please make note
24 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
25 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.



1 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
2 would like to discuss, the floor is yours. 006, if you
3 could unmute at this time.

4 MR. HOLLOWAY: Here we go.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

6 MR. HOLLOWAY: My computer is slow. Area of
7 interest, Congressional District 23, Kern County and
8 Ridgecrest include Naval Base at China Lake.

9 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

10 MR. HOLLOWAY: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
11 name is Chip Holloway. I'm a thirty-year Ridgecrest and
12 Kern County resident. I served on the Ridgecrest City
13 council for sixteen years from 1998 to 2014, including
14 two terms as mayor. I now serve as a CEO of the Desert
15 Empire Fairgrounds, which is the California 53rd District
16 Agricultural Association.

17 First and foremost, I'm asking for our districts to
18 remain status quo. As you have learned today, Ridgecrest
19 is remote and isolated, and we're adjacent to China Lake
20 Naval Air Weapons Station. The base accounts for eighty-
21 five percent of the total economy of the Valley and
22 supports 38,000 residents.

23 As a remote, isolated community, relationships are
24 the most important capital we can possess. During one of
25 my terms as mayor, the base was facing a severe reduction



1 in force or possible closure during the base realignment
2 and closure process. This would not have only been
3 devastating in Ridgecrest, it would have been a
4 tremendous loss to California.

5 At one time bases in California generated the
6 equivalent of over \$100 billion of revenue that has
7 shrunk to less than half in the last three decades. Our
8 synergy with Edwards Air Force Base and Mojave Spaceport
9 not only benefits Ridgecrest, it benefits the entire
10 State of California.

11 Understanding the unique capabilities, resources,
12 and opportunities these three entities provide requires
13 years of educating, updating, and touring elected
14 officials, staff, and stakeholders. The plethora of
15 threats and challenges are never ending. I feel very
16 comfortable that our current representation understands
17 this better than anyone.

18 To reach the level of understanding in place
19 currently would take decades of effort. Not to mention
20 if we were lumped together in a district that shared a
21 huge, large metropolis, the competing interests would
22 prevent any normal person of the time necessary or the
23 commitment to get anywhere near the expertise in a place
24 to date.

25 Again, this would not only hurt Ridgecrest, this



1 would hurt California as a whole. Fast forward to my
2 role as CEO of the Fairgrounds to date. In 2019, the
3 fairgrounds was a staging area for over thirty-nine
4 different agencies, including Kern County Fire and Cal
5 OES.

6 The response was incredible in that it was fast,
7 efficient and everything we needed arrived as quickly as
8 humanly possible. I credit this to the incredible
9 relationship we have nurtured and cultivated over the
10 last twenty-five years.

11 We posted on Facebook throughout the process and our
12 neighbors to the east, the residents of Trona,
13 California's small town, which sits in San Bernardino
14 County, responded for three days --

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. HOLLOWAY: -- begging for help. The help that
17 arrived came from us until finally, after seventy-two
18 hours, they had a response from their elected officials.
19 The reason I bring this up is I fear if we were to be
20 locked into a district with little understanding of our
21 challenges and needs, we would face the same risk.

22 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

23 MR. HOLLOWAY: Please keep our lines as they
24 currently are or an economic emergency could easily
25 become a human tragedy. Thanks for your time and the



1 incredible commitment you've made to this process.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Holloway.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
4 020. And then, up next, will be 008.

5 020, I will be promoting you now. 020, your speaker
6 order number will be number 14. If you'll please make
7 note of that for future reference. You can now enable
8 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
9 screen. If you will, please let the mapper know what
10 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

11 MR. KEYES: I'd like to discuss The City of Fresno.

12 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please. 020, can
13 you hear me?

14 MR. KEYES: Yes, I can. Can you give me a second,
15 please?

16 MR. MANOFF: No problem. Your time will begin when
17 you're ready.

18 MR. KEYES: Okay. For some reason, I'm not showing
19 up. But you can hear me.

20 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

21 MR. KEYES: Okay. My name is Rick Keyes and I'm a
22 resident of The City of Fresno. And that's what I'm
23 talking about is The City of Fresno. I've lived here --
24 I moved here when I was 12 years old. I've lived here
25 for fifty-one years. And my concern is about the



1 southwest and southeast areas of Fresno, and I'll get
2 more defined on the streets I'm talking about when I'm
3 done.

4 What I have seen since I've lived here is very
5 little assistant improvement in black neighborhoods and
6 really in BIPOC neighborhoods in general. There's been
7 some spotty and scattered growth, but really no change.

8 If anything, things have gone in the other
9 direction. They've gone backwards. So the opportunities
10 here are not really afforded in the black community as
11 opposed to the other parts of Fresno, particularly the
12 northern end of Fresno.

13 Now, I've lived all over the city. I currently live
14 in a city that is like a bedroom community called Clovis.
15 And I moved to Clovis for better opportunities for my
16 family, safer neighborhoods, basically what everyone
17 wants.

18 What has quite frankly, befuddled me is why after
19 fifty plus years, there's been no change to make the
20 communities in the southwest and southeast parts of
21 Fresno the same. There's been an imbalance since I've
22 lived here.

23 And for me, what that points to is no representation
24 for those areas. Which means for our youth, no new
25 opportunities and constantly headed down a path of no

1 hope. So that's really my concern. What I question is
2 whether or not the outreach in those communities has been
3 effective enough to educate people about the importance
4 of paying attention to who the legislators are in those
5 districts and whether or not they're really representing
6 them well.

7 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

8 MR. KEYES: The area that I'm speaking of is going
9 to be south -- really southwest of 99. It's going to be
10 South --

11 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

12 MR. KEYES: -- of Dakota Avenue. There are pocket
13 areas in the northern parts of Fresno that have the same
14 issues but they're really small.

15 MR. MANOFF: Time.

16 MR. KEYES: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Chair -- I mean, I'm the
18 Chair. We need to have, please, Mr. Keyes, come back and
19 quickly give us the other --

20 MR. MANOFF: Mr. Keyes is still here with us, Chair.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, beautiful.

22 Mr. Keyes, can you define the streets quickly on the
23 other side?

24 MR. KEYES: So as we're going east, west is going to
25 be Dakota Avenue.



1 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

2 MR. KEYES: And as we go south of 99, actually
3 southwest of 99, it will be from Clinton Avenue going
4 south.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. (Indiscernible). And the
6 other side of -- to the other side of 99 or this side of
7 99?

8 MR. KEYES: It's going to be this side of 99.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

10 MR. KEYES: But also getting into the downtown area,
11 going southwest and southeast. That's really the areas.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Keyes, thank
13 you.

14 MR. KEYES: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have
16 008. 008, your speaker order number is number 15. If
17 you will, please make note of that for future reference.
18 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower left
19 corner of your screen. If you will, please let the
20 mapper area would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

21 MR. BLADES: Yes. The area I'd like to speak to is
22 in Kern County, Ridgecrest, California. So northeast.
23 You know, we've all been talking a lot about that today.
24 Okay. Oh, sorry. I didn't realize that camera was all
25 the way up on me. That's awkward.



1 So the first thing I wanted to say is thank you,
2 Commissioners, for letting us take part in this process.
3 Commissioner Andersen, I remember, you came to our city
4 council meeting, and you briefed us all, and I did have
5 some public outreach after your briefing. And I can't
6 thank you all enough for this process.

7 I spent just a few days in Sacramento. And I know
8 it's counting my time, but I wanted to make this clear
9 that this commission is one of the fairest even within
10 the United States. And that was pointed out to me. And
11 I really appreciate that dedication.

12 My name is Kyle Blades. I am a current city council
13 member of Ridgecrest, California. And I am also lucky
14 enough to have a job at China Lake and I work as a
15 systems engineer. I've been a flight test engineer and
16 now I've successfully made my way into boring middle
17 management.

18 And so I feel like I can speak at least to a large
19 portion of our special interest community. And I
20 consider it special because of how unique the area is.
21 Our desert, sometimes on this east side of the Kern, we
22 do feel isolated. But we have been lucky enough to find
23 out that each time we've needed Kern County assets we've
24 needed, whether it comes to EMS, whether it comes to just
25 our supervisors when it comes to our the 23rd district



1 representation have always -- and I want to say like they
2 came right to our need every time we've needed something.

3 So I can't express enough how much I think it would
4 change the dynamics of our area and how people feel that
5 they're represented. I think that if we were somehow
6 pushed to San Bernardino or Los Angeles, there would be a
7 large group of people in Ridgecrest, from the folks that
8 talk to me as a representative, that would feel
9 disenfranchised. And so I just wanted to make that
10 clear.

11 So I'm sure that goes into the process. You've
12 heard from several members before. I don't think
13 anybody's spoken to the economics. I think it's almost a
14 2 to 1 ratio that Kern County assists the Ridgecrest area
15 for just for money we give to two services, they give
16 back to us. So that's vitally important.

17 You heard from the school districts and that -- not
18 just the school district, the college districts, how
19 valuable that partnership is. And then, of course, I can
20 speak to you to the Department of Defense aspect. The
21 relationship we have with our representatives right now
22 has been enormous to our area.

23 So I do --

24 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

25 MR. BLADES: -- humbly thank you. Thank you for



1 your time for considering my testimony. Thank you for
2 the work that you do. It is greatly appreciated. And I
3 hope that if this ever happens again, you'll come right
4 back and give us a presentation. Thank all of you.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. And you're just basically
6 saying, keep CD 23 the same.

7 MR. BLADES: Yes, ma'am. Yes.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. We got it. Thank you, Mr.
9 Blades.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And Chair, we are up
11 against a break at this point.

12 CHAIR TURNER: We are indeed. Thank you so much.
13 So we are going to actually take that break. When we
14 return from break, we're going to start with individuals
15 who are registered for an appointment time slot. And
16 then we'll open the phone lines as we have opportunity.

17 When we return from break in fifteen minutes, we're
18 going to be in the hands of Commissioner Vazquez that
19 will take it next. And so let's see. We'll come back
20 actually at 4:45 when we'll be back. You have a two-
21 minute bonus break. 4:45 we'll be back. Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

23 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: All right. Welcome back,
24 everyone. Welcome to the California Citizens
25 Redistricting Commission C-O-I input meeting. We also



1 encourage you to visit the communities of interest tool
2 to draw a map and describe your community by visiting
3 drawmycacommunity.org.

4 For anyone who has joined us recently, we are
5 offering language lines for Spanish language speakers to
6 listen to the meeting in their native language and a
7 separate line for those who wish to provide public
8 comment or public input.

9 Could I please have each of our interpreters provide
10 our language line numbers and the information to provide
11 public input? So first, for our Spanish interpreter,
12 please read the site translation of full call-in
13 instructions.

14 INTERPRETER: Yes. Hello, Chair. This is
15 Margarita, Spanish interpreter. I will read the full
16 call-in instructions in Spanish. Thank you. [In
17 Spanish]. Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Thank you.

19 As a reminder, even though we are focusing on
20 specific counties, Californians from anywhere in the
21 state are welcome to provide input. I will pass this
22 over to Katy, our comment moderator, to continue with
23 public input. And we will start with people who are
24 registered and then open the phone lines if there is time
25 before the next session.



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.
2 Welcome to the public input session. Please use the
3 raise hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter
4 the queue. When it is your turn to speak, I will
5 identify you by your assigned unique ID number from your
6 invite. You will be reconnected to the session with the
7 ability to enable your own video and/or audio.

8 You will then be assigned a speaker order number
9 before you begin speaking. Please make note of your
10 speaker order number for future reference. The
11 Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit
12 for English speakers and a six-minute time limit for
13 those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at
14 thirty seconds and fifteen seconds remaining.

15 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on the
16 map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
17 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large
18 city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to
19 locate your area, your three or six-minute testimony will
20 begin. Attendees will not be able to share their screen.

21 At the end of your public input or at the end of
22 your time. You will be reconnected in a listen and view
23 only mode. At the beginning of your -- at the
24 beginning -- the beginning of your input, please remind
25 the mapper what area you would like to see on the screen.



1 We will be beginning with 015. And then, up next,
2 after that will be 011 from the previous session. And
3 then we will move to the next appointments.

4 015, I will be promoting you now. 015, your speaker
5 order number will be number 16. If you will please make
6 note of that for future reference. And if you will,
7 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
8 discuss, the floor is yours.

9 MS. SVEJDA: Hello. The area of interest is The
10 City of California City and its surrounding area, which
11 includes Edwards Air Force Base and the communities of
12 Rosamond, Boron, and Mojave in Kern County.

13 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

14 MS. SVEJDA: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name
15 is Alexia Svejda. And I have been a resident of The City
16 of California City and Kern County for over twenty years.
17 And I am currently the president of the California City
18 Chamber of Commerce.

19 California City is the only incorporated city in
20 southeast Kern County. It is rural, remote, underserved,
21 and a high desert city located on the southern end of the
22 eastern Sierra. And it neighbors Edwards Air Force Base,
23 which hosts NASA's Armstrong and the Air Force Research
24 Laboratory. And let me be clear, those are very squarely
25 in Kern County. And we also neighbor the Mojave Air and



1 Space Port.

2 Let me address what we would like to see in our
3 district. The largest economic driver in eastern Kern
4 County is aerospace. Edwards Air Force Base contributes
5 2.7 billion, that's with a B, dollars to the economy.
6 There's a Navy base, China Lake, up in Ridgecrest to the
7 north of us, and that contributes another \$1.9 billion to
8 our economy.

9 Our military bases and including the Mojave Air and
10 Spaceport with their research, development, and test
11 missions, which are located in the R 2508 air space are
12 found nowhere else in the United States. They need to be
13 kept in one congressional district in order to provide
14 proper representation at a federal level.

