

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST
ZONE F PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

621 Capitol Mall, 10th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

AUGUST 25, 2021

3:00 P.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

(*Present via Zoom)

Commissioners Present:

Trena Turner, Co-Chair
Angela Vazquez, Co-Chair
*Isra Ahmad
*Linda Akutagawa
*Jane Andersen
*Alicia Fernandez
*Neal Fornaciari
*J. Ray Kennedy
*Antonio Le Mons
*Sara Sadhwani
*Patricia Sinay
*Derric H. Taylor
*Pedro Toledo
*Russell Yee

Staff Present:

*Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director
*Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
*Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors:

Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director
*Margarita de la Torre, Spanish Interpreter

Mappers:

*Karin Mac Donald, Statewide Database
*Andrew
*Kennedy
*Tamina

APPEARANCES (CONT.)

Also Present:Public Comment: (All present via Zoom)

Ken Vogel
Marla Livengood
Jack Connell
Tim Smith David Brottlund
Rev. Dwight Williams
Dave Ostash
Jed McLaughlin
Folorunso Ashaolu
Betty Wilson
Dr. Jeremy A. Woods
Nick Hill
Marshall G. "Chip" Holloway
Richard Keys
Kyle Blades
Alexia Inez Alvarez Svejda
Zena Chafi, DARE SVCC
Sukaina Hussain
Robin Cole
Tammy Vang, HIP
Unidentified (Speaker order number 21)
Kristin Nimmers, Black Census and Redistricting Hub
Marcus Fair
Norman D. Alexander
David F. Voracek
Debbie Darden
Kamaljit Kaur
June Lim, Asians Advancing Justice Los Angeles
Bernie Mondragon
Kimberly McCoy
Binancho Gaona (phonetic)
Dr. Eve Castellanos
Michael
Ariana Alia (phonetic)
Samuel Molina
Unidentified (Speaker order number 36)
Mandeep Singh
Isabel Cagayan (phonetic)
Gloria

APPEARANCES (CONT.)Public Comment: (All Present Via Zoom)

Gina Zante
Alondra Williams-Vasquez, Community Vision
William Cruz
Amy Quintez (phonetic)
Eric Payne, Central Valley Urban Institute
Rey Leon, City of Huron
Tammy Tyler
Unidentified (Speaker Order number 47
Tara Watkins (phonetic)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

2

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

3:00 p.m.

1 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Good afternoon
2 California. Welcome. And thank you for tuning in to the
3 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of
4 Interest Input Meeting. I'm Commissioner Turner and I will
5 be co-chairing today's meeting with Commissioner Vazquez.

6 Today, we are offering one language line in the
7 following language, Spanish, so language speakers can
8 listen to the meeting in their native language.

9 Could I please have our interpreter, Johanna,
10 provide our call in number? Can I have the Spanish
11 interpreter read the Spanish language line instructions,
12 please.

13 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, hi Commissioner, this
14 is Margarita, Spanish interpreter.

15 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Ah.

16 SPANISH INTERPRETER: I will read the language
17 line instructions in Spanish.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful.

19 SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in
20 Spanish] Thank you.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum, thank you, Margarita.
22 Thank you.

23 And at this point, before we begin I'm going to
24 go actually to Ravi for roll call. So, Mr. Singh if you'd
25 take roll call, please.

1 MR. SINGH: Love to, Chair.
2 Commissioner Vazquez?
3 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Here.
4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee?
5 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.
6 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?
7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.
8 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?
9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.
10 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen?
11 Commissioner Fernandez?
12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Presente.
13 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?
14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.
15 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?
16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.
17 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?
18 Commissioner Sadhwani?
19 Commissioner Sinay?
20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.
21 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo?
22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.
23 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?
24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I am here.
25 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Turner?

1 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Here.

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

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Andersen is
4 here.

5 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Andersen, you're here, yes.

7 Beautiful and thank you, Ravi.

8 So, before we begin, we want to acknowledge all
9 those who are being impacted by the Caldor, Dixie,
10 Monument, and McFarland Fires, and all the other wildfires
11 that are burning right now in California. Please know that
12 we are thinking of you, of your families, and your
13 community. We understand that you may or may not be able
14 to participate today, but we encourage you to do so later.
15 Your voice and the voice of all Californians, they're
16 important to ensure a fair and representative map.

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

24 In 2008, California voters authorized the
25 creation of the Commission when they passed the Voters

1 First Act. It authorized the Commission to draw the new
2 district lines for State Senate, State Assembly, and State
3 Board of Equalization Districts.

4 In 2010, the Congressional Voters First Act added
5 the responsibility of drawing Congressional Districts to
6 the Commission. The 14-member Commissioner were made up of
7 five Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated
8 with either of those two parties.

9 The Commission must draw the district lines in
10 conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to
11 create districts of relatively equal population that will
12 provide fair representation for all Californians.

13 The Census redistricting data was released the
14 week of August 9th, when the official California
15 Redistricting database is available in late September the
16 Commission begins drawing maps using fixed line drawing
17 criteria as outlined in the California Constitution.

18 One of these is minimizing the division of
19 cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest
20 to the extent possible. Now, we can obtain the city and
21 county information from those jurisdictions, but we need
22 the neighborhood and communities of interest information
23 from Californians directly.

24 That's why we have launched these communities of
25 interest input sessions to get that valuable information

1 directly from you. We encourage all Californians to
2 participate in this process.

3 Now, if you'd rather submit your community of
4 interest input over the internet, you can do so from our
5 website or by visiting drawmycacommunity.org. That's
6 drawmycacommunity.org, skip the line, go online.

7 Now, I'm going to call on all Commissioners to
8 introduce themselves and to say hello. We're a lively
9 bunch, full of fun, and so I know you'll want to hear from
10 each and every one of them.

11 So, to see the biographies for all 14
12 Commissioners, for additional information, or to sign up
13 for our email just visit our website at
14 wedrawthelinesca.org.

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

17 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Good afternoon California, and
18 especially the Central Valley. So excited to hear your
19 community input today. I'm coming to you from Los Angeles,
20 California. I was born and raised in San Bernardino
21 County, and my father's family hails from the Central
22 Valley, Shafter, California to be specific. So, I have
23 ties all across Southern and Central California. Very much
24 looking forward to hearing from you all today. Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Commissioner Ahmad?

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

6 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner
7 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, to
16 really understand better our fellow Californians. So, we
17 look forward to hearing from you all.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you.
19 Commissioner Andersen.

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

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

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner
4 Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: (Speaking in Spanish).

6 Good afternoon, California. I'm Alicia Fernandez
7 from Yolo County, north of Central Valley. I'm very
8 excited to continue to hear about all your communities.
9 And I'm thinking my community is probably very similar to
10 quite a few of the communities in Central Valley.

11 So, thank you for participating. And if you're
12 just listening in, we're hoping you'll be motivated to call
13 in. Thank you.

14 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you.
15 Commissioner Fornaciari.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good afternoon
17 California and the San Joaquin Valley. Welcome, thanks for
18 joining 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 you
21 all and thank you for joining us.

22 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you, my fellow
23 San Joaquin, 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 County.
4 Before that I lived for 15 years in Palm Springs.

5 Very much looking forward to hearing what makes
6 your community special to you, so thank you again.

7 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you,
8 Commissioner 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 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you.
19 Commissioner Sadhwani.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Chair. Good
21 afternoon everyone. My name is Sara Sadhwani. I am
22 joining you today from Los Angeles County. While I have
23 never lived in the Central Valley I've always felt an
24 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 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Commissioner Sinay.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias Chair. (Speaking
6 Spanish).

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

10 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner
11 Taylor.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good afternoon California.
13 Excuse me as I try to save bandwidth when I am not
14 speaking.

15 I look forward to everyone's public input. It's
16 needed. It's important. I join you today from L.A.
17 County, from the City of Altadena, unincorporated Altadena
18 at the foothills of the San Diego Valley.

19 So, I value your testimony, look forward to it,
20 and thank you very much.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Commissioner Toledo.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair. My name
23 is Pedro Toledo and I'm coming to you from Petaluma,
24 California, in Sonoma County up in the wine country. I'm
25 looking forward to hearing all about your communities of

1 interest and what makes you unique. I'm hoping to have a
2 wonderful afternoon and evening with you, learning all
3 about your individual diverse community. Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Thank you.
5 Commissioner Yee.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. I'm Russell
7 Yee. I'm here in my hometown of Oakland, California. I'm
8 looking forward to hearing from the Central Valley and the
9 other parts of the state.

10 I once had a roommate who's family, they were
11 wheat farmers in Kansas, and he told me about traveling
12 through the California Central Valley one time and it just
13 blew his mind. It's like a gigantic vegetable patch.
14 Which it is. You guys feed the state, and the nation, and
15 even the world. And so, I'm sure I've eaten a lot of your
16 produce. I know at the same time you're undergoing your
17 share of our water crisis and I'm sure that's on your mind.

18 So, I'd love to hear about your concerns about
19 that or anything else about your communities of interest
20 today.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

22 And myself, I'm Commissioner Trina Turner and I
23 am coming to you from my home in Stockton. I am a -- not a
24 native, but a transplant from the Bay Area. But I've been
25 in the Central Valley now for 26 years, so I do claim it as

1 my home. And I just absolutely love the San Joaquin,
2 Central Valley. And I am super stoked when I saw all of
3 the names that have signed up to participate and share your
4 communities of interest with us. I can't wait to hear.

5 So, no matter where you're calling in from today,
6 we're like tuned in, ready to hear you describe what's
7 important for you.

8 So, with that I just want to tell you a couple of
9 more things before we get started. I do want you to know
10 that we are active on social media. So, even as you're
11 listening in, please share on social media. And please,
12 also follow the California Citizens Redistricting
13 Commission on social media. You can find us on Facebook,
14 on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube at
15 wedrawthelinesca, wedrawthelinesca, for California.

16 And if following us on social media, it's another
17 way to get useful information about redistricting and
18 updates from the California Commission.

19 So, before we continue, could I please have our
20 interpreters provide our language line numbers one more
21 time as we get ready to roll here. And I have the Spanish
22 interpreter read the Spanish language line instruction,
23 please.

24 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair. This is
25 Margarita, the Spanish interpreter. I will read the

1 Spanish language line instructions.

2 [Instructions read in Spanish]

3 Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Now, this meeting
5 is primarily for communities of interest testimony that's
6 focused on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San
7 Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, counties -- and Tulare County,
8 and also surrounding areas.

9 However, if anyone -- anyone can call in to
10 provide input. You don't just have to be from those areas.

11 Now, general public comment will take place at
12 the end of this meeting. Although the Commission has
13 divided up California into 11 zones, and we're focused on
14 this zone right now, we want you to know that in no way is
15 this related to or reflective of redistricting lines or
16 boundaries. The Commission created the zones to assist
17 Commissioners and staff in their outreach effort only, not
18 as an indication of planned boundaries.

19 Today we are also joined by our line drawing
20 team, HaystaqDNA and Q2 Data & Research, LLC, who will be
21 displaying a map of the area that attendees describe.

22 So, when you call in, please start with the area
23 you would like to discuss and be as specific as possible.
24 Be as specific as possible about the boundary of where your
25 community is located. It is our goal to find the area on

1 the map you'd like to discuss prior to your testimony. So,
2 if you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city,
3 please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your
4 area, your time will begin. Attendees will not be able to
5 share their screen.

6 We are also joined by Spanish interpreters and
7 Katy, our Comment Moderator, who will be introducing
8 attendees when it's their turn to speak. So, when you join
9 the meeting, please use the raise hand button at the bottom
10 of your screen to enter the queue.