15 Their funding, infrastructure, and encroachment
16 issues are unique and are often very different from the
17 more usual military training and operational base
18 missions such as Fort Irwin and 29 Palms.

19 What would not work well in our district, including
20 California City and Edwards Air Force Base and its
21 surrounding area with urban areas such as Los Angeles or
22 San Bernardino cities or counties would not bode well
23 with the eastern Kern County and Eastern Sierra area.

24 We are rural and our needs, challenges, and assets
25 are very different from urban areas. Also Edwards and



1 China Lake have been exemplary stewards --

2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty-seconds.

3 MS. SVEJDA: -- of the environment and do not need
4 to be included in some of the challenges involving other
5 basis. For the economy of our state and for the safety
6 of our nation, we need to support --

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MS. SVEJDA: -- our unique rural interests and
9 military friendly area by keeping it in one congressional
10 district. Thank you for your time.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

12 Right now, we will have 011. And then, up next,
13 will be 027.

14 011, I will be promoting you now. 011, there
15 appears to be some connectivity issues. I am going to do
16 the audio only option at this time. Unique ID 011, if
17 you could please unmute at this time on your screen.
18 There appears to be some connectivity issues at this
19 time. We will come back to 011.

20 At this time, we will go to 027. And up next, after
21 that will be 024. I'd also like to invite those that
22 have joined with the appointments during this session to
23 please use the raise hand button at the bottom of your
24 screen to enter the comment queue line.

25 027, I will be promoting you now. 027, your speaker



1 order number will be number 17. If you'll please make
2 note of that for future reference. You can now enable
3 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
4 screen. If you will, please let the mapper know what
5 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

6 MS. CHAFFEY: Hello. Good evening. My name is Dana
7 Chaffey. And the general community of interest I'll be
8 addressing is Northeast Fresno within Fresno County,
9 bound by a north first street to the west East, Bullard
10 to the north and East Ashland Avenue to the south, which
11 then follows North Cedar Avenue down to West Trot Avenue
12 over 168, down North Chestnut Avenue to the east. Is
13 everybody able to hear me?

14 MR. MANOFF: Yes. Thank you. Go ahead, please.

15 MS. CHAFFEY: Perfect. Thank you so much.

16 My name is Dana Chaffey from CARE Sacramento Valley,
17 Central California. And I am the community organizer.
18 CARE SBCC advocates for justice policies for our
19 communities provides pro-bono civil rights and
20 immigration and legal services to families in need.

21 It builds future youth leaders by organizing civic
22 engagement and education initiatives such as Getting out
23 the Vote, Census, Redistricting to the AMENSA, Arab
24 Middle Eastern and South Asian communities in Fresno
25 County between the regions of Bakersfield to Merced.



1 I have lived in Fresno for over twenty years and
2 CARE is with the AAPI and AMENSA District Collaborative.
3 Our community is connected by faith, culture, and
4 language. Friday prayers, youth programs, and mosques
5 bring our community together. The Muslim community
6 generally lives close to mosques for easy access.

7 Masjid Fresno, which is located in northeast Fresno,
8 on Shaw right by Fresno state, is the largest mosque in
9 Fresno. The Muslim community in northeast Fresno
10 surrounding Masjid Fresno are primarily South Asian,
11 Palestinian, and Syrian first or second-generation
12 immigrants. In addition, in 2016, there was a heavy
13 influx of Syrian immigrants that reside south of Bullard,
14 near Masjid Fresno.

15 Because of the strong immigrant presence in this
16 community, there's a shared concern for immigrants'
17 rights, quality education, access to affordable housing
18 and transportation, culturally competent and in language
19 resources and youth programs for our communities to
20 thrive in America.

21 The Muslim community in this region, particularly
22 the Syrian refugee population, have migrated from a war
23 ridden developing country and share the need to feel safe
24 and accepted again being in a community with the very
25 people who understand their language, culture, and



1 values.

2 We hope that the Commission respect our community
3 interest and keep it hope. Additionally, we would like
4 to be in district with West Fresno due to a large Muslim
5 population with shared interests regarding
6 infrastructure, COVID-19, and immigration with
7 communities in this area.

8 We do not want to be in a district with urban
9 communities surrounding North Fresno and Fig Garden due
10 to lack of shared interests and priorities. Thank you so
11 much.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

13 Right now we will have 024. And then, up next, will
14 be 047.

15 024, I will be promoting your now. 024, your
16 speaker order number is number 18. If you'll please make
17 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
18 at the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
19 the floor is yours.

20 MS. HUSSAIN: Thank you so much. Good afternoon.
21 The area of interest I will be addressing is Northwest
22 Fresno around the intersection of Herndon and Milburn
23 Avenue. May I continue?

24 MR. MANOFF: Yes, go ahead, please.

25 MS. HUSSAIN: All right. Thank you so much. My



1 name is Sukaina Hussain. I am the deputy executive
2 director at CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic
3 Relations in Sacramento Valley in central California. I
4 am also speaking as a part of the AAPI and AMENSA
5 redistricting collaborative, and I have lived in Fresno
6 for nearly six years now.

7 You've heard a little bit about CAIR. As a
8 nonprofit organization, we are focused on providing legal
9 services for the Muslim community, protecting civil
10 rights, and advocating for just policies. I will be
11 focusing, as I said, on the northwest area of Fresno in
12 The City of Fresno within Fresno County.

13 This community of interest in northwest Fresno is
14 located around Masjid Badr, B-A-D-R, which is a mosque
15 that's located on Herndon and Millburn Avenues. It is
16 bound by Bullard Avenue to the south, Marks Avenue to the
17 East Highway 99 on the west, and it continues north of
18 Herndon Avenue. This region has a significant population
19 of Muslim and Arabic speaking immigrants and should
20 remain whole.

21 Over the past decade, there has been an increase in
22 Muslim residents who are moving into this area. In
23 particular, the immigrant community, which immigrant
24 community of Muslim background identifies as Arabic
25 speaking from Middle Eastern communities. They are



1 largely first-generation families, and they have shared
2 language, shared religious values, and shared cultural
3 similarities.

4 The Muslim community has not only been concentrated
5 in this region due to lower cost of living, but also due
6 to proximity of the mosque, Masjid Badr. This mosque not
7 only serves as a place of worship, but it's also a
8 community center where groups such as (audio
9 interference), young people, senior students, mothers,
10 and many other groups gather for special interest
11 activities.

12 In addition to regular Friday services, the mosques
13 holds daily prayers, many evening and weekend events.
14 And all of these bring the community together on a very
15 regular basis.

16 There is a feeling of being connected to the mosque,
17 not just in proximity by physical location, but also
18 spiritually. And that feeling is very important to the
19 Muslim community. And it's actually led to an increased
20 concentration of Muslim residents in this region.

21 Many issues that impact the Muslim community are
22 those that impact a lot of immigrant communities. Some
23 of the shared priorities for our community are related to
24 the refugee population and other concerns that bring the
25 community together are related to education, schools, and

1 families that have young children --

2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

3 MS. HUSSAIN: -- in those schools, cost of rent and
4 have housing and in language Arabic access to county and
5 city resources.

6 Today, we asked the Commission to keep this
7 community of interest together and hope --

8 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

9 MS. HUSSAIN: -- as well as other immigrant
10 communities in that region, that includes the mosque and
11 the Punjabi Sikh community. And we ask you to keep it
12 separate from advantaged communities in North Fresno and
13 Fig Garden. Thank you so much for your time.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

15 Right now we have 047. And then, up next, after
16 that will be 031.

17 047, I'll be promoting you now. 047, your speaker
18 order number will be number 19. If you will, please make
19 note of that for future reference. You can now enable
20 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
21 screen. If you will, please let the mapper know what
22 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 MS. MIQUEL: Hi, my name is Robin Miquel (phonetic).
24 And I'm looking at San Joaquin County, specifically The
25 City of Tracy, where I'm calling from.



1 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

2 MS. MIQUEL: Thank you. So I will be commenting on
3 San Joaquin County, the redistricting survey commissioned
4 by San Joaquin County supervisors that was conducted in
5 early August.

6 The results were announced this week. I do not know
7 exactly how the survey was promoted. I personally found
8 out about it via friends and next door. So it was not as
9 easily -- you couldn't get to the survey easily unless
10 you know where to look for it. But overall, it does not
11 appear to be representative sample of San Joaquin County.

12 First of all, there were only fifteen percent of
13 Latino people surveyed, compared to forty-two percent of
14 Latinos that make up our county. Only five percent of
15 African-Americans were surveyed. More whites than
16 Latinos, Asians, and African-Americans combined were
17 surveyed.

18 Only sixteen percent of the people surveyed were
19 under the age of thirty-five, while white -- while over
20 ages fifty, there were fifty-seven percent. So lots of
21 elderly people, not so much the younger folks.

22 Secondly, I want to reiterate that this is not a
23 representative sample. And our county is comprised of
24 Tracy, Stockton's -- Tracy's very suburban to the San
25 Francisco Bay Area. Stockton is a city. Everything



1 around us is relatively rural and agricultural.

2 And so while we may share the same sentiment on
3 specific solutions, we both agree -- we all agree that
4 San Joaquin should be kept whole. However, if we do
5 diverge in keeping San Joaquin whole, it reduces the
6 ability for Latinos to be elected as preferred
7 candidates.

8 When I took the survey, for example, in looking at
9 the county in two different ways, I looked at it from a
10 suburban area of San Joaquin that I can't do my lawn, my
11 water quality needs to be good, that sort of thing.
12 Whereas folks in eastern San Joaquin, northern San
13 Joaquin would more probably look at it more from an
14 agricultural perspective.

15 So addressing that, that one issue would have very
16 different results -- a very different input depending
17 upon where in the county you were. We do not talk about
18 how San Joaquin should be drawn.

19 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20 MS. MIQUEL: We should discuss that once more data
21 is achieved. The survey should come out more. I do,
22 however -- would like to keep Mountain House, which is
23 currently not in our congressional district, together.
24 We would like to bring that in.

25 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.



1 MS. MIQUEL: And if we do have to split, we would
2 prefer a north south split with other valley counties, as
3 opposed to an east west split that would take us into the
4 hills. And I think I am out of time. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 Right now we will have 031. And then, up next, to
7 be 040.

8 031, I will be promoting you now. 031, your speaker
9 order number will be number 20. If you will, please make
10 note of that for future reference. And if you will,
11 please at the mapper know what area you would like to
12 discuss, the floor is yours.

13 MS. VANG: Thank you. Hello. My name is Tammy and
14 I'm looking over Fresno. And I am the Fresno for
15 organizer for Hmong Innovating politics for HIP. And
16 HIP's mission is to strengthen the political power
17 throughout largest Hmong population in the state.

18 I was also born and raised in Fresno and have lived
19 here for twenty-six years. And Fresno is my hometown.
20 And is a place near and dear to my heart. As a child, I
21 moved around the Fresno a lot due to poverty and economic
22 disparities. So I know the areas in which proximity
23 resides very well. HIP also serves as a member of AAPI
24 and AMENSA redistricting collaborative.

25 The Fresno Hmong community is one of the largest



1 Hmong community in the U.S., and people come from all
2 over the country to participate in this annual
3 (indiscernible). The Hmong community used to be
4 concentrated in one area in central southeastern Fresno,
5 but throughout the years have expanded.

6 And we now live and cluster throughout Fresno, where
7 particular landmark concentration is such as Fresno
8 Fairground, Sunnyside High School, Melody Park, Somerset
9 Village or Firm Edison High School, and Central High
10 School area.

11 I will submit a written copy of my testimony with
12 more information about where our Hmong communities are
13 located. Our community share a variety of
14 characteristics such as: we remain a first-generation
15 immigrants who fled war in the early 1980(s) and 1990(s),
16 resettled in low income and affordable housing areas of
17 Fresno.

18 Due to lack of access to financial capital and
19 literacy, our community members are more as renters than
20 home owners in the area. As community members attain
21 more financial capital, more of them move to their
22 suburban areas such as Clovis, (indiscernible), and
23 Central Side.

24 Our community has been in the United States for over
25 forty-five years with the current median age being

1 twenty-three years old with a huge proportion of them
2 being American born. There is still population of
3 members who are sixty years and over with limited English
4 proficiency.

5 To fully support themselves, some families
6 established small businesses in a farming industry,
7 creative clothing outlets, some in the service and
8 manufacturing industries, and others in the medical
9 health and nonprofit sectors such as myself. Our
10 community members tend to graduate from high school but
11 have low rates of college attainment due to a long
12 history of disenfranchisement.

13 These characteristic means that we have many shared
14 concerns, particularly issues such as providing more
15 culturally appropriate programing in schools, better
16 language access, and government assistance programs and
17 services, and including the need for tenant protection,
18 adequate health, housing, mental health services, and
19 more.

20 Finally, we ask the Commission to respect our
21 boundaries of interest to the extent possible. We hope
22 that our community can stay largely grouped with the
23 nearby Latinx --

24 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

25 MS. VANG: -- communities and the current AD 30 as



1 we are many shared interests and characteristics.
2 However, since our community is spread over such a large
3 area and we need to be divided, we support keeping those
4 in the Clovis area nearby folks who are also in current
5 AD 30.

6 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

7 MS. VANG: And we believe this is critical to help
8 our nurture and foster healthier, stronger, and happier
9 neighborhoods. When people in our community evolve in
10 the process of shaping the environment and community to
11 share ideas, becoming invested and committed in helping
12 find solution and creating strategies to address the --

13 MR. MANOFF: Time.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

15 Right now we will have 040. And then, up next, will
16 be 037.

17 040, I'll be promoting you now. 040, your speaker
18 order number is number 21. If you will, please make note
19 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
20 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
21 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
22 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening. Yes, the area
24 I'd like to discuss is southwest Fresno, Martin Luther
25 King and Church and Church and Walnut. I have lived in



1 my community because I want my community southwest to
2 have all the good representation that others in the
3 community have.