11 If you have registered for a time slot, we
12 encourage you to call in during your appointment time slot.
13 When it's your turn to speak Katy, our Comment Moderator,
14 will be identifying you by your assigned unique ID number.
15 You will then be reconnected to the session with the
16 ability to enable your own video and/or audio. We love to
17 be able to see your video when you can.

18 Registration's not required to participate in
19 this public input meeting. The public have the option of
20 calling in during this meeting to get in the queue to
21 speak. Now, if you do not have an appointment and you wish
22 to call in to provide public input, the number is 877-853-
23 5247. Again, the number to provide input is 877-853-5247.
24 You will need to enter meeting ID 88913953415. Meeting ID
25 88913953415. This call information -- call in information

1 and access code is also listed on the live stream. You'll
2 need to dial this number in order to give public input.

3 So, today there will be Spanish interpreters
4 available to interpret non-English input at this call in
5 number. The Comment Moderator will assign you a speaker
6 order number before you begin speaking. And please make a
7 note of this for future reference. You'll be able to use
8 this number to identify your community of interest
9 testimony on our website at a future date.

10 So, the Commission today will be enforcing a 3-
11 minute time limit for English speakers, and a 6-minute time
12 limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a
13 warning at 30 seconds and at 15 seconds remaining. But
14 please know at 3 minutes you will be cut off at that time,
15 so be aware.

16 At the beginning of your input, you're going to
17 see a map on the screen. Please remind the mapper what
18 area you'd like to see on the screen and be as specific as
19 possible about those boundaries of where your community is
20 located.

21 Now, if at the conclusion of the meeting there's
22 still a need to allow for members of the public in the
23 queue to speak, we're going to continue this community of
24 interest input meeting at a new date. If we just run out
25 of time, we'll continue at a new date and time. And we'll

1 attempt to schedule the remaining of the members of the
2 public for the allotted 3 minutes.

3 Now, please monitor the website as we expect to
4 post a continuation of this agenda within 24 hours, should
5 we need to.

6 I want to just switch a little bit and talk about
7 the Communities of Interest Tool. While there are no clear
8 rules on how to define a community of interest, we've
9 identified some ways for you to describe your community.

10 So, like I said, begin with your county or city.
11 Mention the street name and significant locations in your
12 neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your
13 community. What are your shared interests? What brings
14 you together? What is important to your community? Are
15 there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Are
16 there nearby areas you don't want to be in a district with?
17 Why or why not? And has your community come together to
18 advocate for important services, better schools, roads, or
19 health centers in your neighborhood?

20 Also, we invite you to use the Communities of
21 Interest Tool to draw a map and describe your community by
22 visiting the drawmycacomunity.org. This website is
23 available in 16 languages. And as we've said, skip the
24 line, go online. Submit your COI input today and please
25 encourage at least three other people to do the same.

1 So, as a reminder, even though we're focusing on
2 those counties we talked about, Californians from anywhere
3 in the state are welcome to provide input.

4 So, we're going to now begin public input
5 session. And we're going to start with the people who are
6 registered and then open the phone line if there's time
7 before the next session. So, if you're calling without an
8 appointment, please don't hang up as you will lose your
9 place in line if you hang up.

10 So, I'm going to pass this over now to Katy, our
11 Comment Moderator. But right before I do I just want to
12 say again, as you're describing we need north, south, east,
13 west, north to where? Remember to give those boundary
14 names to the best and possible. Okay.

15 So, we're going to go to Katy. But right now,
16 let's see -- yeah, I think we're ready. Katy, I think I've
17 gotten through all our instructions. So, are you ready,
18 Ms. Katy?

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I am, Chair.

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: All right.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Welcome to the public
22 input session. Please use the raise hand button at the
23 bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your
24 turn to speak, I will identify you by the assigned unique
25 ID number from your invite. You will be reconnected to the

1 session with the ability to enable your own video and/or
2 audio.

3 You will then be assigned a speaker order number
4 before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your
5 speaker order number for future reference.

6 The Commission will enforcing a 3-minute time
7 limit for English speakers and a 6-minute time limit for
8 those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30
9 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

10 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on
11 the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
12 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city,
13 please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your
14 area, your 3- or 6-minute testimony will begin.

15 Attendees will not be able to share their screen.
16 At the end of your public input or at the end of your time,
17 you will be reconnected in the listen interview only mode.

18 At the beginning of your input, please remind the
19 mapper of what area you would like to see on the screen.

20 At this time we will have 002, and then up next
21 will be 007. 002, I will be promoting you now. 002, your
22 speaker order is number 1, if you'll please make note of
23 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the
24 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
25 is yours.

1 MR. VOGEL: Yes, I would like to discuss San
2 Joaquin County.

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

4 MR. VOGEL: Yes, thank you. Good afternoon and
5 thank you for the opportunity to again address this
6 Commission in regards to San Joaquin County. My name is
7 Ken Vogel, a retired San Joaquin County Supervisor, and a
8 Director of the County Farm Bureau.

9 In my presentation on the 4th, I pointed out the
10 unifying base of agriculture for our county and our
11 economy. The almost \$6 billion ag economy includes many
12 ag-related industries, not just the raw products of the 200
13 different crops produced here.

14 A vital part of our agricultural economy I didn't
15 mention before is our local banks. One of these banks
16 alone does some \$200 million of business in agriculture per
17 year. Also, our local educational entities, San Joaquin
18 Delta College and the San Joaquin County schools offer
19 agriculture facilities and programs to support agriculture.

20 I say all of this to again emphasize the unifying
21 base for San Joaquin County.

22 A recent survey done by the county has reinforced
23 this view, as the two top areas of concern were preserving
24 and enhancing agriculture, and the issues about water we
25 depend upon so much. All of this leads again to our hope

1 that our request for our unique county be seriously
2 considered.

3 The Census numbers recently released give us the
4 population to be included in one Congressional District and
5 one State Senate District. This would be basically the 5th
6 Senate District as now constituted. We also believe that
7 the county can be basically nested in two Assembly
8 Districts within that State Senate District.

9 When such districts are created we are of course
10 hopeful that much of our agricultural economy, and our
11 cultural and ethnic balance can be unified and represented.
12 Thank you again for your consideration.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 All right, now we will have 007. And up next
15 will be 014.

16 007, I will be promoting you now. 007, your
17 speaker order number is number 2, if you'll please make
18 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
19 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
20 the floor is yours.

21 MS. LIVENGOOD: Hi. I also want to discuss San
22 Joaquin County.

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

24 MS. LIVENGOOD: Thank you. Thank you for the
25 opportunity to share additional comments on my community of

1 interest, San Joaquin County. My name is Marla Livengood
2 and I had the opportunity to comment before the Commission
3 in July.

4 When I commented, I commended the Commission from
5 2010 on their work uniting San Joaquin Valley's four
6 communities through Senate District 5. The district is
7 located at the northern most point of the San Joaquin
8 Valley. All parts of the district are free from
9 geographical barriers, such as the Altamont to the west and
10 the Sierras to the east.

11 The district encompasses all of San Joaquin
12 County and it includes portions of Stanislaus for
13 population equity. These two counties both have shared
14 demographics and shared interest in the success of
15 agriculture, transportation, warehousing, and affordable,
16 livable communities. It's important to point out that
17 these shared interests are not bound with our other
18 neighboring counties.

19 I ask that the Commission build on the example of
20 SD5, enabling San Joaquin County residents to be
21 represented with one Congressional District, encompassing
22 nearly all of San Joaquin County, one State Senate District
23 that maintains SD5, which again encompasses all of San
24 Joaquin County and portions of Stanislaus, and two Assembly
25 Districts nested within the Senate District.

1 Supporting this request is recent Census data
2 which shows San Joaquin County's population has grown to
3 779,000. That said, our population supports the model of
4 SD5 and it supports one Congressional District, as well as
5 the two Assembly Districts.

6 Also supporting this request are the responses of
7 community members who took part of a recent San Joaquin
8 County redistricting opinion survey. The majority of the
9 respondents wanted to see San Joaquin County represented by
10 one single Congressional District. A majority of the
11 respondents also wanted to SD5 remain the same. And a
12 majority wanted to see Assembly Districts solely
13 represented by San Joaquin County or within San Joaquin
14 County.

15 In addition, looking at issues of importance, the
16 survey revealed protecting the Delta, and water quality
17 issues, and agriculture among the most critical issues
18 amongst all San Joaquin County communities.

19 Again, thank you for the opportunity to share my
20 comments and for your work on redistricting, it's much
21 appreciated.

22 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

24 All right, now we will have 014 and then up next
25 after that will be 013.

1 014, I will be promoting you now. 014, your
2 speaker order number will be number 3. If you'll please
3 make note of that for future reference. You can enable
4 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
5 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area you
6 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

7 MR. CONNELL: Thank you. I've enabled the video
8 and audio, both. For the mapper, could I ask that he or
9 she draw a little oval around the area, around
10 Bakersfield/Kern County. It's in the north northeast.
11 That's -- there we go.

12 The areas I would like to look at in sort of a
13 boomerang is Bakersfield, also about 45 miles north is
14 Porterville, and about 75 miles east is Ridgecrest. If you
15 could back out a little and circle those three together, I
16 would appreciate it.

17 MR. MANOFF: Go ahead, please.

18 MR. CONNELL: Okay, I think we all have the
19 right, the same idea there.

20 Chairman Turner -- Chairwoman Turner and
21 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak
22 today. My name is Jack Connell, C-O-N-N-E-L-L. I live in
23 the Kern River Valley, in the northeast corner of Kern
24 County and I've lived there for 40 years. I'm a Trustee of
25 the Kern Community College District and I'm here to speak

1 about the effect that redistricting could have upon the
2 district and its colleges.

3 The district, predominantly located in Kern
4 County, in the 23rd Congressional District, has three
5 colleges. Bakersfield College, Porterville College and
6 Cerro Coso College located in Ridgecrest, and educating up
7 to 42,000 students prior to the ongoing pandemic.

8 Additionally, each college has a number of
9 satellite campuses, including Delano, Southwest
10 Bakersfield, Tehachapi, California's City Kern River
11 Valley, and other remote sites broadly spread out over the
12 district.

13 What I am addressing today and pointed out on the
14 map is the core of the district and the three colleges.
15 Together, located in Porterville, Bakersfield and
16 Ridgecrest. Since the district and the colleges came
17 together almost 50 years ago, they have bound themselves
18 together, relied upon each other, and strongly relied upon
19 and benefitted from Kern County. The district and the
20 colleges also benefit from federal support in educational
21 policies, grant funding, and recent earthquake recovery in
22 Kern County, rebuilding the Lake Isabella Dam, and other
23 federally-appropriate support.

24 I believe it would be detrimental to the Kern
25 Community College District and the individual colleges for

1 the college district to be divided among the different
2 Congressional Districts. It is important to us that the
3 college district and its colleges remain within the same
4 Congressional District. Dividing the core of the college
5 district and their colleges among two or more Congressional
6 Districts would have the effect of increasing the workload
7 of the overall college district and slowing, and
8 complicating the efforts of each of the colleges regarding
9 federal matters.

10 While overall redistricting is a difficult and
11 challenging necessity, I urge you to keep the core of the
12 Kern Community College District all three of the colleges,
13 Bakersfield, Porterville, and Cerro Cost in Ridgecrest, in
14 a single Congressional District. Keeping the colleges
15 together in the same Congressional District, with all the
16 communities they serve, would eliminate additional work,
17 confusion and frustration to the district and each of the
18 colleges over the next ten years.

19 Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to
20 you on this important matter.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Connell.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

23 All right, now we will have 013 and then up next
24 will be 021.

25 013, I will be promoting you now. 013, your

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

6 Uh-oh, we cannot hear you, sir. And you are not
7 on mute. If you could check your audio setting and see if
8 your microphone is set to your -- no. Try another one.
9 Click them all.