4 Southwest Fresno is where I live. This is where I
5 was raised. I know there is a lot of good in my
6 community. I care because I live there. My parents live
7 there. I have family members that are still here. So
8 that is why I'm here.

9 We have people coming into our community secretly
10 grabbing land and building on it not telling us anything
11 disrupting our way of life. We are losing our community
12 to politicians who are supposed to have our best
13 interests but make decisions based on other people who do
14 not stay in our community and making another decisions
15 for our community.

16 So now it's time for me to step up to the plate and
17 be here for my community. Our way of life is at stake.
18 The streets we walk down, landmarks, community centers,
19 and parks now and in the future. That's what
20 redistricting is about.

21 We don't want people making decisions for our
22 community without knowing who is in the community or
23 needs in our children. Our community has a landmark
24 community center and park. It has been at the forefront
25 of our culture in more ways than one.

1 The community center and park are part of the
2 history, our identity. And it still is right to this
3 day. But those should be the only resources in our
4 community. Jobs, schools, and hospitals are important,
5 too. We don't have those because we had people who
6 fought in our interests.

7 It is very important that we protect our community
8 to keep it together. If not, we will have people coming
9 in that that don't have our best interest. Once the
10 community go, so does everything else in the community.
11 Who knows the community better than one that has been
12 living there all their life?

13 That is why it is important that we come here today
14 to tell you that we care about what's happened to our
15 communities and redistricting. Most of all, people who
16 do not live in our communities should not making decision
17 about our community. Southwest Fresno deserve our own
18 representation.

19 In closing, I would like to thank this Commission
20 for allowing me to enlighten you about the community, and
21 I hope you will be considerate and understanding in my
22 opinion. And I'd like to thank you all. And I'd like
23 all of you to have a blessed day.

24 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great, caller. Could I ask you
25 to hold for one moment? You mentioned three streets.



1 And one, I just want to make sure that we have those
2 three streets and I think we maybe need an additional
3 boundary. So could you please just first repeat those
4 three streets that you mentioned?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It should be California and
6 Martin Luther, Martin Luther King and Church, Church and
7 Walnut should be the four.

8 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Give me just one
9 moment. You said, California and Martin Luther King.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, Martin Luther King and
11 Church.

12 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. And then?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then, Church and Walnut.

14 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Church and Walnut.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

16 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Let me make sure. Do the
17 mappers have what we need? I believe so. So do you
18 consider -- is what you just stated -- is that what you
19 consider southwest Fresno?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, that's southwest Fresno.

21 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Okay. Thank you for
22 confirming.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right

1 now we have 037. And then, up next, after that will be
2 038. 03, I'll be promoting you now. 037, your speaker
3 order number is number 22. If you will, please make note
4 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
5 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
6 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
7 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

8 MS. NIMMERS: Hi. I'll be discussing Central Valley
9 generally. So I'm not sure that we'll be able to zoom
10 into a particular area. But for reference, I'll be
11 mentioning Stockton, Bakersfield, Fresno, as well as some
12 areas in Kings County.

13 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

14 MS. NIMMERS: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
15 name is Kristin Nimmers. I'm calling on behalf of the
16 Black Census and Redistricting Hub.

17 I'm calling to summarize and uplift the communities
18 of interest identified by our coalition members and the
19 community members of the engaged in noncommunity feedback
20 sessions with seventy-four Central Valley residents.

21 Our coalition partners: the Fresno Metro Black
22 Chamber of Commerce, the Kern County Black Chamber of
23 Commerce, and the Central Valley Urban Institute spent
24 months engaging members of the community on where they're
25 located and what issues are most prevalent for this



1 region.

2 During each community session, we were able to
3 discuss the importance of redistricting, as well as the
4 impact it will eventually have on future generations of
5 black people in the Central Valley. Similar to the
6 Commissions process, we were able to shed light on how
7 they could engage in this process and significant
8 opportunity we have to ensure equitable district lines
9 are drawn.

10 During these community sessions, the following
11 communities across the Central Valley were identified as
12 important to black communities: Bakersfield,
13 particularly Southeast Bakersfield, Fresno, particularly
14 West Fresno, Southwest Fresno, and the Old Fig area,
15 Stockton, especially South Stockton, Madera, Tulare,
16 Hanford and Lamore.

17 In our outreach, some of the trends we found were
18 that there's been a lot of construction of physical
19 boundaries breaking up black communities in the Central
20 Valley, that there's inconsistent public transit to our
21 neighborhoods, racially restrictive housing, as well as a
22 lack of development and employment opportunities in rural
23 and low-income neighborhoods, all of which has negatively
24 impacted our community's ability to advance economically.

25 The black community in these areas feel unheard,



1 continuing the vicious cycle of mistrust of government
2 and a lack of connection to the local and statewide
3 political process. Black communities throughout this
4 Central Valley also often feel that agricultural needs
5 are prioritized over the needs of urban communities, and
6 they hope for representation in districts that recognize
7 the distinction between the needs of those communities
8 and the importance of providing for both.

9 Everyone should have access to safe and secure
10 housing for families in West, Fresno, Southeast,
11 Bakersfield, Madera, Tulare, Hanford have all raised the
12 need for affordable housing and the lack of access to
13 home ownership for most black residents.

14 It's important that communities have updated
15 infrastructure and public transportation, but the black
16 community in Kern County is still fighting for local and
17 state funding to big state to fix the roads in their
18 neighborhoods and get additional bus stops in rural
19 areas.

20 We have seen during this pandemic the importance of
21 access to health care and medical services. But in rural
22 communities like Tulare, families struggle with accessing
23 hospitals as well as other basic amenities like banking
24 and grocery stores. And these are just a handful of the
25 examples listed in our community sessions, which have



1 also been uplifted in the submissions through the C-O-I
2 tool.

3 Protecting our communities in the Central Valley
4 will not only give us an opportunity to elect people that
5 empathize with and understand these --

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

7 MS. NIMMERS: -- issues, but will also create
8 opportunities to increase trust in government and our
9 democratic process as our communities see themselves
10 represented in the State and Federal legislatures to
11 ensure inclusivity, equity and fair representation of all
12 communities in California.

13 It's vital that these communities are kept together.
14 Your choices during the line drawing process have the
15 power to ensure black communities in the Central Valley
16 are heard --

17 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18 MS. NIMMERS: -- and will have representation.
19 Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

20 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller, can you please hold?
21 I'm hoping you can elaborate for us on the southwest
22 areas and the west Fig area.

23 MS. NIMMERS: Um-hum.

24 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Could you be more specific
25 about the boundaries of what you consider the southwest



1 Fresno area first?

2 MS. NIMMERS: Yes. Give me one second. We also
3 submit it through the C-O-I tool if that's helpful at
4 all.

5 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Yes, that would be very
6 helpful. Thank you.

7 MS. NIMMERS: I'm trying to like pull up our maps.
8 And which area were you trying to get clarification on?

9 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Southwest Fresno --

10 MS. NIMMERS: Yes.

11 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: -- and the Old Fig area.
12 Sorry.

13 MS. NIMMERS: Okay. So southwest Fresno, there's
14 south. I think it's Chateau Fresno Ave. C-H-A-T-E-A-U.
15 And then, there's like a railroad that goes like, right
16 above that. It's like below Belmont Ave. And then on
17 the other side, there's West Central Ave. as well as --
18 and some of the community kind of goes into those a
19 little bit below West Central Ave. to West American Ave.
20 as well.

21 It's kind of like a rectangle shape that goes down
22 and back up. And then --

23 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: And then, maybe are you for --
24 thank you for that for Southwest Fresno and then the
25 Old -- or do you maybe mean the Old Fig Garden?

1 MS. NIMMERS: Yes, near that area. So over there
2 there's West Shaw Ave. and then maybe the top boundary
3 would be East Sierra Ave.

4 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Yep. I think we have
5 what we need. Thanks so much.

6 MS. NIMMERS: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 038, your hand was raised
8 and you were next. You lowered it. If that was not
9 intentional, if you could please raise it at this time,
10 you will still be next. You will still be next then.
11 And then, after that, will be 045.

12 And I would like to invite those that have joined
13 with appointments 042, 039, 034, 032, and 030, 026, and
14 011, if you wish to give comment, please use the raise
15 your hand button at the bottom of your screen as you have
16 an appointment during this session and you will have
17 priority.

18 Right now we will have 038. I will be promoting
19 you. 038, your speaker order number will be number 23.
20 If you will, please make note of that for future
21 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in
22 the lower left corner of your screen. If you will,
23 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
24 discuss, the floor is yours.

25 MR. FAIR: Can you hear me? I would like to discuss



1 current Congressional District 23, Kern County,
2 including: California City, Ridgecrest, and Edwards Air
3 Force Base.

4 MS. FAIR: Good evening, commissioners. My name is
5 Marcus Fair. I'm a resident of California City and Kern
6 County for the past twenty years. The two military
7 bases, Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake share a
8 unique mission and research development and test
9 requiring a unique knowledge and understanding of that
10 mission in order to provide proper representation at a
11 federal level.

12 The funding infrastructure and encroachment issues
13 are unique and often very different requirements for the
14 more for the -- from the more than usual military
15 training and operational missions. It is vitally
16 important that Edwards Air Force Base, California City,
17 remain within Kern County, state and federal district
18 lines.

19 Changing representation now could lead to unintended
20 delays and consequences in the next five years as we seek
21 to build our communities. Thank you for the opportunity
22 to provide public input from your Commission.

23 We appreciate the difficult task you have before
24 you. Please consider keeping our cities currently in the
25 District and not redrawing those lines. Thank you for



1 your time.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

3 Right now we have 045. And then, up next, will be
4 033.

5 045, I will be promoting you now. 045, your speaker
6 order number is number 24. If you will, please make note
7 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let
8 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
9 floor is yours.

10 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you very much. The area I
11 would like to discuss is Kern County, particularly
12 Ridgecrest area, California city. That whole area
13 between Ridgecrest and Bakersfield, basically the outline
14 of Congressional District 23. I'll go ahead and begin.

15 MR. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
16 name is Norman Alexander. I'm currently president of the
17 Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors and also the
18 board chair of AltaOne Federal Credit Union. I would
19 like to thank you for your time and dedication on this
20 important commission that we are working on.

21 You've heard a lot about Ridgecrest and East Kern
22 County and this remote area out in the desert. I could
23 talk about the housing difference between our areas and
24 major urban areas. Our median home price is about lower
25 than 300,000, which is usually about a down payment in

1 the urban areas.

2 You've heard -- just heard about the shared national
3 defense and economic situation with China Lake, Edwards,
4 and even the Mojave Spaceport, how that is very important
5 in a common interest. How Ridgecrest itself depends on
6 and works with East Kern County and West Kern County
7 worked together, particularly when we had our earthquakes
8 out Bakersfield and Ridgecrest business leaders and city
9 leaders work to address some of the employment
10 challenges.

11 An interesting point in Ridgecrest Even during
12 COVID, our unemployment rate went from below five percent
13 to just not even above six percent. So we were able to
14 help out other portions of the county with employment.
15 So we've talked about that.

16 The other challenges we have and other things are
17 close together is our environmental things. Water
18 issues, along with obviously earthquakes, and the
19 protected species that we that we have. But the bottom
20 line is -- the main common interest that we have is our
21 remote living in rural living.

22 That in itself really defines us. We have a
23 particular set of -- we enjoy this type of living and
24 that's why we're out here, out in the desert. We don't
25 have big malls --



1 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

2 MR. ALEXANDER: -- there, don't have large
3 restaurants, but we do enjoy the work that we have out
4 here and the environment that we live in. And the
5 current drawing of the district lines --

6 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

7 MR. ALEXANDER: -- we would like to keep in place
8 because it has really worked for our community.

9 Combining us with large metropolitan areas wouldn't
10 just -- would not address our issues. Thank you again
11 for your support and --

12 MR. MANOFF: Time.

13 MR. ALEXANDER: -- your time on this. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

15 Right now we're going to 033. And then up next,
16 will be 041. And I would, again, like to invite those
17 with appointments during this session: 042, 039, 034,
18 032, 030, 026, and 011 to please use the raise hand
19 button at the bottom of your screen to enter the comment
20 queue line.

21 033, I will be promoting you now. 033, your speaker
22 order number will be number 25. If you'll please make
23 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
24 let the mappers know what area you would like to discuss,
25 the floor is yours. You are still on mute. You can use



1 a mute in the lower left corner of your screen.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, my goodness.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

4 A year and a half of technology and I'm still this
5 way. You can Zoom back into that same area we were in
6 last time. That map location was pretty good. Northern
7 L.A., Palmdale, Lancaster, Kern County, all the way up to
8 Ridgecrest there. Yes, that's a pretty good
9 representation.

10 So great. I'm talking today as an aerospace
11 engineer in this area and the importance of keeping the
12 district together. I've been an aerospace engineer for
13 over thirty years on the research side working at Edwards
14 Air Force Base.

15 And as the first speaker said in the last speaker
16 said, the aerospace industry is important to California,
17 not only because of the economic inputs, but also the
18 talent we bring to the area in California, and the pride
19 in California that results and the work that's done in
20 our area here.

21 You know, the first sonic boom was at Edwards Air
22 Force Base. The space shuttles were built down in
23 Palmdale there in the late and flown -- first flown and
24 tested at Edwards Air Force Base. We attracted diverse
25 students across the country. Early career people come to



1 California in this unique area to work on the coolest
2 technology in the country.

3 Guaranteed, come up to Edwards Air Force Base and
4 look at this cool technology that we're doing here. Nasa
5 Armstrong is flying -- is going to be flying electric
6 aircraft and other climate friendly aircraft
7 technologies. We're doing sonic boom mitigation in that
8 area.

9 And the 2508 airspace is nowhere -- is so unique in
10 this area. It's so important to keep this District
11 together in terms of keeping the talent and everything
12 else in the interest of being able to fly 350 days per
13 year in this unique area.

14 Entrepreneur scale Composites in the Mojave who
15 built the Virgin Galactic that just flew Richard Branson
16 into space was built here in this District area. We fly
17 Earth science and other missions are flown from the
18 Palmdale and the NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center.

19 The latest technology is flown at Edwards and
20 developed and also tested. Unique naval air weapons
21 systems tested out of China Lake. And this cannot be
22 done if we do not have all the common interest of all the
23 research and technology in this district -- in this area,
24 from Palmdale, all the way up to Ridgecrest.

25 In doing that, it's important to keep these areas in

1 one district, support our unique aerospace industry,
2 continue to inspire the new generation of engineers and
3 scientists that are coming in. And it's a diverse group
4 of people that we bring here, unique talent. And you
5 know, I just as thirty years as a research engineer --

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it's been an incredible
8 journey and I appreciate the time and effort you guys,
9 and the problems that you're going to have as you're
10 doing the redistricting. But it's important to keep us
11 together for California, not only for California, but for
12 the people that we can bring into --

13 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- California to work in this
15 area. Thank you very much. I appreciate the time that
16 you have given us to talk.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

18 Right now, we will be going to 041. And again, I'd
19 like to invite those with appointments during this
20 session to use the raise your hand option at the bottom
21 of your screen. 042, 039, 034, 033, 032, 030, and 026.
22 We will be dealing with that in a second.

23 041, I will be promoting you now. 041, your speaker
24 order number will be number 26. If you will, please make
25 note of that for future reference. If you will, please



1 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
2 the floor is yours.

3 MS. DARDEN: West Fresno. Olive -- south of Olive
4 to North Avenue.

5 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

6 MS. DARDEN: My name is Debbie Darden. I am the
7 chair for Golden West Side Planning Committee. I am also
8 the chair for BAPAC, Black American Political Association
9 of California, also an advocate and longtime resident of
10 West Fresno 93706.

11 And in regards to the redistricting, this particular
12 community here is enriched with family. Very
13 diversified. There has been an enormous amount of
14 African-American families that were born and raised here.
15 Many of them are now living throughout The City of
16 Fresno. A good portion would be further out west in the
17 central area, which is past Marks between Marks and
18 Cornelius going all the way to Shaw Avenue.

19 And one of the things over here in West Fresno,
20 although we have a connection to several warehousing and
21 manufacturing throughout this community, what we lack are
22 the resources and dollars to which taxes -- tax dollars
23 would bring to this community.

24 We have structure, buildings, development that have
25 taken place in this area. Amazon being a prime example.



1 Ultra being another example. But because of the
2 incentives that the city brings in, the west Fresno
3 community lose out on those dollars because the exchanges
4 that they bring in the jobs. I can guarantee you that
5 there's probably not five percent of the workers at
6 Amazon or Ultra reside here in West Fresno.

7 Many of the housing have been taken out of West
8 Fresno and many of the many medium income homeowners,
9 especially, African-Americans who have achieved education
10 and gone into the workforce, have been forced to leave
11 West Fresno. Although they would have loved to have
12 stayed and reside due to the fact that we have lack of
13 housing.

14 And yet the city of Fresno is one of the ones where
15 we have an enormous housing crisis at this time. And so
16 that is something that that we need to have a connection
17 with. The downtown Fresno has since incorporated of
18 being part of Southwest Fresno. However, there's still a
19 division there. People have a tendency to grasp on to
20 the West Fresno as the disadvantaged community that will
21 allow the --

22 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

23 MS. DARDEN: -- us to apply for grants that provide
24 millions of dollars to come inside to be able to do these
25 amenities and build in this community. However, those

1 dollars are spent in other areas and not West Fresno. So
2 there's a division in --

3 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

4 MS. DARDEN: -- in money and connection for
5 development for this community, and that has been done
6 for a number of decades for our community.

7 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller?

8 MS. DARDEN: Thank you. Yes?

9 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Can I ask you to confirm the
10 eastern boundaries of your community?

11 MS. DARDEN: Going east, we would go as far as -- I
12 would take it as far as the Golden state.

13 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Thank you.

14 MS. DARDEN: Um-hum.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Sorry. Can I also just
17 pause and can I ask our Spanish interpreter to give
18 instructions in Spanish in case those with appointments
19 are speaking Spanish?

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure.

21 INTERPRETER: Yes. Would that be the language line
22 instructions?

23 MR. MANOFF: I believe --

24 INTERPRETER: Or I'm sorry, the full call-in?

25 MR. MANOFF: -- if you could please ask those in the



1 queue with appointments to raise their hand to show that
2 they are ready to give comment, please.

3 INTERPRETER: [In Spanish].

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much,
5 Margarita.

6 At this time I am just going to be doing the audio
7 option for each person in the queue that does have an
8 appointment and give them the opportunity to join. This
9 is for appointment -- this is for appointment 026.

10 Appointment 026, would you wish to give comment at
11 this time?

12 MS. KAUR: Hi. Yes.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. Your speaker
14 order number will be number 27. If you'll please make
15 note of that for future reference. And if you will,
16 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
17 discuss, the floor is yours.

18 MS. KAUR: Awesome. Thank you. For City of Fresno
19 in the northwest, West Fresno area, and particularly
20 going south as McKinley. And then going west as
21 Garfield. So that will be a street over from Grantland.
22 For Grantland is okay for now. And then going north --
23 as west as Grantland. And then, let's see what else?
24 And then 99 being that boundary kind of that triangle
25 will make. And then also going from west of -- west

1 being the 99 boundary, north being Herndon, going all the
2 way to Marks, and then south would be about Ashland I
3 would say. That's kind of like a rough map. Not
4 exactly. But I will get started.

5 My name is Jaskeet Kaur. I work for a movement, a
6 community-based organization, and I've been a resident of
7 City of Fresno for twenty-nine years and I live in that
8 residence that I just kind of mapped out. I am also here
9 representing AAPI and AMENSA Redistricting Collaborative.
10 and today I'll be talking about Northwest Neighborhoods.

11 I would also like to include the Sunnyside
12 neighborhood today. Kind of there are large clumps there
13 as well. Jakara Movement has been an active organization
14 within the community for twenty years, organizing and
15 empowering the Punjabi Sikh community and other
16 marginalized communities to advance their health,
17 education, and economic, and social, and political power.

18 Punjabi is an ethnic background where Sikh is an
19 ethno or a religious background. Punjabis have been
20 living in California for over 120 years. The community
21 is tied by its Punjabi language and its culture, as well
22 as its Sikh faith.

23 We have many families moving into the area Fresno,
24 because of the two local gurdwaras, the Sikh Institute of
25 Fresno, in that northwest Fresno area and Nanaksar

1 Gurdwara Cornelia, which is on the Cornelia Avenue.

2 These gurdwaras are not only a place of worship, but also
3 where our elderly come to gather and community events are
4 held.

5 Another reason a large migration here is happening
6 because or has happened -- it's because there is a school
7 district, the Central Unified School district in this
8 region, which has the highest population of Punjabi Sikh
9 students, and it continues to only grow.

10 Another reason a lot of our families tend to stay in
11 this region is due to employment. One being in the
12 transportation industry. Since this area is so close to
13 a major highway, it makes it easier for families to be
14 able to go to work and come back and be close to a major
15 highway, the Highway 99.

16 Another reason also is that many families tend to
17 carpool together. So they've kind of created these
18 community networks where they're carpooling together to
19 their blue-collar jobs at places such as Foster
20 Brothers --

21 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

22 MS. KAUR: -- and Thatcher Farms. There are also
23 many language limited folks who live in this area and are
24 in need of language access services. Many of our
25 families are feeling alienated and are codependent on

1 their children because of lack of resources and language
2 barriers.

3 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

4 MS. KAUR: Along with the Sikh community, there is a
5 growing Muslim community, a Hmong community, whom all
6 have shared priorities such as quality education,
7 employment, community, language, and immigrant rights.
8 We hope the community will -- or the commission will --

9 MR. MANOFF: Time.

10 MS. KAUR: -- keep the communities together. Thank
11 you so much for your time.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

13 And right now, we will have 030. Up next, will be
14 034.

15 030, I will be promoting you now. 030, your speaker
16 order number will be number 28. If you'll please make
17 note of that for future reference. And if you will,
18 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
19 discuss, the floor is yours.

20 MS. LIM: Great. Thank you. Fresno County, please.
21 Good evening. My name is. Jun Lim and I am the
22 demographic research project director at Asian-Americans
23 Advancing Justice Los Angeles. I am joining you today to
24 present data supporting the community of interest
25 testimony you heard from our partners representing the



1 AAPI and AMENSA Redistricting Collaborative.

2 These include C-O-Is from the Punjabi, Sikh, Muslim,
3 and Hmong communities in Fresno County. The Asian
4 American Pacific Islander and AMENSA community is a large
5 and fast-growing part of Fresno County.

6 The latest census data show that while the
7 population in Fresno County grew by ten percent between
8 2010 and 2020, the AAPI communities in the county grew
9 faster by twenty-seven and eighteen percent,
10 respectively. And now are over twelve percent of the
11 county.

12 In specific cities and census designated places
13 within the county, the AAPI and AMENSA communities have
14 grown even faster. The Asian-American community has
15 grown by more than forty percent in Clovis and Sunnyside
16 and the AAPI, and AMENSA communities now make up more
17 than fifteen percent of Clovis, Sunnyside, and The City
18 of Fresno.

19 Twenty-one percent of Fresno County is immigrant.
20 Nearly half of the AAPI community and AMENSA community in
21 Fresno is foreign born. Over one third of AAPI and
22 AMENSA communities in Fresno County is limited English
23 proficient, meaning they speak English less than very
24 well.

25 Asian-Americans are most likely of any racial group

1 in Fresno County to be LEP. Over forty percent among an
2 Asian-Indian communities, which include the Sikh
3 communities, speak English less than very well. The rate
4 is disproportionately higher among older adults. Ninety-
5 five percent of Hmong elders and one hundred percent of
6 PI elders in The City of Fresno speak English less than
7 very well.

8 The per capita income for Asian-Americans in Fresno
9 County is less than two third of the per capita income
10 for whites. And Hmong Americans are among the poorest in
11 the region, with a per capita income under 10,000.

12 There are regional differences as well, while
13 slightly more than thirty-four percent of Asian-Americans
14 in Clovis are low income, more than fifty-five percent of
15 Asian-Americans in The City of Fresno are low income, and
16 over thirty-one percent live in poverty.

17 In closing, the AAPI and AMENSA Redistricting
18 Collaborative asked the Commission to respect the
19 integrity of the communities of interest presented today
20 in the area for the communities I've mentioned.

21 I will submit to the Commission data maps and shape
22 files of these communities of interest with my written
23 testimony. Thank you very much for your time.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 Right now we go to 034. And then, up next, after



1 that will be 032.

2 034, I will be promoting you now. 034, your speaker
3 order number is number 29. If you will, please make note
4 of that for future reference. You can now enable your
5 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
6 If you will, please let the mapper know what area you
7 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

8 Unique ID 034, if you could please follow the prompt
9 you unmute at this time. Unique ID 034? I believe they
10 dropped off. All right. On to the next. At this time,
11 we will be going to 032.

12 032, your speaker order number will be number 30.
13 If you are, please make note of that for future
14 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in
15 the lower left corner of your screen. If you will,
16 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
17 discuss, the floor is yours.

18 S3: Yes. The area of interest is current
19 Congressional District 23, Kern County, Ridgecrest, and
20 including North China Lake.

21 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

22 MR. MOMDRAGON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
23 name is Bernie Momdragon and I am a twenty-five-year
24 resident of The City of Ridgecrest, a Mexican-American
25 small business owner. I am currently serving as a



1 city -- serving as a City Planning Commissioner. Thank
2 you for the opportunity to speak today.

3 I am calling today in regards to the Community of
4 Interest area, which is all of Kern County, including
5 Ridgecrest, North China Lake, and Indian Wells Valley.
6 Our request of The City of Ridgecrest and the Valley
7 remained with the county and district lines, as it has
8 been since 2011.

9 Ridgecrest is a remote and rural desert community
10 and is next to North China Lake, which accounts for an
11 approximate eighty-six percent of our local economy.
12 With that, China Lake accounts for a significant portion
13 of our local economy and has a unique mission along with
14 Edwards Air Force Base.

15 The two military bases share the common mission of
16 aerospace defense, research development, testing and
17 evaluation, which requires a unique knowledge and
18 understanding from our representatives in order to serve
19 our community.

20 In Ridgecrest, we have weathered two disasters.
21 Because of the relationships that have already been
22 established, from the 2019 earthquake to the pandemic,
23 our county has supported our rural communities. In July
24 2019, the two major earthquakes showed the strength of
25 our county and the critical importance of maintaining our



1 23rd district and county lines.

2 Words fail to express the impact of small businesses
3 in Ridgecrest and the base at China Lake experienced
4 following the earthquakes because of the fact that the
5 network our valley currently knows.

6 COVID has been difficult on all of us, but in turn,
7 our small businesses benefited from county directed PPE
8 grants. Our community, our base and our small businesses
9 are stronger because of our county, state and federal
10 interconnections.

11 If we were to be absorbed into our neighboring
12 districts, we would certainly lose our voice and
13 connection. Kern County as a whole, and Ridgecrest in
14 particular, has a -- has very little in common with L.A.
15 and San Bernardino County, which are -- which have large
16 urban centers. Representatives serving those areas are
17 likely to be disconnected at best from the needs of our
18 area and at worse inclined to support competing
19 interests.