10 MR. SMITH: And how about now?

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are. There
12 we go.

13 MR. SMITH: Sorry about that.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely.

15 MR. SMITH: Today, I'll be talking about
16 Congressional District 23, Kern County and Ridgecrest,
17 including the Navy Base at China Lake.

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

19 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon Commissioners and
20 thank you for the opportunity to share today. My name is
21 Tim Smith. I'm a resident of the City of Ridgecrest in
22 Kern County, and I am the Executive Director at the
23 Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce.

24 Today I'm calling to request that Ridgecrest
25 remain with the current Congressional District lines as it

1 has been since 2011.

2 Ridgecrest is a remote and rural desert community
3 located on the eastern side of the Sierras. It is the only
4 incorporated town within the valley and is adjacent to
5 China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, which accounts for an
6 approximate 86 percent of our local economy.

7 As a remote and rural community, we are dependent
8 on our close ties in public services, business, labor,
9 economics, healthcare, education, public safety and
10 recreation with the rest of Kern County.

11 From earthquakes to pandemics, our county has
12 supported our rural communities. The two major earthquakes
13 in July 2019 vividly demonstrated the interdependence and
14 relationship shared across Kern County and the critical
15 importance of maintaining our 23rd District and county
16 lines as it pertains to disaster recovery resources.

17 The earthquakes proved how Ridgecrest and our
18 valley rely on the emergency resources and services from
19 Kern County's Fire Department, search and rescue teams, and
20 sheriff's department.

21 In addition, as we see the state fire season
22 change, we know how important it is that the City of
23 Ridgecrest and IWB Airport District contract with Kern
24 County Fire Department for year round fire protection
25 services.

1 COVID has been difficult on all of us, but our
2 small businesses benefitted from the Kern Recovers PPP
3 Grants. Our community, our base, and our small businesses
4 are stronger because of our county's interconnectedness.

5 As it pertains to our neighboring counties and
6 districts, we have no commonalities with the urban centers
7 found in L.A. and San Bernardino Counties. I, like many of
8 the people who live and work in the rural areas of eastern
9 Kern, move here to get away from urban overcrowding, hectic
10 lifestyles, and to enjoy the wide open spaces.

11 As I stated previously, the Naval Air Warfare
12 Center at China Lake accounts for a significant portion of
13 our local economy, and has a unique mission along with
14 Edwards Air Force Base. The two military bases share the
15 common mission of aerospace defense research, development
16 and testing.

17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18 MR. SMITH: Which require unique knowledge and
19 understanding. Our residents and local businesses benefit
20 from the relationships that have been forged within our
21 county. And so, we request that we remain within Kern
22 County, State and Federal District lines. Thank you.

23 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 Right now we have 020 and up next after that will

1 be 003.

2 021, I will be promoting you now. 021, your
3 speaker order number is number 5, if you'll please make
4 note 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'll please let the mapper know what area you would
7 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

8 MR. BROTTLUND: Thank you so much. My area of
9 interest is California City in Kern County, the eastern
10 side. And we are currently part of the Congressional
11 District 23.

12 Good afternoon Commissioners. My name is David
13 Brottlund. I'm a 32-year resident of California City and
14 Kern County. I'm retired U.S. Air Force and also retired
15 from my second career as a systems engineer working at
16 flight testing at Edwards Air Force Base.

17 California City is a rural, high desert community
18 located on the eastern side of Kern County, and
19 geographically we're the third largest city in California.
20 It is within close proximity of Edwards Air Force Base,
21 Mojave Air and Space Port, and the Naval Warfare Center at
22 China Lake.

23 I would describe California City as a bedroom
24 community of approximately 14,000 residents. And the
25 majority of our working residents work outside the

1 community at various aerospace facilities.

2 I have two points to make. First, California
3 City has a lot in common with the other communities in the
4 rural high desert, East Southern Sierra Region. And being
5 a part of Kern County is a more reflective relationship
6 than being part of the Los Angeles area or even San
7 Bernardino area.

8 Kern County as a whole is almost completely rural
9 and understands and works closely with all of the small
10 communities in our county. Having the rural, East Southern
11 Sierra communities as part of Kern County is just logical
12 when it comes to representation.

13 Secondly, having worked in flight test for 32
14 years in the region, consisting of Edwards Air Force Base,
15 Mojave Air and Space Port, and the Naval Warfare Center at
16 China Lake, I have witnessed the symbiotic relationship
17 between all these locations based on the common objectives
18 of research, development and testing.

19 Also, all these entities are participating in
20 Kern Countywide initiatives to support and grow the
21 aerospace sector. To me it is logical that all these
22 entities require a unique knowledge and understanding of
23 those efforts in order to provide proper representation at
24 the federal level.

25 So, those are my inputs and thank you for the

1 opportunity to provide public input to the Commission.

2 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Well, thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
4 have 003 and then up next will be 023.

5 003, I will be promoting you now. 003, your
6 speaker order number will be number 6, if you'll please
7 make 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 area
10 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I would like to discuss San
12 Joaquin County.

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

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Chairwoman Turner and members of
15 the Commission, I am Reverend Dwight Williams, a lifelong
16 resident of the City of Stockton and, of course, of San
17 Joaquin County. I'm a local pastor and nonprofit developer
18 here in the City of Stockton.

19 I'm here to speak specifically on the issues of
20 San Joaquin County, specifically being in an incredibly
21 diverse community. Stockton being, of course, our capital
22 city within the county, representing one of the most
23 diverse cities in America.

24 But our county is an incredibly diverse community
25 with a strong agricultural base at its root and at its

1 core.

2 We participated often in various discussions with
3 a number of stakeholders. And across all ethnic lines, the
4 overwhelming consensus of those stakeholders was the need
5 of keeping San Joaquin County whole and together.

6 The neighbors next on the side of us in Contra
7 Costa County, which would more or less make up the District
8 of CD9, is a significantly different set of view than is of
9 an area in San Joaquin County. Contra Costa is
10 significantly different. It has more of a Bay Area base
11 root element to it, and thereby it does not really fit with
12 conditions that fits here within San Joaquin County.

13 San Joaquin County being large in and of itself
14 has a tremendous amount of diversity, agriculture and
15 business which is contiguous with counties like Stanislaus
16 County.

17 So, I am encouraging this Commission to keep San
18 Joaquin County whole and also to use the maps of SD5
19 specifically, to keep those boundary maps contiguous with
20 one Congressional representative on the federal level, and
21 no more than two Assembly representatives contiguous within
22 Senate District 5. We feel like that is more contiguous
23 with the agricultural, rural based nature, and the light
24 urban mix that fits off within the valley, the Central
25 Valley, particularly while Contra Costa is more urban and

1 more of a higher, faster pace, if you will.

2 So, I encourage this Commission to keep us whole.

3 And I want to thank this Commission and all the work that
4 you do to help hear the voices of the people. Thanks to
5 each and every one of you.

6 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Reverend Williams.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we'll have
8 023 and then up next will be 005.

9 023, I will be promoting you now. 023, your
10 speaker order number will be number 7, if you'll please
11 make note of that for future reference. And if you'd
12 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
13 discuss, the floor is yours.

14 MR. OSTASH: Hello. For the mapper, my area of
15 interest is current Congressional District 23, and Kern
16 County, and Ridgecrest, City of Ridgecrest, including the
17 Navy Base at China Lake.

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

19 MR. OSTASH: Okay, thank you. Good afternoon
20 Commissioners. My name is Dave Ostash and I'm the
21 Superintendent of Sierra Sands Unified School District. And
22 I'm also a Ridgecrest and Kern County resident for 25 years
23 now.

24 Sierra Sands Unified School District serves over
25 5,000 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th

1 grade, as well as adult school. We serve students all
2 throughout the Indian Wells Valley and maintain a fleet of
3 district buses to transport students from a wide and remote
4 geographic area.

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

11 I mention that because this eastern region in
12 Kern County has very deep roots with government and agency
13 integration within the existing Kern County Federal
14 District lines.

15 Sierra Sands operates very successfully under a
16 comprehensive support structure provided by the Kern County
17 Superintendent of Schools. The Kern County Superintendent
18 of School's office offers two prominent joint powers
19 agreement organizations that we rely very heavily upon,
20 School Legal Services and Self-Insured Schools of
21 California.

22 When it comes to safety at all 10 of our district
23 schools, we have long-standing partnerships with the Kern
24 County Fire Department and Kern County Sheriff's
25 Department. In fact, one of our schools is not in the city

1 limit and we are reliant upon the Kern County Sheriff's
2 Department for law enforcement response.

3 While we appreciate our local health providers in
4 Ridgecrest, our school district also enjoys long-standing
5 partnerships with county-led programs such as College
6 Community Health Services, and various hard-to-find
7 services such as mental and behavioral services are
8 provided through those kind of resources.

9 Lastly, we do not have a four-year university
10 within the eastern region of Kern County, but we do have a
11 California community college, as was mentioned earlier
12 Cerro Coso Community College is one of the colleges in the
13 Kern Community College District and it's located right here
14 in Ridgecrest. We're extremely fortunate to have long-
15 standing articulation agreements and pathway opportunities,
16 such as dual and concurrent enrollment programs that are
17 strongly supported by the Kern Community College District,
18 and our students rely heavily upon.

19 In my 25 years of experiences in the Sierra Sands
20 Unified School District, I have seen firsthand how
21 integrated our district is with agencies and services --

22 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

23 MR. OSTASH: -- within Kern County. Continued
24 representation by our elected officials within current
25 district lines will be absolutely vital to the continued

1 success of our public school district which serves a very
2 diverse student body over here on the eastern side of Kern
3 County.

4 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

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

9 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Ostash.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
11 005 and then up next after that will be 016.

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

17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you. The area of
18 interest is current Congressional District 28, Kern County
19 and the City of Ridgecrest.

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

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

25 My name is Jed McLaughlin. I'm a Ridgecrest and

1 Kern County resident now for about 27 years. And I'm
2 currently the Chief of Police for the City of Ridgecrest.

3 As a remote and isolated community, we're
4 dependent on our close ties throughout the county. Kern
5 County is comprised of one major city and several rural
6 cities. And due to the geographical makeup of Kern County,
7 we share many of the same needs. Our needs are different
8 than L.A. or San Bernardino Counties. It is important to
9 maintain consistency in Kern County representation at all
10 levels of government to better serve all of our citizens.

11 Maintaining public safety throughout Kern County
12 is a priority, which has been validated by the citizens
13 passing tax measures to maintain police and fire services.

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

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

1 calling my resources for assistance. Within a short period
2 of time, the City of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley
3 had a plethora of resources readily available.

4 Because of the relationships and continuity built
5 with all the levels of government represented in Kern
6 County, we did not lose a single life and our property
7 damage was minimized. Our state and local representatives
8 long understood the unique community issues and concerns,
9 and were immediately instrumental in both the response and
10 recovery efforts. These representatives not only work hard
11 hand-in-hand with Ridgecrest community, and the IW
12 residents, they also help the neighboring --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- agency in another county and
15 district. It is vitally important that Ridgecrest remain
16 within Kern County, state and federal district lines as we
17 rely on the continuity and consistency that --

18 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: -- has been built over the years
20 to better serve and protect all of our residents. To
21 change representation would upset the stability of the IWV
22 throughout the county.

23 Thank you, Commissioners, for your time and
24 allowing me to give my input.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Chief, if you would hold on one

1 second. One moment, please. Just a quick -- basically,
2 you're wanting to stay where you are in --

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

4 CO-CHAIR TURNER: -- Congressional District 23.
5 Okay, because you mentioned Kern and surrounding counties,
6 we just wanted to make sure with our mappers what your
7 community of interest testimony was.

8 Okay, beautiful. Thank you.

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

10 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
12 016, and then up next after that will be 001.

13 016, I will be promoting you now. 016, your
14 speaker order number will be number 9, if you'll please
15 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable
16 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
17 screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area
18 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours. 016? There
19 you are.

20 MR. ASHAOLU: I'm sorry.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

22 MR. ASHAOLU: Good evening Commissioners and
23 other panelists. You know, I like San Joaquin County for
24 the map, please. I will speak specifically about Stockton,
25 especially for black community in this area. So,

1 specifically, I want Stockton to be kept, you know, with
2 the -- in the San Joaquin County.

3 And once again, my name's Folorunso Ashaolu.
4 I've been a citizen of the state for almost 16 years, I
5 believe, and also in Stockton for the same year. So, the
6 COI area of Stockton, you know, it might roll southbound
7 and Davies Road out of Stockton eastbound. It might roll
8 southbound and Davis Road eastbound. To be all kept in San
9 Joaquin.

10 There are many common issues identified with
11 black community in Stockton and this includes parks,
12 schools, you know, and housing, and these are mostly
13 located, and the blacks are mostly located in the south and
14 southeast of Stockton.

15 So, Stockton, as someone said earlier, then one
16 of the most diverse city, large city in the U.S., and yet
17 they're racially, you know, marginalized. We don't want to
18 see the black community separated, you know, due to
19 redistricting, so we can have all the amenities necessary
20 for development of this group.

21 Basically, there have been gentrification from
22 Bay Area, most blacks, you know, and especially they're
23 coming to this area that I just mentioned, close through in
24 the place, these blocks. They will cause mostly, you know,
25 a lot of us to show a negative impact in this community.

1 So, redistrict, I believe, is going to be the only way to
2 handle this and as part of, among the black. It's going to
3 be able to bring us together, you know, fully -- like, you
4 know, schools, parks, and the other things that are very,
5 very common that bind us together.

6 So, to provide also a black, you know,
7 representation in position of authority to uplift their
8 voices. We've been every impacted by this problem, as
9 mentioned earlier.

10 1938, redlining of south and southeast Stockton
11 has kept the black community --

12 MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

13 MR. ASHAOLU: -- you know, disadvantaged, with no
14 expectation economic risk and insecurity. Pollution on
15 site --

16 MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

17 MR. ASHAOLU: -- (indiscernible) -- to this
18 Committee. So, I strongly agree that we keep these black
19 communities together in Stockton. I want to thank you for
20 your time.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Yes, I'm going to need to get
22 the caller back, Mr. Folorunso. Can you bring him back for
23 a quick moment.

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

25 016, if you could please unmute, the Chair had some

1 additional questions for you.

2 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Folonshal [sic], thank you
3 for your testimony. A couple of questions, please. Your
4 community of interest is the black communities, you said,
5 within the city of -- within Stockton, you wanted to stay
6 within the San Joaquin County. But you also mentioned
7 southbound/eastbound, and would love to have you identify,
8 define those streets. Where do you see the boundaries?
9 Which street name?

10 MR. ASHAOLU: Thank you. You can see right
11 there, it's my road southbound. Yeah, it's my road
12 southbound. Yeah, right there.

13 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, Eight Mile. Eight Mile,
14 okay. Yes.

15 MR. ASHAOLU: It's my road, yeah.

16 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

17 MR. ASHAOLU: And on the west is -- that's going
18 to be Thornton eastbound. Thornton eastbound. Yeah,
19 because Thornton eastbound.

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Oh, Thornton Road, yes, uh-huh.

21 MR. ASHAOLU: Yeah.

22 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

23 MR. ASHAOLU: Those are the areas.

24 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, Eight Mile, Thornton, and
25 then east is?

1 MR. ASHAOLU: Oh, east, ah. This is within the
2 Omer -- you see Omer all the way down. Just 99, just
3 exactly 99.

4 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

5 MR. ASHAOLU: Yeah.

6 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, beautiful.

7 MR. ASHAOLU: Yeah.

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, thank you so much.

9 MR. ASHAOLU: No problem. Thank you so much for
10 the time.

11 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
13 have 001 and then up next after that will be 010.

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

20 MS. WILSON: Hi, I would like to address San
21 Joaquin County, please.

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

23 MS. WILSON: Thank you for the opportunity to
24 speak. My name is Betty Wilson and I am the Executive
25 Director for the Business Council San Joaquin County. I

1 had the opportunity to speak at the last meeting for Zone F
2 and I'm looking forward to sharing my testimony once again
3 today.

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

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

17 When the maps were drawn in 2011, San Joaquin
18 County was for the most part kept together. Keeping the
19 county together over the last 10 years has been extremely
20 important for the residents of San Joaquin County and our
21 goal is to ensure that this momentum can be maintained in
22 the future.

23 San Joaquin County has been able to work together
24 on agricultural issues, which accounts for almost \$6
25 billion being contributed to our economy, job creation,

1 food and security, education opportunities, homeless
2 solutions, broadband issues in our rural and underserved
3 areas, and our unique transportation issues.

4 Our communities are concerned about continuation
5 of agricultural production, water shortages, affordable and
6 livable communities, and well-paying jobs for the families
7 that live and work in San Joaquin County.

8 We have come together to advocate for important
9 services, better schools, roads, and health centers for the
10 people that live and work in our area.

11 We request the Commission to seriously consider
12 keeping our community of interest together and retain
13 boundaries with other communities with similar
14 characteristics so our residents can continue to speak with
15 one voice on issues that influence their region.

16 Thank you again for your consideration and for
17 everything you're doing. Thank you.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
20 have 010 and then up next will be 017.

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

1 MR. WOODS: Hi, thank you so much. My name is
2 Jeremy Woods, I'm an entrepreneurship professor from Cal
3 State Bakersfield. And region in question is basically a
4 triangle in Kern County, with Bakersfield at the western
5 edge, and then Ridgecrest in the northeastern corner, and
6 Edwards Air Force Base down there in the southeast corner.

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

8 MR. WOODS: Okay, so like I said, I'm Jeremy
9 Woods. I'm an entrepreneurship professor from Cal State
10 Bakersfield. And, you know, as one of the leaders of our
11 entrepreneurship community in Kern County, in addition to
12 working with our West Kern ag and aerospace sectors, I've
13 been working a lot over the last couple of years with the
14 East Kern aerospace corridor.

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

20 Breaking these industries up into separate
21 Congressional Districts, and currently we're all in the
22 23rd, would significantly weaken that competitiveness at a
23 federal level.

24 Furthermore, just to give you a little bit of an
25 idea here, the major aerospace and defense assets in what

1 we like to call aerospace valley, or the Eastern Sierra
2 aerospace corridor, have been known for the better part of
3 the century as the center of the aerospace testing
4 universe. And really, the communities of Ridgecrest which,
5 you know, is right there next to China Lake Naval Air
6 Warfare Center, Lancaster and Palmdale, which are home to
7 Edwards Air Force Base, Air Force Plant 42, and the Air
8 Force Research Lab's Rocket Division, as well as Mojave Air
9 and Space Port in Mojave, they really function
10 synergistically as a single community. And they all share
11 expertise, technology and economic development resources.

12 Additionally, as some of my fellow speakers have
13 said, we share a rural culture and, you know, we really --
14 the East Kern side of the district really depends heavily
15 on the public safety, healthcare, and disaster recovery
16 services from the west side of the county.

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

24 And I firmly, firmly recommend that we keep them
25 all together in a single community. So, thank you very

1 much for your time and I yield the floor back to whoever is
2 next.

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Woods, a couple of
4 questions for you.

5 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Just a
6 moment.

7 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

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

9 MR. WOODS: Yes, yes, I'm unmuted again. Sorry
10 about that.

11 MR. MANOFF: Thank you.

12 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Professor Woods,
13 just real quick. On the -- what East Kern cities?

14 MR. WOODS: So, the East Kern cities, really all
15 of them. But the ones that I mentioned in particular are
16 Mojave, Edwards, which is basically Lancaster and Palmdale,
17 but Edwards there right next to Rosamond, and Ridgecrest up
18 in the northeast corner. California City is also a big
19 part of that community as well.

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. And also all of
21 Bakersfield?

22 MR. WOODS: Yes. So, Bakersfield, on the west
23 side, is where all of our four-year university resources
24 are based right now and we work heavily with the East Kern
25 aerospace sector.

1 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum. Okay, beautiful.
2 Thank you so much.

3 MR. WOODS: Thanks a lot.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
5 have 017, and then up next after that will be 006.

6 I would like to invite 008, 015 -- 008 and 015,
7 chose the raise your hand button at the bottom of your
8 screen, as you have appointments during this session and
9 you will have priority. I see your hands, perfect.

10 So, right now we will have 017, and then up next
11 will be 006.

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

17 MR. HILL: Good afternoon everyone on the
18 Commission. My area I'd like to discuss would be near
19 South Chester Avenue and Planz in the City of Bakersfield,
20 going north to California Avenue, and then coming back down
21 all the way east 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 an economic side of this

1 redistricting. And so, our main concern right now is that
2 Central Bakersfield has been underrepresented for at least
3 8 to 10 years. And so, with that we're dealing with a
4 housing crisis right now as far as with the rise of renting
5 and things like that. Because as you know, in the African
6 American community in that area a lot of people are renting
7 and they're not homeowners. You know, and if the rent
8 keeps going up, well, number one we're going to be forced
9 to be homeless. And this is going to be indicative for a
10 quite a few residents.

11 And during this time, within this last 8 to 10
12 years, we've had no African American political
13 representation in this area. So, therefore, there's no one
14 that's been a champion for our values. And this is quite
15 evident in the funds that's been awarded lately. I'd say
16 in this last 30 days, and in the Hispanic community and
17 other communities they've awarded millions and millions of
18 dollars for economic recovery and other advantages. But in
19 the African American community they have not awarded
20 nowhere near this amount. You know, so like we suffer from
21 the economic stand point, but also with the housing in the
22 political process. Because, like I said, we have no one
23 that's representing our values for the African American
24 process.

25 So, if these area are split up that's going to

1 decrease the population of the African American community
2 and just make us more minute than we already are.

3 So, I'm asking the Commission to make sure that
4 they keep us all concentrated in this area, under this one
5 redistricting line, and make sure, you know, that we're not
6 spread out too thin where we cannot be seen or represented.

7 And like I said, with the streets --

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum.

9 MR. HILL: -- we need to have these streets --

10 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

11 MR. HILL: -- and these areas repaved and
12 everything else. But like just to reiterate, I want to say
13 the political process, we have no say in the political
14 process and we want to make sure --

15 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

16 MR. HILL: - that our schools are properly
17 represented and that we can get affordable housing.

18 And right now I'd like to say thank you for your
19 time and I hope you understand where I'm coming from.

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Hill?:

21 MR. HILL: Yes, ma'am.

22 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Yeah, before you hang up, you
23 mentioned Central Bakersfield. Can you give me street
24 boundaries again?

25 MR. HILL: Yes, that's South Chester Avenue and

1 Planz. And I want to go all the way north to California
2 Avenue.

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum.

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

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay, we got it. Thank
9 you, Mr. Hill.

10 MR. HILL: Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

12 Right now we will have 006 and then up next will
13 be 020.

14 Again, I'd like to invite 011, 015, and 017 to
15 please use the raise hand button. Or, 017 just spoke, but
16 the other ones, 011 and 015 to use the raise hand button at
17 the bottom of your screen as you do have appointments
18 during the session.