20 As a resident, a small business owner, I know we are
21 well represented through the relationships that have been
22 forged within our county and district. And so I request
23 that we maintain the 23rd District and Kern County lines
24 to support our rural communities. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.



1 And 034, he came back to join us. I will be doing
2 the audio only option at this time. 034, your speaker
3 order number is 29. If you will, please make note of
4 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the
5 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
6 floor is yours.

7 MS. MCCOY: Hi. My name is Kimberly McCoy, project
8 director for Fresno Building Healthy Communities. And I
9 will be speaking on Central Valley. When the CRC
10 conducts redistricting and allows the politicians to
11 choose their constituents, whether the other way around.

12 Redistricting should encourage community cohesion
13 rather than division. Done poorly, redistricting often
14 divides communities of interest, making it difficult for
15 them to find represent representatives to champion their
16 causes and advocate for them. African-Americans have
17 also doubled in some communities in the Central Valley,
18 like Fresno, in Kings County.

19 It can also make it difficult for legislators to
20 serve their constituents since it may be difficult for
21 them to travel easily throughout the district or never
22 see the legislator at all in high poverty census tracts,
23 especially majority black census tracts in the Central
24 Valley, in communities like Pixie, Atwater, Bear Meat and
25 Chowchilla unfair redistricting creates safe districts



1 which result in uncontested or competitive elections,
2 leading to reduced voter interest and turnout.

3 Poorly contested assembly, Senate seats in the
4 Central Valley has had low voter turnout. We must do
5 better to meet the needs of African-American families and
6 communities like Southwest Fresno, or we'll continue to
7 see the disproportionate jarring impacts on black
8 families related to poor health and outcomes in income
9 inequality. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 Right now, we'll go to 039. 039, if you will,
12 please follow the prompts to unmute in the lower left
13 corner of your screen. 039, your speaker order number
14 will be number 31. If you will, please make note of that
15 for future reference. And if you'll please let the
16 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
17 floor is yours.

18 039, you are unmuted. Can you hear me? 039, you
19 may want to check your audio settings next to the
20 microphone. Check your speaker.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I have 008.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are. Hi.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Okay. It's a
24 different number that I received. Okay.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I apologize.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My name is (indiscernible).
2 And would you please display the map of Fresno County?
3 And I will address West Fresno County, South Fresno
4 County, and the south side of The City of Fresno, please.
5 I will identify these three portions of the county as a
6 community of interest that need responsive
7 representation.

8 To begin with the definition of the geography. West
9 Fresno County is composed of small, rural Latino majority
10 cities west of Highway 41 and Highway 99, and west of The
11 City of Fresno. In South Fresno County are small, rural,
12 Latino majority cities east of Highway 99, south of
13 Highway 180, and southeast of The City of Fresno.

14 The City of Fresno is divided north and south along
15 Shaw Avenue, a tale of two cities, as some people refer
16 to it. True South Fresno is bounded by major streets,
17 Shields Avenue to the North, Beach Avenue to the east,
18 Jensen Avenue to the south, and Highway 99 to the west.

19 As per Census data, a large population of people of
20 color, especially Latinos, reside in these areas. Fresno
21 County is a Latino majority county, well over fifty
22 percent. A majority of Latinos, Asians and African-
23 Americans live in south side of The City of Fresno.

24 The small rural cities in western South Fresno
25 County are well over sixty percent. Socio economic

1 issues and policy needs affect the well-being of all of
2 those living in the rural areas and in the Southside City
3 of Fresno. There is a need for effective representation.

4 These rural residents of the Appalachia Fresno
5 County suffer from isolation and lack of access to health
6 care services and hospitals. The availability of a
7 physician, eye doctor, dentist and ambulatory services is
8 paramount.

9 Poverty is pronounced here due to agricultural
10 related jobs available with low paying wages. The
11 quality and quantity of potable water is lacking in all
12 the rural towns and unincorporated communities. Either
13 there is a shortage of water or it's contaminated.

14 Environmentally, there are three areas. These three
15 areas face higher rates of air pollution and with it
16 higher rates of illnesses. Keep these three resilient
17 communities of interest together in legislative and
18 congressional districts to acquire positive, effective
19 representation.

20 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Equal justice calls for
22 making them whole. Thank you. I appreciate -- we
23 appreciate the job that you're doing in the commission.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 Right now, we will be going to 042. 042, your



1 speaker order number will be number 32. If you'll please
2 make note of that for future reference. You can now
3 enable your audio and video in the lower left corner of
4 your screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what
5 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

6 DR. CASTALLANOS: Good afternoon. The area that I'd
7 like to discuss is the area that Vilencio (phonetic) just
8 elaborated on, and that is the southeast area of Fresno
9 County, specifically the rural towns of Sanger, Reedley,
10 Selma, Parlier, and Del Rey. So I can't see the map
11 right now, so.

12 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

13 DR. CASTELLANOS: I'm not sure if you'd like me to
14 specify streets. But I can't see the map in front of me.
15 So I'm not sure if it's up or not. But again, the town
16 that I'm talking about are in southeast Fresno County.

17 So good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Dr.
18 Eve Castellanos. I grew up in I live in Sanger,
19 California, which is a rural community of approximately
20 25,000 in the Central Valley. It's about 13 miles
21 southeast of Fresno in The County of Fresno. The C-O-I
22 that I'm advocating to request for is these small towns
23 that are in southeast Fresno County's small rural towns.

24 Sanger has experienced a steady growth in population
25 since about 2000, when the population was about 18,000.



1 Since then, our population has increased to about 25,000.
2 And while we don't have any major thoroughfares or
3 freeways that run directly through our city, one of the
4 major highways is Highway 180, and that's located to the
5 north of us, which leads to Sequoia and Kings Canyon
6 National Park. It's about two miles outside of Sanger.

7 The expansion and the growth and population that
8 these towns have experienced over the past couple of
9 decades has been facilitated by the development of new
10 housing communities, as well as the creation of new P-12
11 schools that have been located close to the -- in the
12 city or close to our city boundaries.

13 And while these smaller communities are experiencing
14 rapid growth, this growth has resulted in further
15 demonstrating inequities and marginalization resulting
16 from the income gap that exists in these communities,
17 including those similar to those experienced by the
18 populations and residents as described previously in
19 Southwest Fresno.

20 Related to that, the equities in our community
21 includes lack of access to public transportation, higher
22 education, physical and mental health care providers, and
23 other factors that contribute to advancing upward social
24 mobility.

25 These disparities are unique and different from

1 those experienced in other surrounding cities such as
2 Clovis and Fresno. That has already previously been
3 alluded to, which are more urban. Reedley, Sanger,
4 Selma, Parlier, and Del Rey, are located in the southeast
5 areas of Fresno, again southeast of Highway 180.

6 And these disparities have continued -- they have
7 contributed to already existing economic challenges and
8 disproportionate income disparities. For example, the
9 unemployment rate in California is currently 8.6 percent.
10 The unemployment rate in Sanger's 10.8 percent.

11 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12 DR. CASTALLANOS: These cities primarily are resided
13 by Latinx families, many of whom are low income. So I'm
14 asking for your consideration to -- in helping advance
15 more direct representation --

16 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

17 DR. CASTALLANOS: -- areas in Fresno County. Thank
18 you.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

20 At this time, I'd like to invite those that have
21 called in to please press star 9 on their telephone
22 keypad or raise their hand indicating they wish to give
23 comment. We will be going to caller 0311. And then, up
24 next, after that would be caller 3745.

25 Caller 0311, if you will, please follow the prompts



1 to unmute at this time. Caller 0311, your speaker order
2 number will be number 33. If you will, please make note
3 of that for future reference. And if you will, please
4 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
5 the floor is yours?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. I'd like to speak about
7 the 10th Congressional District of Stanislaus County. I
8 would encourage the -- my name is Michael, sorry -- to
9 keep Stanislaus County within the 10th Congressional
10 District. We'd like to include the areas of Lodi instead
11 of Tracy.

12 I'd also like to mention that I would like to not
13 have Stanislaus County included into Merced County as
14 many of the students for CSU go to the -- the CSU in
15 Stanislaus has a -- we have a satellite campus in San
16 Joaquin. And so a lot of the students there go to the
17 same college.

18 Also, that Modesto is -- the Modesto area and
19 (indiscernible) is also part of the Sacramento immediate
20 area. And so we believe that the needs of our community
21 would be best served with keeping Stanislaus County as
22 one congressional district and including the areas of
23 Lodi and the rural areas of San Joaquin, as we are a more
24 of a agriculture with the wine industry in Modesto, with
25 the Gallo and parts of Lodi. Thank you.



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 Right now, we'll go to caller 3745. And then, up
3 next, after that will be caller 6096.

4 Caller 3745, if you will, please follow the prompts
5 to unmute at this time. Caller 3745, your speaker order
6 number will be number 34. If you would please make note
7 of that for future reference. And if you will, please
8 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
9 the floor is yours.

10 MS. ALIYA: Hello. I'll be talking about the
11 Central Valley.

12 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

13 MS. ALIYA: Hello, Commissioners. My name is Ariana
14 Aliya and I grew up in the east side of Bakersfield, but
15 currently I am a sophomore at IC Merced. I just want to
16 give my input today because I understand it is a very
17 important process that we only get once a decade.

18 UC Merced is the newest UC campus. And it's grown a
19 lot over the last decade. We are a very unique community
20 of interest. UC Merced community is closely tied to The
21 City of Merced and the Central Valley. We are Valley
22 University and should be kept in a districts with the
23 valley.

24 The campus is not in The City of Merced. It is kind
25 of on the outskirts of town by Yosemite Lake. But we



1 should be kept together with Merced. A lot of the
2 students live in the city and a lot of the students
3 commute from other parts of the valley to campus. Some
4 of my friends commute from Modesto and Fresno to attend
5 UC Merced.

6 UC Merced should not be in districts with any of the
7 foothill and mountain communities to the east of the
8 Valley. For example, Turlock and Stanislaus County is
9 connected to the Foothills and the State Senate, and we
10 do not want that for Merced or the UC.

11 So we ask, please keep those valley communities
12 paired with each other when making the districts and not
13 with the foothills or mountains. The Valley has
14 experienced a lot of growth over the last decade,
15 according to the census data.

16 So the commission might even have to split some of
17 our valley communities and big cities when making new
18 districts. It's okay to split some of the communities
19 and cities if necessary, but whatever you do, we ask to
20 keep our valley cities along Highway 99, away from
21 districts with the foothills and mountains. Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller, you started to get to
23 it at the end there, but just wanted to see if you could
24 be a bit more specific about which communities you talk
25 about when you say don't separate the valley communities.

1 MS. ALIYA: More of the cities are along that mile-
2 long Highway 99.

3 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Okay. Which ones do you
4 consider okay to split along that 99 corridor?

5 MS. ALIYA: I would say there --

6 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: It's also okay to send a follow
7 up email. It'd be great to have that specificity. So if
8 you need more time, we would love to have that --

9 MS. ALIYA: Yeah.

10 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: -- over email.

11 MS. ALIYA: Okay. The email. Sorry.

12 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Thank you. We're
13 asking you to make tough choices, so I appreciate --

14 MS. ALIYA: Yeah.

15 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: -- you taking the time to
16 consider it. Thank you so much.

17 MS. ALIYA: Yeah, Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Thanks.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

20 Right now, we will go to caller 6096. If you will,
21 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
22 6096, your speaker order number will be number 35. If
23 you'll please make note of that for future reference.
24 And if you'll please let the mapper know what area you
25 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.



1 MR. MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Good afternoon,
2 everyone. I'm going to be speaking about Fresno County.
3 My name is Samuel Molina, born and raised here in Fresno.
4 And I have a home here in Fresno. I've worked throughout
5 the San Joaquin Valley on civic engagement issues within
6 the Latino community for the last seven years.

7 My input today is sharing with the Commission the
8 connectivity among Latinos throughout the South San
9 Joaquin Valley, from South Side City of Fresno to
10 Eastside, City of Bakersfield, and all of the small rural
11 communities in between.

12 As the Commission -- so just so the Commission
13 understand subsidy of everything south of Shaw Avenue,
14 East side City of Bakersfield is east of Highway 99, and
15 the west side are the small rural Latino towns from
16 Fresno County to Kern between Highway 99 and I-5.

17 The Commission must do all that it can to recognize
18 the Latino majorities across the region and empower these
19 Latino communities when drawing new districts. Latinos
20 in Southside, Fresno and Eastside, Bakersfield share
21 cultural roots, socio economics and face similar policy
22 challenges along with the letter along with Latinos in
23 rural communities.

24 Latinos are the vast majority of population in these
25 areas, with the Westside communities claiming nearly

1 ninety percent Latino populations such as Mendota, Huron,
2 Avenal, Corcoran, McFarland and Wasco. Many are
3 immigrant families with Mexican heritage and have a
4 farmworker background or work in ag related jobs. Many
5 families are low income but hard working and fairly face
6 challenges around homeownership, building
7 intergenerational wealth and being able to access a
8 college education.

9 South Fresno, East Bakersfield and small rural towns
10 often lack green space and older neighborhoods with
11 significant infrastructure needs and faced challenges
12 around water and air pollution. There are many amazing
13 nonprofit organizations and local elected officials
14 working together on these issues, but there is much work
15 that needs to be done.

16 These Latino majority communities must have their
17 voices heard and their needs met, which can only happen
18 when they are empowered at the ballot box. The
19 Commission has the power to make sure that happens with
20 representative districts. Again, Latinos are clearly the
21 majority in the South San Joaquin Valley from south side
22 of Fresno to East Side Bakersfield, and all the small
23 rural towns in between.