19 006, I will be promoting you now. 006, your
20 speaker order number is number 13, if you'll please make
21 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
22 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
23 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would
24 like to discuss, the floor is yours. 006, if you could
25 unmute at this time.

1 MR. HOLLOWAY: There we go.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

3 MR. HOLLOWAY: My computer's slow. Okay, I'm
4 interested in Congressional District 23, Kern County, and
5 Ridgecrest, including Naval Base China Lake.

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

7 MR. HOLLOWAY: Good afternoon Commissioners. My
8 name is Chip Holloway. I'm a 30-year Ridgecrest and Kern
9 County resident. I served on the Ridgecrest city council
10 for 16 years, from 1998 to 2014, including two terms as
11 mayor. I now serve as the CEO of the Desert Empire
12 Fairgrounds, which is the California 53rd District
13 Agricultural Association.

14 First and foremost I'm asking for our districts
15 to remain status quo. As you have learned today,
16 Ridgecrest is remote and isolated and we're adjacent to
17 China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. The base accounts
18 for 85 percent of the total economy of Indian Wells Valley
19 and supports 38,000 residents.

20 As a remote, isolated community, relationships
21 are the most important capital we can possess. During one
22 of my terms as mayor, the base was facing a severe
23 reduction in force or possible closure during the base
24 realignment and closure process. This would not have only
25 been devastating to Ridgecrest, it would have been a

1 tremendous loss to California.

2 At one time bases in California generated the
3 equivalent of over \$100 billion of revenue. That has
4 shrunk to less than half in the last three decades.

5 Our synergy with Edwards Air Force Base and
6 Mojave Space Port not only benefits Ridgecrest, it benefits
7 the entire State of California.

8 Understanding the unique capabilities, resources
9 and opportunities these three entities provide requires
10 years of educating, updating, and touring elected
11 officials, staff and stakeholders.

12 The plethora of threats and challenges are never
13 ending. I feel very comfortable that our current
14 representation understands us better than anyone. To reach
15 the level of understanding in place currently would take
16 decades of effort, not to mention if we were lumped
17 together in a district that shared a huge, large
18 metropolis, the competing interests would prevent any
19 normal of the time necessary, or the commitment to get
20 anywhere near the expertise in place today.

21 Again, this would not only hurt Ridgecrest, this
22 would hurt California as a whole.

23 Fast forward to my role as CEO of the fairgrounds
24 today. In 2019, the fairgrounds was the staging area for
25 over 39 different agencies, including Kern County Fire and

1 Cal OES. The response was incredible in that it was fast,
2 efficient and everything we needed arrived as quickly as
3 humanely possible. I credit this to the incredible
4 relationships we have nurtured and cultivated over the past
5 25 years.

6 We posted on Facebook throughout the process and
7 our neighbors to the east, the residents of Trona,
8 California, a small town which sits in San Bernardino
9 County, responded for three days begging for help.

10 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

11 MR. HOLLOWAY: The help that arrived came from us
12 until finally, after 72 hours the have a response from
13 their elected officials. The reason I bring this up is I
14 fear if we were to be lumped into a district with little
15 understanding of our challenges and needs, we would face
16 the same risk.

17 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18 MR. HOLLOWAY: Please keep our lines as they
19 currently are or an economic emergency could easily become
20 a human tragedy.

21 Thanks for your time and the incredible
22 commitment you have made to this process.

23 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Holloway.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
25 have 020 and then up next will be 008.

1 020, I will be promoting you now. 020, your
2 speaker order number will be number 14, if you'll please
3 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable
4 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
5 screen. If you would please let the mapper know what area
6 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

7 MR. KEYS: I'd like to discuss the City of
8 Fresno.

9 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please. 020,
10 can you hear me?

11 MR. KEYS: Yes, I can. Give me a second, please.

12 MR. MANOFF: No problem. Your time will begin
13 when you're ready.

14 MR. KEYS: Okay. For some reason I'm not showing
15 up, but you can hear me.

16 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

17 MR. KEYS: Okay. My name is Rick Keys and I'm a
18 resident of the City of Fresno and that's what I'm talking
19 about is the City of Fresno.

20 I've lived here, I moved here when I was 12 years
21 old. I've lived here for 51 years. And my concern is
22 about, really, the southwest and the southeast areas of
23 Fresno, and I'll get more defined on streets I'm talking
24 about when I'm done.

25 What I have seen since I've lived here is very

1 little consistent improvement in black neighborhoods, and
2 really in BIPOC neighborhoods in general. There's been
3 some spotty and scattered growth, but really no change. If
4 anything, things have gone the other direction, they've
5 gone backwards.

6 So, the opportunities here are not really
7 afforded the black community as opposed to the other parts
8 of Fresno, particularly the northern end of Fresno.

9 Now, I've lived all over the city. I currently
10 live in a city that's like a bedroom community, called
11 Clovis. And I moved to Clovis for better opportunities for
12 my family, safer neighborhoods, basically what everyone
13 wants.

14 What has quite frankly befuddled me is why after
15 50 plus years there's been no change to make the
16 communities in the southwest and southeast parts of Fresno
17 the same. There's been imbalance since I've lived here.
18 And for me, what that points to is no representation for
19 those areas. Which means for our youth no opportunities
20 and constantly headed down a path of no hope.

21 So, That's really my concern. What I question is
22 whether or not the outreach in those communities has been
23 effective enough to educate people about the importance of
24 paying attention to who their Legislators are in those
25 districts, and whether or not they're really representing

1 them well.

2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

3 MR. KEYS: The area that I'm speaking of is going
4 to be south, really southwest of 99, and it's going to be
5 south --

6 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

7 MR. KEYS: -- of Dakota Avenue. There are pocket
8 areas in the northern parts of Fresno that have the same
9 issues, but they're really small.

10 MR. MANOFF: Time.

11 MR. KEYS: Thank you very much.

12 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Chair -- I mean I'm the
13 Chair. We need to have, please, Mr. Keys come back and
14 quickly give us the other --

15 MR. MANOFF: Mr. Keys is still here with us,
16 Chair.

17 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Oh, beautiful. Mr. Keys, can
18 you define the streets quickly on the other side?

19 MR. KEYS: So, as we're going east to west, it's
20 going to be Dakota Avenue.

21 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

22 MR. KEYS: And as we go south of 99, actually
23 southwest of 99, it will be from Clinton Avenue going
24 south.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And the other side of 90

1 to the other side of 99, or this side of 99?

2 MR. KEYS: It's going to be this side of 99.

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

4 MR. KEYS: But also getting into the downtown
5 area going southwest and southeast. That's really the
6 areas.

7 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Keys,
8 thank you.

9 MR. KEYS: Thank you.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right, now we will
11 have 008. 008, your speaker order number is number 15, if
12 you'll please make note of that for future reference. You
13 can now enable your audio in the lower left corner of your
14 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area
15 you'd like to discuss, the floor is yours.

16 MR. BLADES: Yes, the area I'd like to speak to
17 is in Kern County, Ridgecrest, California, so northeast.
18 And we've all been talking a lot about that today, yep.

19 Okay. Oh, sorry, I didn't realize that camera
20 was all the way up on me. That's awkward.

21 So, the first thing I wanted to say is thank you,
22 Commissioners, for letting us take a part in this process.

23 Commissioner, Andersen, you came to our city
24 council meeting and you briefed us all, and I did have some
25 public outreach after your briefing. And I can't thank you

1 all enough for this process.

2 I spent just a few days in Sacramento, and I know
3 it's counting on my time, but I wanted to make this clear
4 that this Commission is one of the fairest, even within the
5 United States, and that was pointed out to me. And I
6 really appreciate that dedication.

7 My name is Kyle Blades. I'm a current City
8 Council Member of Ridgecrest, California. And I am also
9 lucky enough to have a job at China Lake and I work as a
10 systems engineer. I've been a flight test engineer. And
11 now, I've successfully made my way into boring middle
12 management.

13 And so, I feel like I can speak at least to a
14 large portion of our special interest community. And I
15 consider it special because of how unique the area is. Our
16 desert, sometimes on this east side of the Kern we do feel
17 isolated. But we have been lucky enough to find out that
18 each time we've needed Kern County assets, we've needed --
19 whether it comes to EMS, whether it comes to just our
20 supervisors, whether it comes to the 23rd District
21 representation have always -- I want to say, like they've
22 come right to our need every time we've needed something.

23 So, I can't express enough how much -- I think it
24 would change the dynamics of our area and how people that
25 they're represented. I think that if we were somehow

1 pushed to San Bernardino or Los Angeles, there would be a
2 large group of people in Ridgecrest, from the folks that
3 talk to me as a representative, they would feel
4 disenfranchised. And so, I just wanted to make that clear
5 because I'm sure that goes into the process.

6 You've heard from several members before me now
7 and I don't think anybody's spoken to the economics. I
8 think it's almost a 2-to-1 ratio that Kern County assists
9 the Ridgecrest area for just to money we give to services
10 they give back to us. So, that's vitally important.

11 You heard from the school districts and that --
12 not just the school districts, across the college
13 districts, how valuable that partnership is.

14 And then, of course, I can speak to you to the
15 Department of Defense aspect. The relationship we have
16 with our representatives right now has been enormous to our
17 area.

18 So, I do humbly thank you --

19 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20 MR. BLADES: -- thank you for your time for
21 considering my testimony. Thank you for the work that you
22 do, it is greatly appreciated. And I hope that if this
23 ever happens again, you'll come right back and give us a
24 presentation. Thanks all of you.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. And you're just

1 basically saying keep CD23 the same?

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

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, we got it. Thank you,
4 Mr. Blades.

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

7 CO-CHAIR TURNER: We are indeed. Thank you so
8 much. So, we are going to actually take that break.

9 When we return from break, we're going to start
10 with individuals who are registered for an appointment time
11 slot, and then we'll open the phone lines as we have
12 opportunity.

13 When we return from break, in 15 minutes, we're
14 going to be in the hands of Commissioner Vazquez that will
15 take it next.

16 And so, let's see, we'll come back actually at
17 4:45 when we'll be back. You have a 2-minute bonus break.
18 4:45 we'll be back, thank you.

19 (Off the record at 4:29 p.m.)

20 (Back on the record at 4:45 p.m.)

21 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: All right, welcome back
22 everyone. Welcome to the California Citizens Redistrict
23 Commission COI Input meeting.

24 We also encourage you to visit the Communities of
25 Interest Tool to draw a map and describe your community, by

1 vising drawmycacommunity.org.

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

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

12 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, hello Chair. This is
13 Margarita, Spanish interpreter. I will read the full call
14 in instructions in Spanish. Thank you.

15 SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in
16 Spanish]

17 Thank you.

18 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Thank you. As a reminder,
19 even though we are focusing on specific counties,
20 Californians from anywhere in the state are welcome to
21 provide input.

22 I will pass this over to Katy, our comment
23 moderator, to continue with public input. And we will
24 start with people who are registered, and then open the
25 phone lines if there is time before the next session.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much,
2 Chair.

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

9 You will then be assigned a new speaker order
10 number before you begin speaking. Please make a note of
11 your speaker order number for future reference.

12 The Commission will be enforcing a 3-minute time
13 limit for our English speakers and a 6-minute time limit
14 for those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at
15 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

16 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on
17 the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
18 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city,
19 please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your
20 area, your 3- or 6-minute testimony will begin. Attendees
21 will not be able to share their screen.

22 And the end of your public input or at the end of
23 your time you will be reconnected in a listen and view only
24 mode.

25 At the beginning of your input, please remind the

1 mapper of what area you would like to see on the screen.

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

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

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

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

15 MS. SVEJDA: Good afternoon Commissioners. My
16 name is Alexia Inez Alvarez Svejda. And I have been a
17 resident of the City of California City in Kern County for
18 over 20 years. And I am currently the President of the
19 California City Chamber of Commerce.

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

1 in Kern County. And we also neighbor the Mojave Air and
2 Space Port.

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

10 Our military bases, and including the Mojave Air
11 and Space Port, with their research, development and test
12 missions, which are located in the R2508 air space, are
13 found nowhere else in the United States. They need to be
14 kept in one Congressional District in order to provide
15 proper representation at a federal level. Their funding,
16 infrastructure, and encroachment issues are unique and
17 often very different from the more usual military training
18 and operational base missions, such as Fort Irwin and 29
19 Palms.

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

25 We are rural and our needs, challenges, and

1 assets are very different from urban areas.

2 Also, Edwards and China Lake have been exemplary

3 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

4 MS. SVEJDA: -- stewards of the environment and
5 do not need to be included in some of the challenges
6 involving other bases.

7 For the economy of our state and for the safety
8 of our nation, we need to support --

9 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

10 MS. SVEJDA: -- our unique rural interests and
11 military-friendly area by keeping it in one Congressional
12 District. Thank you for your time.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 All right, now we will have 011 and then up next
15 will be 027.

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

22 At this time we will go to 027. And up next
23 after that will be 024.

24 I'd also like to invite those that have joined
25 with appointments during this session to please use the

1 raise hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the
2 comment queue line.

3 027, I will be promoting you now. 027, your
4 speaker order number will be number 17, if you'll please
5 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable
6 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
7 screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area
8 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

9 MS. CHAFI: Hello. Good evening. My name is
10 Zena Chafi. And the general community of interest I'll be
11 addressing is Northeast Fresno, within Fresno County, bound
12 by North First Street to the west, East Bullard to the
13 north, and East Ashlan Avenue to the south, which then
14 follows North Sierra Avenue down to West Avenue, over 168
15 down North Chestnut Avenue to the east.

16 Is everybody able to hear me?

17 MR. MANOFF: Yes, thank you. Go ahead, please.

18 MS. CHAFI: Perfect, thank you so much. My name
19 is Zena Chafi from CARE Sacramento Valley Central
20 California, and I am the community organizer. CARE SVCC
21 advocates for just policies for our communities, provides
22 pro bono civil rights, and immigration, and legal services
23 in families in need. It builds future youth leaders by
24 organizing civic engagement and education initiatives, such
25 as Getting out the Vote Census, redistricting, to the

1 AMENSA, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities
2 in Fresno County between the regions of Bakersfield to
3 Merced.

4 I have lived in Fresno for over 20 years and CARE
5 is with the AAPI and AMESA Redistricting Collaborative.

6 Our community is connected by space, culture and
7 language. Friday prayers, youth programs, and mosques
8 bring our communities together. The Muslim community
9 generally lives close to mosques for easy access.

10 Masjid Fresno, which is located in Northeast
11 Fresno on Shaw, right by Fresno State, is the largest
12 mosque in Fresno. The Muslim community in Northeast
13 Fresno, surrounding Masjid Fresno, are primarily South
14 Asian, Palestinian, and Syrian first or second generation
15 immigrants.

16 In addition, in 2016 there was a heavy influx of
17 Syrian immigrants that reside south of Bullard, near Masjid
18 Fresno. Because of the strong immigrant presence in this
19 community, there's a shared concern for immigrants' rights,
20 quality education, access to affordable housing and
21 transportation, culturally competent and aimed language
22 resources, and youth programs for our communities to thrive
23 in America.

24 The Muslim community in this region, particularly
25 the Syrian refugee population, have migrated from a war-

1 ridden, developing country and share the need to feel safe
2 and accepted again, being in a community with the very
3 people who understand their language, culture and values.

4 We hope that the Commission will respect our
5 community of interest and keep it whole. Additionally, we
6 would like be in a district with West Fresno, due to a
7 large Muslim population with shared interests regarding
8 infrastructure, COVID-19 and immigration with communities
9 in this area. We do not want to be in a district with
10 urban communities surrounding North Fresno, and Fig Garden,
11 due to lack of shared interests and priorities.

12 Thank you so much.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 All right, now we will have 024 and then up next
15 will be 047.

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

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

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

1 MS. HUSSAIN: All right, thank you so much. My
2 name is Sukaina Hussain. I am the Deputy Executive
3 Director at CARE, the Council on American Islamic Relations
4 in Sacramento Valley and Central California.

5 I am also speaking as a part of the AAPI and
6 AMESA Redistricting Collaborative.

7 And I have lived in Fresno for nearly six years,
8 now. You've heard a little bit about CARE. As a nonprofit
9 organization, we are focused on providing legal services
10 for the Muslim community, protecting civil rights, and
11 advocating for just policies.

12 I will be focusing, as I said, on the northwest
13 area of Fresno, in the City of Fresno within Fresno County.
14 This community of interest in Northwest Fresno is located
15 around Masjid Badr, B-A-D-R, which is a mosque that's
16 located on Herndon and Milburn Avenues. It is bound by
17 Bullard Avenue to the south, Marks Avenue to the east,
18 Highway 99 on the west, and it continues north of Herndon
19 Avenue. This region has a significant population of Muslim
20 and Arabic speaking immigrants and should remain whole.

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

1 they have shared language, shared religious values, and
2 shared cultural similarity. The Muslim community has not
3 only been concentrated in this region due to lower cost of
4 living, but also due to proximity of the mosque, Masjid
5 Badr. This mosque not only serves as a place of worship,
6 but it's also a community center where groups such as young
7 people, seniors, students, mothers, and many other groups
8 gather for special interest activities.

9 In addition to regular Friday services, the
10 mosques hold daily prayers, many evening and weekend
11 events, and all of these bring the community together on a
12 very regular basis.

13 There is a feeling of being connected to the
14 mosque, not just in proximity by physical location, but
15 also spiritually. And that feeling is very important to
16 the Muslim community and its actually led to an increased
17 concentration of Muslim residents in this region.

18 Many issues that impact the Muslim community are
19 those that impact a lot of immigrant communities. Some of
20 the shared priorities for our community are related to the
21 refuge population and other concerns that bring the
22 community together are related to education, schools, and
23 families that have young children in those schools --

24 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

25 MS. HUSSAIN: -- cost of rent and housing, and

1 in-language Arabic access to county and city resources.

2 Today we ask the Commission to keep this
3 community of interest together and whole, as well as other
4 immigrant communities in that region.

5 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

6 MS. HUSSAIN: That includes the Hmong and the
7 Punjabi Sikh community. And we ask it to keep it separate
8 from advantaged communities in North Fresno and Fig Garden.
9 Thank you so much for your time.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 All right, now we will have 047 and then up next
12 after that will be 031.

13 047, I'll be promoting you now. 047, your
14 speaker order number will be number 19, if you'll please
15 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable
16 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
17 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area you
18 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

19 MS. COLE: Hi, my name is Robin Cole. And I'm
20 looking at San Joaquin County, specifically the City of
21 Tracy where I'm calling from.

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

23 MS. COLE: Thank you. So, I'll be commenting on
24 San Joaquin County, the Redistricting Survey Commission by
25 San Joaquin County Supervisors that was conducted in early

1 August. The results were announced this week.

2 I do not know exactly how the survey was
3 promoted. I personally found out about it via friends and
4 next door. So, it was not as easily -- you couldn't get to
5 the survey easily, unless you know where to look for it.

6 But overall it does not appear to be a
7 representative sample of San Joaquin County. First of all,
8 there were only 15 percent of Latino people surveyed,
9 compared to 42 percent of Latinos that make up our county.
10 Only 5 percent of African Americans were surveyed. More
11 whites than Latinos, Asians and African Americans combined
12 were surveyed. Only 16 percent of the people surveyed were
13 under the age of 35. While over ages 50 there was 57
14 percent. So, lot of elderly people, not so much the
15 younger folks.

16 Secondly, you know, I want to reiterate that this
17 is not a representative sample. And our county is
18 comprised of Tracy, Stockton -- Tracy's very suburban to
19 the San Francisco Bay Area. Stockton is a city.
20 Everything around us is relatively rural and agricultural.

21 And so, while we may share the same sentiment on
22 specific solutions, we all agree that San Joaquin should be
23 kept whole. However, if we do diverge in keeping San
24 Joaquin whole, if it reduces the ability for Latinos to be
25 elected as preferred candidates.

1 When I took the survey, for example in looking at
2 the county in two different ways, I looked at it from a
3 suburban area of San Joaquin that, you know, I can't do my
4 lawn, my water quality needs to be good, that sort of
5 thing.

6 Whereas folks in Eastern San Joaquin and Northern
7 San Joaquin would probably look at it more from an
8 agricultural perspective.

9 So, addressing that would one issue would have
10 very different results, a very different input depending
11 upon where in the county you were. We did not talk about
12 how San Joaquin should be drawn. We should discuss that
13 once more --

14 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

15 MS. COLE: -- data is achieved, the survey should
16 come out more. I do -- however, we would like to keep
17 Mountain House, which is currently not in our Congressional
18 District together, we would like to bring that in.

19 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

20 MS. COLE: And if we do have to split, we would
21 prefer a north/south split with other valley counties, as
22 opposed to an east/west split that would take us into the
23 hills.

24 And I think that I am out of time. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

1 Right now we will have 031, and then up next will
2 be 040.

3 031, I'll be promoting you now. 031, your
4 speaker order number will be number 20, if you'll please
5 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
6 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
7 discuss, the floor is yours.

8 MS. VANG: Hello, my name is Tammy and I'm
9 looking over Fresno. And I am the Fresno Fair organizer
10 for Hmong Innovating Politics, or HIP. And HIP's mission
11 is to distribute the political power toward the largest
12 Hmong American population in the state.

13 I was also born and raised in Fresno and have
14 lived here for 26 years. And Fresno is my hometown and is
15 a place near and dear to my heart. As I child, I moved
16 around Fresno a lot due to probably economic disparities,
17 so I know the areas in which my community resides very
18 well. HIP also serves as a member of AAPI and AMESA
19 Redistricting Collaborative.

20 The Fresno Hmong community is one of the largest
21 Hmong community in the U.S. and people come from all over
22 the country to participate in its annual Fresno Hmong New
23 Year. The Hmong community used to be concentrated in one
24 area in Central and Southeastern Fresno, but throughout the
25 years they have expanded and we now live in clusters

1 throughout Fresno in particular, and more concentration in
2 such as Fresno Fairground, Sunnyside High School, Melody
3 Park, Summerset Village or Firm, Edison High School and the
4 Central High School area.

5 I will submit a written copy of my testimony with
6 more information about where our Hmong communities are
7 located.

8 Our communities share a variety of
9 characteristics, such as we're made of first generation
10 immigrants who fled war in the early 1980s and 1990s. We
11 settle in low-income and affordable housing areas of
12 Fresno. Due to lack of access to financial capital and
13 literacy, our community members are more as renters, than
14 homeowners in their area.

15 As community members obtain more financial
16 capital, most move to the separate area, such as Clovis,
17 Sanger, and Central side.

18 Our community has been in the United States for
19 over 45 years, with the current median age for our
20 community being 23 years old, we have a huge proportion of
21 them being American born.

22 There is still population of community members
23 who are 60 years and older with limited English
24 sufficiency. To finally support themselves, some families
25 established small businesses in the farm industry, creative

1 clothing outlets, some in the service and manufacturing
2 industries, and others in the medical health and nonprofit
3 sectors, such as myself.

4 Our community members tend to graduate from high
5 school, but have low rates of college attainment due to a
6 long history of disenfranchisement.