24 It's very important today for the Commission to
25 recognize and respect by drawing Latino majority



1 districts, they'll be doing right by the Latino
2 community. Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

4 Right now, we will be going to caller with the last
5 four 9723. If you will, please follow -- if you will,
6 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
7 9723, your speaker order number is number 36. If you'll
8 please make note of that for future reference. And if
9 you will, please let the mapper know what area you would
10 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I like to discuss -- hello?

12 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

14 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm so sorry. I've
16 been waiting, like, two hours. I'd like to discuss the
17 Commission to remove the city of Tracy from the 10th
18 District because -- replace Tracy with the City of Lodi
19 in the rural community of the East side of San Joaquin
20 County. Lyndon, (indiscernible), Farmington, et cetera,
21 we have more in common. But I thank you so much for
22 taking my call. Are you there?

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Thank you so much.

24 Right now. We will be going to caller 4700. If you
25 will, please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.



1 Caller 4700, your speaker order number is number 37. If
2 you will, please let the mapper know what area you would
3 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

4 MR. SINGH: I'd like to speak about Fresno County,
5 but specifically The City of Fresno.

6 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead.

7 MR. SINGH: (Indiscernible). My name is Naindeep
8 Singh, and I called in two capacities. I the executive
9 director of the Jakara Movement. But I also serve as a
10 school board Trustee for the West Fresno region,
11 specifically Central Unified.

12 Most importantly, for the purpose of this, I'm a
13 resident of Fresno, California, and I'm calling in today
14 to provide a little bit of input on the 99 corridor and
15 West Fresno neighborhood and to provide an introduction
16 for the -- sorry, to further kind of share about the work
17 of the AAPI and AMENSA Redistricting Collaboratives.

18 Over the past few months, the Jakara Movement has
19 worked as a regional partner with the AAPI and AMENSA
20 State Redistricting Collaborative in the San Joaquin
21 Valley, Sacramento Valley, and the Bay Area.

22 The testimony that my colleagues and I have been
23 preparing and sharing with you throughout the day is a
24 reflection of our coalition's engagement with our
25 communities, collecting feedback from multiple

1 stakeholders regarding C-O-Is across West Fresno.

2 This past summer, our big collaborative held four
3 community workshops for communities in the Central Valley
4 region reaching ten different community-based
5 organizations and over twenty community members and
6 staff.

7 Across these workshops, we mapped a variety of
8 courses that capture the diversity of the AAPI and AMENSA
9 community in the Central Valley, especially Fresno, while
10 providing education on the ways to engage with the
11 redistricting process.

12 Outside these meetings, members have also engaged in
13 direct outreach to their respective communities,
14 gathering insight from religious leaders, business
15 owners, students and families. We hope our collaborative
16 work -- helps the Commission better understand the
17 diverse AAPI and AMENSA communities in the Central
18 Valley, especially the Fresno area.

19 With the most recent data released from the 2020
20 census, we now know Asian-Americans make up more than
21 eleven percent of Fresno County residents, making this
22 population one of the largest and fastest growing groups
23 in the region.

24 The 99-corridor skirting both sides of the 99 is
25 home to one of the fastest growing Punjabi Sikh

1 communities in the country. Various industries,
2 especially that of transport and trucking business.
3 Common languages, backgrounds and even difficulties unite
4 Punjabi speaking communities throughout the region.

5 The implications of a large, concentrated,
6 racialized minority has many huge impacts, including
7 environmental issues related to health disparities
8 exacerbated by the air -- poor air quality, straddling
9 the 99 lack of language access due to a large, limited,
10 English proficient Asian community, which is the case for
11 most Punjabi Sikhs, and lack of access to parks and other
12 recreational activities, especially for our senior
13 citizens. This region has also seen an uptick with
14 regards to hate related --

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. SINGH: -- violence, especially against elderly
17 sick men.

18 The core of the region I'm talking about straddles
19 the 99 corridor from Herndon and Grantland to McKinney
20 Boulevard despite being well-represented in all counties
21 across the Central Valley, their political voices have
22 been splitting.

23 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

24 MR. SINGH: Today, I'm urging the Commission to
25 consider keeping the 99 West Fresno corridor and adjacent

1 neighborhoods whole. It's important that we're drawn
2 together. Thank you so much for hearing me today and the
3 rest of the AAPI and AMENSA State Redistricting
4 Collaborative.

5 MR. MANOFF: Time.

6 MR. SINGH: I hope you give them your time,
7 attention, and strong consideration. Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller, could we -- could you
9 give us your boundaries for West Fresno?

10 MR. SINGH: Absolutely. So basically, Commissioner,
11 more often than not, people draw the 99 as a dividing
12 line. And what I'm actually suggesting is there's an
13 adjacent region that actually straddles both the east and
14 west. And so the region I'm actually talking about on
15 the northern border comes from the Kern and Grantland
16 area in the south to about McKinley Avenue.

17 But both east and west, about a mile a mile and a
18 half on both sides of the 99. So whether that's grouped
19 with the east or with the West, my only suggestion is
20 that areas should be kept whole, where more often than
21 not, people use the 99 as the dividing line.

22 But whether it be from air quality, whether it be
23 about the types of occupations or whether it be the
24 languages spoken on both sides of the 99 draw very much
25 as our C-O-I.

1 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Thank you so much.

2 MR. SINGH: Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: All right.

4 MR. SINGH: Appreciate all of your hard work.

5 VICE CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Thank you. Okay. Everyone
6 were a bit over time. We are going to take another
7 fifteen-minute break. And when we return at 6:30 sharp,
8 we will move into general public input public comment.

9 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

10 CHAIR TURNER: Welcome back to the California
11 Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Interest
12 Input meeting. I'm Commissioner Chair Turner joining you
13 again. And for anyone who has joined us recently, I want
14 you to know that we are offering language lines for
15 Spanish language speakers to listen to the meeting in
16 their native language and a separate line for those who
17 wish to provide public comment or public input.

18 Can I please have the -- our interpreter provide our
19 language line number and the information to provide
20 public input. Can our Spanish interpreter please read
21 the site translation of full call-in instructions?

22 INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair. This is Margarita,
23 Spanish interpreter. I will go ahead and read the full
24 call-in instructions in Spanish. [In Spanish]. Thank
25 you.



1 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you so much. And I'd
2 like to thank my co-chair for the previous session that
3 we just had. This session is specifically dedicated to
4 those that did not have an appointment. However, if you
5 had an appointment and were unable to call in during your
6 time block, we encourage you to call in now.

7 As a reminder, even though we are focusing on the
8 specific counties, Californians from anywhere in the
9 state are welcome to provide input. We'll continue to
10 take public input at this time and also invite public
11 comment at this time.

12 The phone line for public input and public comment
13 will close at 7 p.m. We will get to all the callers who
14 were in the queue at that time to include going beyond 7
15 p.m. if needed. So at this time we're going to pass over
16 to Katy, our comment moderator.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

18 In order to maximize transparency and public
19 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
20 taking community of interest input and general public
21 comment for items not on the agenda by phone. To call
22 in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream
23 feed. It is 877-853-5247.

24 When prompted to enter the meeting ID number
25 provided on the livestream feed, it is 88913953415 for



1 this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID
2 simply press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you
3 will be placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to
4 comment, please press star 9. This will raise your hand
5 for the moderator.

6 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a
7 message that says, the host would like you to talk and to
8 press Star six to speak. If you would like to give your
9 name, please state and spell it for the record. You are
10 not required to provide your name to give public comment.

11 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream
12 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your
13 call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
14 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn
15 down the livestream volume.

16 At this time we will go to caller 9563, which I
17 believe is unique ID 043. If you will, please follow the
18 prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 9563, if you
19 will, please press star 6 to unmute at this time. And
20 one last time. Caller 9563, if you will, please press
21 star 6 at this time. There may be some connectivity
22 issues. We will come right back to them.

23 Right now, we will go to caller 8443. If you will,
24 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
25 8443, your speaker order number will be number 38. If



1 you'll please make note of that for future reference.

2 And if you will, please let the mapper know what area you
3 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

4 S1: Hello. Can you focus on the map on Stanislaus
5 County, specifically The City of Turlock?

6 MR. MANOFF: We sure can. Thank you. Go ahead,
7 please.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Good
9 evening, Commissioners. My name is (indiscernible). I'm
10 a member of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights,
11 also known as CHIRLA, and I'm a resident of Turlock.

12 Today, I will be talking about the diverse community
13 of Stanislaus County and more specifically about the
14 students of color at Stan State and those that transfer
15 from Modesto Junior College.

16 I have been a resident of this community for the
17 past six years and my time here I've experience being
18 part of a neighborhood that is a melting pot. There are
19 many races and ethnicities. We are a mix of minorities:
20 black, Latino, Sikh, Punjab, Syrian, and many others.

21 We also have homeless people from not just
22 minorities, but also white ethnicities. The main
23 languages spoken are as diverse as the ethnic groups
24 here. For Stanford students, the majority of us are
25 renters who usually are part of the community during the

1 time in which we are finishing our degree. We do have
2 people like me that are homeowners, but they reside on
3 the east side of Turlock.

4 The financial economic status of people in my
5 neighborhood varies. Sometimes renters, even in the area
6 of the Central Valley, which are considered affordable,
7 ask for two or three times the monthly rent. The largest
8 employer is Stan State. Most employees, such as
9 professors and administrators, live in the Stanislaus
10 County, but not necessarily The City of Turlock.

11 The jobs available to local residents are big
12 companies like Costco, Walmart, McDonald's, other fast-
13 food places, Foster Farms, and big local company called
14 the Gallo Winery for active registered students.

15 The services available are the health center in
16 which you can get COVID tested, vaccinated, and get
17 urgent primary care. The health center also has a
18 pharmacy onsite which has low-cost medicines. Also, we
19 have the Warrior Food Pantry, which was established
20 because we have a high population of homeless students.

21 Due to the demand from the students in need into a
22 place where you can get ten items a week into a place
23 where students, even with dietary restrictions, could
24 access food and sanitary products.

25 For the first time, students and undocumented

1 students, the Workforce Cultural Center offers services
2 such as immigration, legal services, career counseling,
3 social justice workshops. Although we have all these
4 services available for students, specifically the word
5 cross-cultural center, they are not widely advertised to
6 students in need, such as myself.

7 I didn't even find out that I can receive this
8 support in my third year because oftentimes these
9 resources are underfunded and understaffed to reach all
10 the students in need.

11 My community is located between the 99 Freeway and
12 Main Street would include (indiscernible) Road, Monte
13 Vista Avenue and Golden State Boulevard. My community is
14 still similar --

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to the following cities
17 like Modesto, Newman, Ceres, Keyes (indiscernible),
18 Hughson. My community is different from the following
19 cities: Tacoma, Oakdale, Burbank. It is important that
20 my community sticks together because we want access --

21 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to higher education for
23 students of color who are facing lack of access to health
24 care, healthy food, and security. And we're especially
25 hit hard by COVID by keeping the community together. And



1 one district we can collectively advocate to represent is
2 at the state and federal level to serve students in need.
3 Thank you for your time.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 Right now we will go to caller 3359. If you will,
7 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
8 3359, your speaker order number will be number 39. If
9 you'll please make note of that for future reference.
10 And if you'll please let the mapper know what you would
11 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

12 MS. CARDENAS: Yes. We can continue focusing on The
13 City of Turlock.

14 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

15 MS. CARDENAS: Good evening, Commissioners. My name
16 is Gloria and I'm the Central Valley organizer for the
17 California Now Network, the youth branch for the
18 Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, known as CHIRLA.

19 I'm a resident of Turlock. And before becoming
20 staff with CHIRLA, I have been organizing in the area for
21 about a year and a half on issues such as immigration,
22 health care and resources for students at Stanislaus
23 State.

24 But I want to illustrate the challenges and issues
25 within the diverse community of Stanislaus County. But



1 in Turlock, you will see a high number of students,
2 factory workers, farm workers and small business owners
3 in the area. Due to these diverse populations, Turlock
4 comprises student housing apartments, farming complexes,
5 home owners, and senior retirement homes.

6 My neighbors and I are different races or
7 intensities. Our community is made of Latino, black,
8 Assyrian, Portuguese, Caucasian, and other ethnic group.
9 The primary languages spoken besides English or Spanish,
10 Punjabi, Portuguese, and Assyrian.

11 During my time in Stanislaus County, I have
12 organized and spoken with undocumented youth alongside
13 their families on resources needed, such as access to
14 health care, COVID relief, resources to succeed in
15 obtaining a higher education at Stanislaus State, mental
16 health resources, homeless shelters, and food pantries,
17 which are limited in Turlock.

18 Also being able to provide the correct personal
19 protective equipment known as PPE to the factory workers
20 and for our farmworkers to be able to breathe during the
21 California fires, protect themselves from harmful
22 pesticides and of course, combat COVID-19.

23 With this in mind, my community is physically
24 similar to the following cities: Modesto, Newman, Ceres,
25 Keyes, Salida and Hughson. The difference is Denair,

1 Oakdale and Riverbank.

2 It is important my community stay together because
3 we want access to health care, court relief, mental
4 health services, food pantries, homeless shelters,
5 personal protective equipment, higher education for our
6 undocumented students.

7 By keeping the following neighborhoods: Ceres,
8 Hughson, Keyes, Salida, (indiscernible) and Modesto
9 together in one district we can collectively advocate
10 represent to our representative at the state and federal
11 level to serve the community in need. Thank you so much
12 for your time.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right
15 now, we'll go to caller 9052. If you will, please follow
16 the prompts to unmute at this time. If you will, please
17 press star 6 one more time. I apologize. That was my
18 fault. Your speaker order -- I'm so sorry. Your speaker
19 order number will be number 39. If you will, please make
20 note of that for future reference.