7 These characteristics means that our community
8 has many shared concerns, particularly issues such as
9 providing more culturally appropriate programming in
10 schools, better language access in government assistance
11 programs, and services, and including the need for tenant
12 protection, adequate health, housing, mental health
13 services and more.

14 Finally, we ask the Commission to respect our
15 boundaries of interest to the extent possible. We hope
16 that our community can stay largely be grouped with the
17 nearby Latinx communities--

18 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

19 MS. VANG: -- in the Kern AD23, as we have many
20 shared interests and characteristics. However, since our
21 community is spread over such a large area and may need to
22 be divided, we support keeping those in the Clovis area,
23 nearby folks who are --

24 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

25 MS. VANG: -- also in Kern AD23. And we believe

1 this is critical to help us nurture and foster a healthier,
2 stronger and happier neighborhood. When people in a
3 community are involved in the process of shaping their
4 environment and community they get to share ideas, to
5 invest and committed in helping find solutions, including
6 strategies to address the --

7 MR. MANOFF: Time.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

9 All right, now we will have 040, and then up next
10 will be 037.

11 040, I'll be promoting you now. 040, your
12 speaker order number is number 21, if you'll please make
13 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
14 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
15 If you will please let the mapper know what area you would
16 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, the area I would like
18 to discuss is Southwest Fresno, Martin Luther King and
19 Church, and Walnut -- and Church and Walnut.

20 I only listed my community because I want my
21 community in Southwest Fresno to have all of the good
22 representation that others in the community have.
23 Southwest Fresno is where I live. It's where I was raised.
24 I know there is a lot of good in my community. I cheer
25 because my family -- I can't -- (indiscernible) -- I have

1 some members that also live here, so that is why I cheer.

2 We have people coming into our community seeking
3 to grab the land and building on it and that's going to be
4 disrupting our way of life. We are losing our community to
5 politicians who are supposed to have our best interests,
6 but make decisions based on other people who do not stay in
7 our community, and making other decisions for our
8 community.

9 So, now it's the time for me to step up to the
10 plate and be here for my community. Our way of life is at
11 stake. There's streets we walk down, the landmarks,
12 community centers and parks, now and in the future. That's
13 what redistricting is about. We don't want people making
14 decisions for our community without knowing who is in the
15 community, our needs, and our children. Our community has
16 a landmark community center and park that has been the
17 forefront of our culture in more ways than one.

18 The community center and park are part of the
19 history, our identity and it still is right to this day.
20 But those shouldn't be the only resources in our community.
21 Jobs, schools and hospitals are important, too. We don't
22 have those because we have had people who fought for us in
23 our interests. It is very important that we protect our
24 community to keep it together. If not, we will have people
25 coming in that don't have our best interest. Once the

1 community goes, so does everything else in a community.
2 Who knows the community better than the ones that have been
3 living there all their lives.

4 That is why it is important that we come here
5 today to tell you that we care about what happens to our
6 community in redistricting. Most of all, people who do not
7 live in our community should not be making decisions about
8 our community. Southwest Fresno deserves our own
9 representation.

10 In closing, I would like to thank this Commission
11 for allowing me to enlighten you about the community and I
12 hope you will be considerate and understanding of my
13 community. And I would like to thank you all and I'd like
14 all y'all to have a blessed day.

15 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Caller, could I ask
16 you to hold for one moment. You mentioned three streets
17 and one, I just want to make sure that we have those three
18 streets. And I think we maybe need an additional boundary.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

20 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: So, could you please just
21 repeat those three streets that you mentioned.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It should have been
23 California and Martin Luther King, Martin Luther King and
24 Church, Church and Walnut it should have been.

25 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Give me just one

1 moment. You said California and Martin Luther King.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Martin Luther King
3 and Church.

4 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. And then --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then Church and Walnut.

6 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Church and Walnut.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

8 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Let me make sure, do the
9 mappers have what we need? I believe so.

10 Is that -- so, do you consider -- is what you
11 just stated, is that what you consider Southwest Fresno?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, that's Southwest
13 Fresno.

14 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Okay, thank you for
15 confirming.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Thank you.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

19 All right, now we will have 037, and then up next
20 after that will be 038.

21 037, I'll be promoting you now. 037, your
22 speaker order number is number 22, if you'll please make
23 note 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 MS. NIMMERS: Hi. I'll be discussing Central
3 Valley generally, so I'm not sure that we'll be able to
4 zoom into a particular area. But for reference, I'll be
5 mentioning Stockton, Bakersfield, Fresno, as well as some
6 areas in Kings County.

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

8 MS. NIMMERS: Good afternoon Commissioners. My
9 name is Kristin Nimmers. I'm calling on behalf of the
10 Black Census and Redistricting Hub. I'm calling to
11 summarize and uplift the communities of interest identified
12 by our coalition members and the community members that
13 have been engaged in non-community feedback sessions with
14 74 Central Valley residents.

15 Our coalition partners, the Fresno Metro Black
16 Chamber of Commerce, the Kern County Black Chamber of
17 Commerce, and the Central Valley Urban Institute spent
18 months engaging members of the community on where they're
19 located and what issues are most prevalent for this region.

20 During each community session we were able to
21 discuss the importance of redistricting, as well as the
22 impact it will eventually have on future generations of
23 black people in the Central Valley.

24 Similar to the Commission's process, we were able
25 to shed light on how they can engage in this process and

1 the significant opportunity we have to ensure equitable
2 district lines are drawn.

3 During these community sessions, the following
4 communities across the Central Valley were identified as
5 important to black communities. Bakersfield, particularly
6 Southeast Bakersfield; Fresno, particularly the West
7 Fresno, Southwest Fresno, and the Old Fig area; Stockton,
8 especially South Stockton, Madera, Tulare, Hanford and
9 Lemoore.

10 In our outreach some of the trends we found was
11 that there's been a lot of construction of physical
12 boundaries breaking up black communities in the Central
13 Valley, that there's inconsistent public transit to our
14 neighborhoods, racially restrictive housing, the lack of
15 development and employment opportunities in rural and low-
16 income neighborhoods. All of which has negatively impacted
17 our community's ability to advance economically.

18 The black community in these areas is still
19 unheard, continuing the vicious cycle of mistrust of
20 government and a lack of connection to the local and
21 statewide political process. Black communities throughout
22 the Central Valley also often feel that agricultural needs
23 are prioritized over the needs of urban communities, and
24 they hope for representation in districts that recognize
25 the distinction between the needs of those communities, and

1 the importance of providing for both.

2 Everyone should have access to safe and secure
3 housing, and families in West Fresno, Southeast
4 Bakersfield, Madera, Tulare, Hanford have all raised the
5 need for affordable housing and the lack of access to home
6 ownership for most black residents.

7 It's important that communities have updated
8 infrastructure and public transportation, but the black
9 community in Kern County is still fighting for local and
10 state funding to fix the roads in their neighborhoods and
11 get additional bus stops in the rural areas.

12 We have seen during this pandemic the importance
13 of access to healthcare and medical services, but in rural
14 communities like Tulare, families struggle with accessing
15 hospitals, as well as other basic amenities like banking
16 and grocery stores.

17 And these are just a handful of examples listed
18 in our community sessions, which have also been uplifted in
19 the submissions through the COI Tool

20 Protecting our communities in the Central Valley
21 will not only give us an opportunity to elect people that
22 empathize with and understand these issues --

23 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

24 MS. NIMMERS: -- but will also create
25 opportunities to increase trust in government and our

1 democratic process as our communities see themselves
2 represented in the State and Federal Legislatures. To
3 ensure inclusivity, equity, and fair representation of all
4 communities in California, it's vital that these
5 communities are kept together.

6 Your choices during the line drawing process have
7 the power to ensure black communities in the Central Valley
8 are heard --

9 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

10 MS. NIMMERS: -- and have representation. Thank
11 you so much for your time and consideration.

12 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller? Can you please hold?
13 I'm hoping you can elaborate for us on the southwest areas
14 and the West Fig area.

15 MS. NIMMERS: Uh-hum.

16 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Could you be more specific
17 about the boundaries of what you consider the southwest
18 Fresno area first?

19 MS. NIMMERS: Yes, give me one second. We also
20 submitted through the COI Tool, if that's helpful at all.

21 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Yes, that would be very
22 helpful, thank you.

23 MS. NIMMERS: I'm trying to like pull up our
24 maps. In which area where you trying to get clarification
25 on?

1 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Southwest Fresno and the Old
2 Fig Area, sorry.

3 MS. NIMMERS: Okay, so Southwest Fresno, there's
4 south -- I think it's Chateaux, Fresno, it's C-H-A-T-E-A-U-
5 X. And then there's like a railroad that goes like right
6 above that. It's like below Belmont Ave. And then, on the
7 other side there's West Central Ave., as well as -- and
8 some of the community kind of goes into those a little bit
9 below West Central Ave. to West American Ave., as well.
10 It's kind of like a rectangle shape that goes down and back
11 up.

12 And then --

13 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: And then, maybe are you for --
14 thank you for that for Southwest Fresno.

15 And then, the Old -- or, do you maybe mean the
16 Old Fig Garden?

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

20 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Yup, I think we have
21 what we need. Thanks so much.

22 MS. NIMMERS: Okay, thank you.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 038, your hand was
24 raised and you were next. You lowered it. If that was not
25 intentional, if you could please raise it at this time, you

1 will still be next. Ah-hah, you will still be next then.

2 And then, after that will be 045.

3 And I would like to invite those that have joined
4 with appointments, 042, 039, 034, 032, 030, 026, and 011,
5 if you wish to give comment, please use the raise your hand
6 button at the bottom of our screen as you've an appointment
7 during this session and you will have priority.

8 Right now we will have 038 and I will be
9 promoting you. 038, your speaker order number will be
10 number 23, if you'll please make note of that for future
11 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the
12 lower left corner of your screen. If you would please let
13 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. FAIR: Can you hear me. I'm trying to get
16 current Congressional District 23, Kern County, including
17 California City, Ridgecrest and Edwards Air Force Base.

18 Good evening Commissioners. My name is Marcus
19 Fair. I'm a resident of California City in Kern County for
20 the past 20 years.

21 The two military bases, Edwards Air Force Base
22 and China Lake, share a unique mission in resource
23 development and tests, requiring a unique knowledge and
24 understanding of that mission in order to provide proper
25 representation at a federal level.

1 The funding infrastructure on these issues are
2 unique and often very different requirements for the more
3 -- for the more unusual military training and operational
4 missions.

5 It is vital, vitally important that Edwards Air
6 Force Base and California City remain within Kern County's
7 State and Federal District lines. Changing representation
8 now could lead to unintended delays and consequences during
9 the next five years as we seek to build our communities.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide public
11 input from your Commission. We appreciate the difficult
12 task you have before you. Please consider keeping our
13 cities currently in the district and not redrawing those
14 lines. Thank you for your time.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 All right, now we will have 045 and then up next
17 will be 033.

18 045, I will be promoting you now. 045, your
19 speaker order number is number 24, if you'll please make
20 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please
21 let the mapper know what area you'd like to discuss, the
22 floor is yours.

23 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you very much. The area I
24 would like to discuss is Kern County, particularly the
25 Ridgecrest area, California City, that whole area between

1 Ridgecrest and Bakersfield. Basically, the outline of
2 Congressional District 23.

3 And I'll go ahead and begin. Good afternoon
4 Commissioners. My name is Norman Alexander. I'm currently
5 the President of the Ridgecrest area Association of
6 Realtors, and also the Board Chair of AltaOne Federal
7 Credit Union.