21 Oh, wait, no, I apologize. Your speaker order
22 number will be number 40. If you'll please make note of
23 that for future reference. And if you will, please let
24 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
25 floor is yours.



1 MS. ZANICCHI: All right. Thank you so much. Good
2 evening, Commissioners. My name is Gina Zanicchi, and
3 I'm a resident of The City of Clovis, discussing North
4 Fresno and Clovis. I really appreciate the opportunity
5 to share my opinions and input with you this evening on
6 how the community that I live in should be drawn in this
7 redistricting process.

8 I was born and raised in North Fresno for -- and I
9 I've lived here for almost twenty-five years. And I am
10 now a homeowner in Clovis, just recently bought a home
11 here. I've always considered the North Fresno and Clovis
12 areas as one community and deeply related to and valued
13 and invested into the unique characteristics that make
14 our community such a great place to live.

15 To be more specific, the definition of North Fresno
16 is between state Route 99 to the west and Will Avenue to
17 the east and north of Shaw Avenue. Included in this
18 community is also the entire City of Clovis.

19 Our communities have nationally recognized schools.
20 They share transportation corridors, shopping,
21 entertainment, restaurants, the cultural landmark, parks,
22 utilities, and a myriad of other services. Our
23 communities have generally been a part of the same
24 legislative and congressional districts for decades. And
25 given the growth in both North Fresno and Clovis, I



1 believe it further solidifies the case that they should
2 make up the bulk of their own legislative districts.

3 My family and I consider ourselves part of the
4 North, Fresno and Clovis community. In fact, all members
5 of my family and my husband's family, including our
6 parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, six living grandparents
7 and cousins live in both north Fresno and Clovis.

8 Our friends and their families share similar
9 experiences, which further demonstrates how this area is
10 one unique community. It's been a wonderful place to
11 grow up, raise a family, and make our California dream a
12 reality.

13 Central Fresno and South Fresno share much more in
14 common than they do with North Fresno and Clovis. They
15 share the same school districts, cultural traditions, and
16 cultural centers and economies.

17 We believe that because of this, they should also be
18 their own legislative district. Central and southern
19 Fresno have much more in common with many of the AG based
20 and rural communities in other parts of Fresno County.

21 So I like to strongly urge you to take that into
22 consideration and our community's history, our
23 similarities, and the things that make North Fresno and
24 Clovis unlike anywhere else in our county, or region.

25 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.



1 MS. ZANICCHI: Thank you so much for your time this
2 evening.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

4 Right now, I will be going to caller 7727. I would
5 like to invite those in the queue to press star 9 if you
6 wish to raise your hand. Caller 7727, your speaker order
7 number will be number 41. If you will, please make note
8 of that for future reference. And if you will, please
9 let the mapper know what area would like to discuss, the
10 floor is yours.

11 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: Thank you very much. Good
12 evening, Commissioners. My name is Alondra Williams-
13 Vasquez. I am lifting up the southwest region of Fresno
14 because I'm a Fresno native and this is the area of town
15 I grew up in, played in, walked in, went to school in,
16 and it's also the area in which my mother still resides
17 for forty-three years and counting.

18 It is for these reasons that I'm very passionate
19 about Southwest Fresno and how it is redistricted. This
20 area of town has historically been neglected,
21 underserved, and disinvested. The aforementioned issues
22 have resulted in the area having a tremendous amount of
23 blight food deserts and under-resourced neighborhoods.

24 As you well know, redistricting directly impacts
25 funding to communities for education, economic



1 development, infrastructure, and other resources that
2 make communities safe and livable. My values are also --
3 and my passions are also reflected for this area of town
4 in the work that I do as the Fresno Regional Manager for
5 Community Vision, Capital and Consulting.

6 Our organization's mission is to promote economic
7 justice, alleviate poverty, and increase financial
8 resilience and stability for community-based nonprofits
9 and enterprises. Through flexible financial products and
10 sound advice, we create opportunities to help make
11 socially responsible investments and revitalize Northern
12 and Central California communities.

13 We envision financially strong and culturally
14 vibrant communities where each person has access to
15 decent jobs, homes, health care, education, and economic
16 opportunities. And we also work in partnership with
17 individuals and organizations who share our vision for
18 sustainable communities and social and economic justice.
19 Which is why the topic of redistricting in Fresno is so
20 vitally important to our work.

21 I hope it's also vitally important to your work as
22 you contemplate shifting boundaries in southwest Fresno
23 in the community. I hope that you'll have me, my family,
24 and my mother, and other community members that live in
25 the area in mind. And thank you so much for the



1 opportunity to speak to you today.

2 Again, my name is Alondra Williams-Vasquez. That is
3 A-L-O, N as in Nancy, D as in dog, R-A, Williams
4 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S, Vasquez V-A-S-Q-U-E-Z. And I'm a Fresno
5 native. Thank you so much and you have a great evening.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Ms. Williams-Vasquez, before you hang
7 up, thank you so much for your testimony. Would you
8 please define the boundaries of Southwest Fresno? How
9 are you thinking of that?

10 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: How I'm thinking of Southwest
11 Fresno is everything that is encompassed from what is
12 that, south -- wait --

13 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

14 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: -- north of 99, Fresno -- I
15 mean, the highway 99 --

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

17 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: -- between 99, Jensen all the
18 way down to Olive. And I'm trying to think of the other
19 street that goes down the kind of like box that in and
20 I --

21 CHAIR TURNER: West Belmont?

22 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: -- don't know. Yes.

23 CHAIR TURNER: California. Okay.

24 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: I'm sorry if my directions
25 were a little bit off. I'm just calling out streets



1 trying to get you close.

2 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: Yeah.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

4 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: Yeah.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Perfect. Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

8 Up next, we will have caller 2806, unique ID 044.

9 If you will, please follow the prompts to unmute at this
10 time. Caller 2806, your speaker order number will be
11 number 42. If you will, please make note of that for
12 future reference. And if you will, please let the mapper
13 know what area you would like to see -- discuss, the
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. CRUZ: Hello, my name is William Cruz and I want
16 to give an input today on two locations The City of
17 Fresno, Fresno County and Bakersfield in Kern County. I
18 live in Fresno, and I have very close friends and family
19 in Bakersfield. My partner's family also lives there.
20 And I work throughout the summer in the San Joaquin
21 Valley as a Spanish interpreter for local government and
22 different agencies.

23 When the Commission is creating the districts, it
24 will be necessary to divide some cities and counties in
25 the Valley in order to respect communities of interest,



1 especially Latinos, African-Americans, and also Asian
2 communities. In Fresno, for example, Shaw Avenue serves
3 as a dividing line in the city, and North Fresno is very
4 closely aligned with The City of Clovis to the east.

5 Note Fresno has new neighborhoods. People have
6 higher incomes. Clovis Unified Schools actually serve a
7 large portion of Fresno east of Highway 41. South of
8 Shaw Avenue, neighborhoods like Howard District,
9 Southeast Fresno and the Westside are older and more
10 diverse heavily Latino and immigrant with historic
11 African-American neighborhoods and Asian neighborhoods.

12 A lot of these neighborhoods have issues with better
13 quality from the freeways and the lack of park space.
14 When joined district this commission should keep South
15 Fresno with rural Fresno County which have small towns
16 that are majority Latino and working class like South
17 Fresno.

18 Down in Bakersfield, it's a different story. West
19 Bakersfield is newer, more affluent neighborhoods with
20 amenities like high-end shopping centers, nice
21 restaurants, and a lot of park space. East Bakersfield
22 is much more working class has many immigrant Latino
23 families and a historic African-American neighborhood.

24 East Bakersfield generally is -- this piece of
25 Highway 99 put in the neighborhoods around Bakersfield

1 College is high school because of Latino Edison Highway,
2 and the neighborhoods are on south of Highway 68, like
3 Cottonwood, Rexland Acres, and Greenfield. Just like in
4 Preston, these neighborhoods deal with the lack of
5 sidewalks in older neighborhoods, better quality and a
6 lack of park space.

7 East Bakersfield is closely aligned with communities
8 like Watts, South Fresno and East Bakersfield face a lot
9 of similar issues church, socioeconomics, and
10 demographics. It will be really difficult for these
11 communities to organize and get their fair share of
12 resources if they are drowned out by louder voices in
13 more affluent areas that don't share the same interests
14 and struggles.

15 Again, Commission, in order to respect our
16 communities, it will be necessary to split some of our
17 cities and counties to --

18 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

19 MR. CRUZ: -- show that we are heard in Sacramento
20 and DC. Thank you. This is my comment.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

22 Right now we will go to caller 3204. If you will,
23 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by
24 pressing star 6. 3204, if you wish to give comment at
25 this time, please press star 6 to unmute. And one last



1 time caller 3204, if you wish to give comment, please
2 press star 6.

3 Caller 0324, your speaker order number will be
4 number 42. If you'll please make note of that for future
5 reference. 43, sorry, the sheet --

6 MS. FUENTES: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- 43. If you'll please
8 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
9 please let the mapper know --

10 MS. FUENTES: Okay.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- what area you would
12 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

13 MS. FUENTES: Okay. Great. I would like to speak
14 to North Fresno and the Clovis area. My name is Amy
15 Fuentes, and I appreciate the opportunity to give my
16 opinions and preferences on how the community that I have
17 grown up in and currently live in should be drawn through
18 the redistricting process.

19 So as a resident of North Fresno's specifically
20 right by Woodward Park, I have always related to valued
21 and invested into unique characteristics that make our
22 community a great place to live.

23 To be specific, North Fresno is defined as the area
24 between California Highway 99 to the west and Willow
25 Avenue to the east and north of Shaw Avenue. Included in

1 this community is all of Clovis. I grew up in northwest
2 Fresno and currently live in North Fresno. You know,
3 these communities on this side and around Clovis, we have
4 fantastic schools that I now have two daughters that go
5 to which shares all of the same transportation corridors,
6 a lot of times the same shopping, restaurants, and style
7 of neighborhoods.

8 So our communities historically have generally been
9 part of the same legislative and congressional districts
10 for several decades. And I believe it further solidifies
11 the case that they should make up the bulk of their very
12 own district.

13 My family and I consider ourselves very, very lucky
14 to live in this part of the valley and just want to make
15 sure that we continue to grow our communities as they
16 should. So thank you again for your time today and the
17 opportunity to speak.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And I'd also like to
19 remind -- just give a final announcement that the phone
20 lines will be closing at 7 p.m. So please get into the
21 queue so we can listen to your input before adjourning
22 for the day. Thank you.

23 Thank you, Katy.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.
25 Right now, we'll go to caller 7644, If you will,



1 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. And
2 then up next after that, will be color 9563. I see your
3 hand. Caller 7644, if you will, please unmute.

4 Caller 7644, your speaker order number will be
5 number 44. If you please make note of that for future
6 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
7 area would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

8 MR. PAYNE: Hello, my name is Eric Payne. I'm the
9 executive director of the Central Valley Urban Institute.
10 We have provided commentary and feedback to this body at
11 previous meetings and if the mapper would like to go to
12 Tulare and -- Tulare County and Kings County.

13 We would like to ensure that those two communities
14 stay together because there is a significant African-
15 American population in those communities as a C-O-I. And
16 we feel that their ideologies are much different than
17 Kern County.

18 We recognize that California City, which has a
19 thirty-nine percent African-American population income --
20 in California City, we feel as though with the residents
21 that we've engaged and spoken with and many of which have
22 provided public testimony to this body, that their
23 ideology is much more aligned with L.A. County, more
24 specifically with the communities of Palmdale and
25 Lancaster.



1 And then shifting gears, moving to Fresno County,
2 the communities of West Fresno as C-O-I where there is a
3 historical black community, specifically -- what is it?
4 The 99 freeway is the dividing line. I would say is the
5 dividing line for the neighborhood. And it would go from
6 north to south. It would be North Avenue to the south.
7 And to the north, it would be like Fresno Street to the
8 north.

9 But that would -- we would describe that as a
10 minority coalition district. When you go from the city
11 sphere of Fresno, from North Avenue, all the way to
12 Herndon, with 99 being the dividing factor, we would
13 describe that as a minority coalition district.

14 There is significant Sikh Punjabi population, AAPI
15 population in that community. And then a significant
16 amount --

17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18 MR. PAYNE: -- African-American -- a significant
19 amount of African-American families. But more
20 specifically, we would describe the Tulare County, Kings
21 County communities as crossover districts. So yes. And
22 we would describe California City as an incomplete
23 district.

24 MR. MANOFF: Five seconds.

25 MR. PAYNE: And that will conclude my comment.



1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Mr. Payne, hold on one moment.
3 Just checking with our mappers, to see if we got east and
4 west of what we needed for Fresno.

5 MR. PAYNE: Yes. And then also the communities of
6 Chowchilla, Pixley, and Madera, we would like to see them
7 stay together as well, along Atwater.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And you're describing Fresno?
9 When you talked you gave us north, south, east, west. I
10 was trying to ensure that we had the correct borders.
11 You mentioned, Herndon.

12 MR. PAYNE: Yes, it would be -- the C-O-I would --
13 for African Americans would be north to south would be
14 North Avenue all the way to Fresno Street.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum.

16 MR. PAYNE: And the divider to the east would be the
17 99 highway. But because of the -- we feel as though that
18 it would be a minority coalition district if you were to
19 include North Fresno, northeast Fresno, which is the
20 Central Unified -- Central Unified School District
21 community, which has a significant AAPI population.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much.
23 Also wanting to note -- let everyone know that the public
24 input phone line and webinars now locked. And so thank
25 you we will finish and complete those that are in queue



1 at this time. Katy?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Will do, Chair.

3 Caller 9563, if you will, please follow the prompts
4 to unmute at this time. We will try again. There you
5 are. Caller 9563 --

6 S3: Hello. Good afternoon.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi.

8 It's been a long four hours here.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

10 My name is --

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment.

12 That's all right. My name is --

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just real quick. Let me
14 just let you know what your speaker order number is going
15 to be.

16 Okay.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It'll be -- okay. Sorry,
18 I'm trying to find where you're at. I apologize.

19 That's all right. I'm ready. I'm ready. I'm on
20 the line.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 45. Your speaker order
22 number 45. And if you'll let the mapper know what area
23 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

24 MR. LEON: Sure. Sure. Mayor Rey Leon, City of
25 Huron in Fresno County. The areas of the west side of



1 Fresno County, all the way down to the Bakersfield, Kern
2 County area. But first and foremost, I just wanted to
3 share the characteristics of my city, which are similar
4 to many in Fresno County, and other cities going down all
5 the way through to Kern County.

6 Huron has over ninety-eight percent Latinos and
7 you're out of the brown the city and the country, I like
8 to say. But there's other cities that are very similar,
9 over ninety percent Latino, very farmworker cities.
10 Huron was one of the four poor cities a couple years back
11 during the same time that the county of Fresno had the
12 highest AG revenue four poorest cities in the state of
13 California.

14 I think that's important to note this in terms of
15 what's going on. And I think it's important to make sure
16 that all these communities, they share the same struggles
17 in environmental, economic, climate justice, as well as
18 education, equity, and health justice stick together.

19 In my community, there's over thirteen languages
20 spoken, over nine of which are indigenous Mesoamerican
21 languages, all the way from Nawa to a couple of different
22 Mayan languages. Of course, we of course are political
23 and other languages and whatever, but they're very
24 similar to other communities in Fresno County.

25 The four that I mentioned, which are Huron, San

1 Joaquin, Mendota. And the one that isn't on the east
2 side but is very much like the on the west side, but is
3 very much like these communities on the west side where
4 we're at is Parlier with a large Punjabi community,
5 indigenous community with San Joaquin.

6 I also am the CEO or the executive director of and
7 founder of the LEAP Institute, LEAP standing for Latino
8 Equity Advocacy and Policy. And we focus on
9 environmental, climate justice, and economic justice.
10 And we work with low-income farmworker communities
11 throughout the region and other agricultural regions in
12 the state.

13 So I urge the Commission, when drawing the lines, to
14 respect the vast Latino majority population in the South
15 Valley and in other parts of the valley, for that matter,
16 not just between Bakersfield and Fresno. In Fresno
17 County, we're over fifty percent, the Latinos, and of at
18 least fifty percent in many of the counties in the San
19 Joaquin Valley.

20 So as best you can, please, create as many Latino
21 majority districts or Latino safe districts in the
22 Valley, because the numbers are there. We are the
23 majority. And what we see is that when we need a fair
24 representation that understands our issues and that seems
25 to most of time --

1 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

2 MR. LEON: -- only happen when we have our own
3 representatives that share the agricultural background
4 that farmworkers and the struggle within to make that
5 happen. By the Latino South Valley, I mean, of course,
6 with western Fresno County and the southern half of The
7 City of Fresno, down to northwest --

8 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

9 MR. LEON: -- Kern County and the eastern part of
10 Bakersfield, along with other small Latino communities
11 doing their way up I-5 and Highway 99. And some of these
12 cities and towns, we are more than a simple majority, as
13 was mentioned, and I mentioned some of those cities
14 already. But I would like to compare --

15 MR. MANOFF: Time.

16 MR. LEON: -- with the statements from Mr. --

17 CHAIR TURNER: Mayor? Mayor? Mayor Rey? Mayor
18 Leon, you are amazing going so fast. A couple of things
19 we need to clarify. Were you trying to include Kings and
20 maybe you can give some more detail on what's your
21 eastern Fresno? How are you considering that? Or you
22 can send it all to us in an email to make sure we have
23 the proper boundaries.

24 MR. LEON: You know, I can send it to you guys in a
25 memo and along with the rest of my statement, if that's

1 all right.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, that's perfect. Thank you so
3 much, sir.

4 MR. LEON: All right. You guys have a good one.
5 Adios.

6 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Adios.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

8 Right now, we have caller 7770. If you will, please
9 follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller with
10 the last four 7770, if you will, please press -- there
11 you are. Your speaker order number will be --

12 Thank you.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You're welcome. Your
14 speaker order number will be number 46. If you'll please
15 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
16 let the mapper know what you would like to discuss, the
17 floor is yours.

18 MS. TYLER: Yes. Good evening, everyone. My name
19 is Tammy Tyler and I represent California City, which is
20 west of Hacienda Boulevard in Kern County. And I would
21 like to start off by saying that Tehachapi, Edwards,
22 Ridgecrest, Kern River Valley, otherwise known as Lake
23 Isabella, they do not represent us.

24 This being our first time speaking and ever being
25 represented, we have collected a bunch of surveys and



1 speak and say that we represent the high desert. But we
2 are underrepresented in the local offices, in education,
3 and law enforcement. We do represent the community of
4 interest in California City, which is about seventy
5 percent of color.

6 Our community is of all ages, backgrounds, and we
7 are not represented. We would like to see leaders there
8 represent our black and Latino communities that -- so
9 that we do not have to do external involvement with the
10 attorney general due to the local -- our local offices
11 ignoring our complaints.

12 All we want is equality, equitable education,
13 equality policing for our communities for which I have
14 heard earlier. It is exactly thirty-nine percent of
15 blacks that represent. And also thirty-seven percent of
16 all black students here are failing in the Mojave Unified
17 School District. If you add those two numbers together,
18 they do not add up, and it does show and speak that we
19 are underrepresented.

20 We need equitable maps and opportunities, but we
21 don't have to travel so far. In our district, we want to
22 see Cal City, Mojave, Rosamond, Lancaster, and Palmdale,
23 so it also represents ten percent of community of color
24 again. We do not want anything to do with Edwards,
25 Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, and parts of Hacienda -- East



1 Hacienda, excuse me, and Cal City, which both areas do
2 not seek equality for our community of color.

3 I would like to thank everyone for giving me the
4 opportunity to speak. And I really understand and hope
5 that you guys will really reconsider the graphic of our
6 demographics here in California City, how we have been
7 for decades underrepresented.

8 We would like to be mapped with other communities
9 that do represent us so we can have a voice to speak, a
10 stage to stand on, and a movement to improve our --

11 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12 MS. TYLER: -- education system. Thank you.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you so much, caller.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I
15 know we have caller 7712. If you will, please follow the
16 prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 7712, your
17 speaker order number will be number 47. If you'll please
18 make note of that for future reference. And if you will,
19 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
20 discuss, the floor is yours.

21 S3: Good evening, Commissioners. For the mapper,
22 I'm calling regarding the community of interest, which
23 includes the San Joaquin County communities of Acampo,
24 Collierville, Woodbridge, Lodi, Lockeford, Peters,
25 Linden, Waterloo, Ripon and Escalon, as well as those



1 communities east of Stanislaus County, east of the San
2 Joaquin River.

3 These communities share common values and interests
4 that should be represented by shared elected officials.
5 These interests include a crucial history of working
6 together to improve lives in the ballot with projects
7 like the McHenry Avenue Bridge and Tri Dam project, which
8 were completed through cooperation between entities on
9 both sides of the Stanislaw River.

10 These communities also share a strong
11 interdependence in which The City of Modesto serves as
12 the political, cultural and economic nucleus for the many
13 people, communities and industries that call them home.
14 Grapes grown in Lodi Travel Highway 99 to Bronco and E &
15 J Gallo's Winery in Modesto and Ceres, Almonds from Ripon
16 and Escalon are processed in Blue Diamond Growers Salida
17 facility. And residents of the small rural communities
18 in eastern San Joaquin County drive to Modesto to shop
19 and eat.

20 This community of interest should not share
21 legislative nor congressional districts with the western
22 San Joaquin County communities: Lathrup, Tracy, Mountain
23 House and North Stockton. These communities are very
24 different from eastern San Joaquin and Stanislaus County
25 in several important ways, as is evident to anyone who

1 travels on Interstate 5, 205, or 580.

2 These communities have colossal commercial
3 enterprises such as Tesla, In-N-Out, Wayfair, Amazon,
4 Costco, and Safeway distribution hubs that cater to
5 clientele in the Greater Bay Area.

6 They've also embraced massive suburban developments
7 like Tracy Hills and Ellis, Mountain House,
8 (indiscernible) islands, and Western Ranch that cater to
9 very area ex-patriots placing out many long time Central
10 Valley residents and greatly diminishing the influence of
11 the agricultural sector, creating a culture that is
12 decidedly different from that of eastern San Joaquin or
13 Stanislaw County.

14 These communities also share close governmental ties
15 with the Bay Area. Tracy Residents can choose to buy
16 their power from East Bay Community Energy. Stockton's
17 deep water port transports goods through the San
18 Francisco Bay, and all of these communities share the
19 congestion struggles of the East Bay and their working
20 together to address them through a multibillion \$
21 commuter rail project.

22 These similarities and differences mentioned are by
23 no means comprehensive, but I hope they help this
24 commission to recognize the importance of keeping eastern
25 San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties together and separate

1 from western San Joaquin County.

2 In 2010, these communities in Stanislaus and eastern
3 San Joaquin County were split between Congressional
4 District 9 and 10 and were also split in the State Senate
5 map. I really appreciate your time and your service to
6 The State of California. Thank you and good luck.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Next we have caller 6042.
9 If you will, please follow the prompts to unmute at this
10 time. Caller with the last four 6042, if you will,
11 please press star 6 to unmute at this time. Caller with
12 the last four 6042, if you will, please press star 6 to
13 unmute at this time.

14 MS. WATKINS: Hello.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi, caller 6042. Your
16 speaker order number will be number 48. If you'll please
17 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
18 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
19 discuss, the floor is yours.

20 MS. WATKINS: Yes. Hi. My name is Carol Watkins.
21 And I would like to speak about California City, which is
22 west of Hacienda Boulevard in Kern County and Tehachapi,
23 Edwards, Ridgecrest, and Kern River Valley and Isabella
24 do not represent us.

25 We represent a community of interest in California



1 City that is seventy percent community of color. Our
2 community is of all ages and backgrounds, and we are not
3 represented. We would like to see leaders that represent
4 African-Americans and that use external involvement with
5 the attorney General's Office due to the local office
6 ignoring our complaint.

7 We also would like equality and equitable education
8 and equality policing for our community, for which,
9 again, is thirty-nine percent African American and
10 thirty-seven percent of African-Americans are failing in
11 the Mojave Unified School District.

12 We need equitable maps and opportunities so we don't
13 have to travel so far. In our district, we want to see
14 Cal City, Mojave, Rosamond, Lancaster, and Palmdale, for
15 which represents our large seventy percent community of
16 color. Again, we don't want anything to do with Edwards,
17 Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, parts of the east -- parts of East
18 Hacienda in Cal City, for which those areas do not speak
19 exclusively for our communities.

20 Thank you, Commissioner, for the opportunity.

21 CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome. And thank you for
22 calling in.

23 Katy, do we have one last caller in the queue?

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Wed do.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Have they raise their hand?



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: They have not.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Can you ask the Spanish interpreter,
3 please -- or Margarita, perhaps, if you would please give
4 the instructions for raising hands in Spanish?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I could just allow them
6 to talk.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, okay.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 9643, if you wish
9 to give comment at this time, please press star 6.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Margarita?

11 INTERPRETER: Oh, I'm sorry. Did you want me to
12 interpret that?

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Yes, please.

15 INTERPRETER: Okay. [In Spanish].

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 9643, if you wish
17 to give comment this evening, please press star 6. You
18 are the last caller in the queue. If you do not wish to
19 give comment, we will be referring to the Chair.

20 I'm assuming they're just here to listen, Chair.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Margarita, ask him if they're just
22 here to listen.

23 INTERPRETER: [In Spanish].

24 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. All right. Katy, Margarita, I
25 think we've done our due justice trying to get -- make



1 sure we're not ending too soon.

2 So with that, I'd like to thank you for joining our
3 community of interest input meeting today. We have one
4 additional community of interest input meeting this week.
5 It's going to take place on Friday, August 27, at 3 p.m.
6 There we will be focusing on Monterrey, San Benito, San
7 Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Ventura and the surrounding
8 areas. This means we will have a Spanish listening line
9 and Spanish interpreters available next week.

10 We have three community of interest input meetings.
11 The first one will take place on Monday, August 30th at 4
12 p.m., focusing on Riverside, San Bernardino counties and
13 the surrounding areas, and will have Spanish listening
14 line and Spanish interpreters available.

15 Now the second meeting is on September 1st at 4
16 p.m., focusing on Orange County and their surrounding
17 areas. We will have Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese
18 listening lines and interpreters, a Spanish listening
19 line, and a Spanish interpreter available. Registration
20 for each meeting closes two calendar days before at 5
21 p.m.

22 Our next commission business meeting will be on
23 August 31st at 9:30 a.m. Callers at the community of
24 interest meetings are not limited to the specifically
25 mentioned counties. You can visit the meetings page at



1 our website to see a list of additional upcoming
2 community of interest input meetings at
3 www.wedrawthelinesca/meetings.

4 And with that, thank you to my co-chair,
5 Commissioner Vazquez, to our interpreters, to all of our
6 AV folk, and all of the amazing Commissioners, we will
7 for this evening adjourn.

8 (Whereupon, the COI Input Meeting adjourned at
9 7:00 p.m.)

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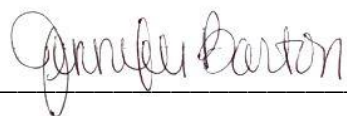
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

March 1, 2023

JENNIFER BARTON