8 I would like to thank you for your time and
9 dedication on this important mission that we are working
10 on.

11 You've heard a lot about Ridgecrest, and East
12 Kern County, and this remote area out in the desert. I
13 could talk about the housing difference between our areas
14 and major urban areas. Our median home price is about --
15 lower than \$300,000, which is usually about a down payment
16 in the urban areas. You've heard, you just heard about the
17 share national defense and economic situation with China
18 Lake, Edwards, and even the Mojave Space Port, how that is
19 very important and a common interest.

20 How Ridgecrest itself depends on and works with
21 East Kern County, and West Kern County work together.
22 Particularly, when we had our earthquakes, how Bakersfield
23 and Ridgecrest business leaders and city leaders worked to
24 address some employment challenges.

25 An interesting point in Ridgecrest, even during

1 COVID our unemployment rate went from below 5 percent, to
2 just not even about 6 percent. So, we were able to help
3 out other portions of the county with employment. So,
4 we've talked about that.

5 The other challenges we have and other things
6 that pull us together is our environmental things. Water
7 issues, along with obviously earthquakes, and the protected
8 species that we have.

9 But the bottom line is the main common interest
10 that we have is our remote living and rural living. That
11 in itself really defines that binds us. We have a
12 particular set of -- we enjoy this type of living, that's
13 why we're out here. We're out in the middle of the desert.
14 We don't have big malls.

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. ALEXANDER: We don't have large restaurants.
17 But we do enjoy the work that we have out here and the
18 environment that we live in.

19 In the currently drawing of the District lines --

20 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

21 MR. ALEXANDER: -- Congressional District lines,
22 we would like to keep in place because it has really worked
23 for our community. Combining us with large metropolitan
24 areas would not address our issues. Thank you again for
25 your support and time, your time on this. Thank you.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 All right, now we will be going to 033, and then
3 up next will be 041.

4 And I would again like to invite those with
5 appointments during this session, 042, 039, 034, 032, 030,
6 026, and 011 to please use the raise hand button at the
7 bottom of your screen to enter the comment queue line.

8 033, I will be promoting you now. 033, your
9 speaker order number will be number 25, if you'll please
10 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
11 please let the mappers know what area you would like to
12 discuss, the floor is yours. You are still on mute. You
13 can unmute in the lower left corner of your screen.

14 MR. VORACEK: Oh, my goodness.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

16 MR. VORACEK: A year and a half of technology and
17 I'm still this way. You can zoom back in to that same area
18 we were in last time. That map location was pretty good.
19 Northern L.A., Palmdale, Lancaster, Kern County, all the
20 way up to Ridgecrest there. Yes, that's a pretty good
21 representation.

22 So, great. I'm talking today as an aerospace
23 engineer in this area and the importance of keeping the
24 district together. I've been an aerospace engineer for
25 over 30 years, on the research side, working at Edwards Air

1 Force Space.

2 And as the first speaker said and the last
3 speaker said, the aerospace industry is important to
4 California, not only because of the economic input, but
5 also the talent we bring to the area in California, and the
6 pride in California that results in the work that's done in
7 our area here.

8 You know, the first sonic boom was at Edwards Air
9 Force Base. The space shuttles were built down in Palmdale
10 there, and flown, first flown and tested at Edwards Air
11 Force Base. We attracted diverse students across the
12 country, early career people come to California in this
13 unique area to work on the coolest technology in the
14 country. Guaranteed. Come up to Edwards Air Force Base
15 and look at this cool technology that we're doing here.

16 NASA Armstrong is flying, it's going to be flying
17 electric aircraft and other climate-friendly aircraft
18 technologies. We're doing sonic boom mitigation in that
19 area.

20 And the 2508 air space is nowhere -- it's so
21 unique in this area, it's so important to keep this
22 district together in terms of keeping the talent and
23 everything else, in the interest of being able to fly 350
24 days per year in this unique areas.

25 Entrepreneurs started your scale composites in

1 Mojave, who built the Virgin Galactic that just flew
2 Richard Branch into space. It was built here in this
3 district area.

4 We fly earth science and other missions are flown
5 from the Palmdale and the NASA Armstrong Flight Research
6 Center. The latest technology is flow at Edwards and
7 developed, and also tested. Unique naval air weapons
8 systems tested out at China Lake.

9 And this cannot be done if we do not have all the
10 common interests of all the research and technology in this
11 district, in this area from Palmdale all the way up to
12 Ridgecrest and doing that. It's important to keep these
13 areas in one district to support our unique aerospace
14 industry, continue to inspire the new generation of
15 engineers, and scientists that are coming in. And it's a
16 diverse group of people that we bring here, unique talent.

17 And, you know, I just -- as 30 years as a
18 research engineer, it's been an incredible journey.

19 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20 MR. VORACEK: And appreciate the time and the
21 effort you guys, and the problems that you're going to have
22 as you're doing the redistricting, but it's important to
23 keep us together for California. Not only for California,
24 but for the people that we --

25 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

1 MR. VORACEK: -- can bring to California to work
2 in this area. Thank you very much. I appreciate the time
3 that you have given us to talk.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
5 All right, now we will be going to 041.

6 And again, I'd like to invite those with
7 appointments during this session to use the raise your hand
8 option at the bottom of your screen, 042, 039, 034, 033,
9 032, 030, 026. We will be dealing with that in a second.
10 041, I will be promoting you now. 041, your
11 speaker order number will be number 16, if you'll please
12 make note of that for future reference. If you'll please
13 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
14 the floor is yours.

15 MS. DARDEN: West Fresno, Olive, south of Olive
16 to North Avenue.

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

18 MS. DARDEN: My name is Debbie Darden. I am the
19 Chair for Golden Westside Planning Committee. I am also
20 the Chair for BAPAC, Black American Political Association
21 of California, also an advocate and long-time resident of
22 West Fresno, 93706.

23 And in regards to the redistricting, this
24 particular community here is enriched with families, very
25 diversified. There has been an enormous amount of African

1 American families that were born and raised here. Many of
2 them are now living throughout the City of Fresno. A good
3 portion would be further out west, in the Central area,
4 which is past Marks, between Marks and Cornelius, going all
5 the way to Shaw Avenue.

6 And one of the things over here in West Fresno,
7 although we have a connection to several warehousing and
8 manufacturing throughout this community, what we lack are
9 the resources and dollars to which taxes, tax dollars would
10 bring to this community.

11 We have structure, buildings, development that
12 have taken place in this area, Amazon being a prime
13 example, Ulta being another example. But because of the
14 incentives that the city brings in, the West Fresno
15 community lose out on those dollars because the exchange is
16 that they bring in the jobs.

17 I can guarantee you that there's probably not
18 five percent of the workers at Amazon and Ulta reside here
19 in West Fresno.

20 Many of the housing have been taken out of West
21 Fresno. And many of the medium income homeowners,
22 especially African Americans, who have achieved education
23 and gone into the workforce have been forced to leave West
24 Fresno, although they would have loved to have stayed and
25 reside, due to the fact that we have lack of housing. And

1 yet, the City of Fresno is one of the ones where we have an
2 enormous housing crisis at this time.

3 And so, that is something that we need to have a
4 connection with. The downtown Fresno has since
5 incorporated as being part of South Fresno. However,
6 there's still a division there. People have a tendency to
7 grasp on to the West Fresno, as the disadvantaged community
8 that will allow them to apply for a grants --

9 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

10 MS. DARDEN: -- that provide millions of dollars
11 to come inside to be able to do these amenities and build
12 in this community. However, those dollars are spent in
13 other areas, and not in West Fresno. So, there's a
14 division --

15 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

16 MS. DARDEN: -- in monies and connection for
17 development for this community and that has been done for a
18 number of decades for our community.

19 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller?

20 MS. DARDEN: Thank you. Yes?

21 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Can I ask you to confirm the
22 eastern boundaries of your community?

23 MS. DARDEN: The east, going east we would go as
24 far as -- I would take it as far as the Golden State.

25 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great, thank you.

1 MS. DARDEN: Uh-hum.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

3 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Sorry. Can I also just pause
4 and can I ask our Spanish interpreter to give instructions
5 in Spanish, in case those with appointments are speaking
6 Spanish.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure.

8 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, would that be the
9 language line instructions? Or, I'm sorry, the phone
10 callers.

11 MR. MANOFF: I believe if you could please ask
12 those in the queue with appoints to raise their hand to
13 show that they are ready to give comment.

14 SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions given in
15 Spanish]

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much,
17 Margarita.

18 At this time I am just going to be doing audio
19 option for each person in the queue that does have an
20 appointment, and give them the opportunity to join.

21 This is for appointment 026. Appointment 026,
22 would you wish to give comment at this time?

23 MS. KAUR: Hi, yes.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. Your speaker
25 order number will be number 27, if you'll please make note

1 of that for future reference. And if you will please let
2 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
3 floor is yours.

4 MS. KAUR: Awesome, thank you. For City of
5 Fresno, in the Northwest/West Fresno area, and particularly
6 going south as McKinley, and then going west as Garfield,
7 so that will be a street over from Grantland, but Grantland
8 is okay for now. And then, going north as west as
9 Grantland. And then, let's see where else. Yep, and then
10 99 being that boundary, kind of that triangle we'll make.
11 And then also going from west of -- west being the 99
12 boundary, north being Herndon, going all the way to Marks,
13 and then south would be about Ashland I would say.

14 And that's kind of like a rough map, not exactly.
15 But I will get started. My name is Kamaljit Kaur. I work
16 for Jakara Movement, a community-based organization. And
17 I've been a resident of City of Fresno for 29 years, and I
18 live in that residence that I just kind of mapped out.

19 I am also here representing AAPI and AMESA
20 Redistrict Collaborative. And today I'll be talking about
21 northwest neighborhoods. I would also like to include the
22 Sunnyside neighborhood today. Kind of there are large
23 clumps there as well.

24 Jakara Movement has been an active organization
25 within the community for 20 years, organizing and

1 empowering the Punjabi Sikh community, and other
2 marginalized communities to advance their health,
3 education, and economic, and social, and political power.

4 Punjabi is a ethnic background, where Sikh is an
5 ethnoreligious background. Punjabis have been living in
6 California for over 120 years. The community is tied by
7 its Punjabi language and its culture, as well as the Sikh
8 faith. We have many families moving into the area of
9 Fresno because of the two local Gurdwaras. The Sikh
10 Institute of Fresno, in that Northwest Fresno area, and
11 Nanaksar Gurdwara Cornelia which is on the Cornelia Avenue.
12 These Gurdwaras are not only a place of worship, but also
13 where our elderly come together and community events are
14 held.

15 Another reason the large migration here is
16 happening because -- or has happened is because there's a
17 school district, Central Unified School District, in this
18 region which has the highest population of Punjabi Sikh
19 students, and it continues to only grow.

20 Another reason a lot of our families tend to stay
21 in this region is due to employment. One being in the
22 transportation industry. Since this area is close to a
23 major highway, it makes it easier for families to be able
24 to go to work, and come back, and be close to a major
25 highway, the Highway 99.

1 Another reason, also, is that many families tend
2 to carpool together, so they've kind of created these
3 community networks where they're carpooling together to
4 their blue collar jobs at places such as Foster Farms
5 and --

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds --

7 MS. KAUR: There are also many language-limited
8 folks who live in this area and are in need of language
9 access services. Many of our families are feeling
10 alienated and are codependent on their children because of
11 lack of resources and language barriers.

12 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

13 MS. KAUR: Along with the Sikh community, there's
14 a growing Muslim community and Hmong community whom all
15 have shared priorities such as quality education,
16 employment, community, language and immigrant rights.

17 We hope the community will -- or the Commission
18 will keep --

19 MR. MANOFF: Time.

20 MS. KAUR: -- the communities together. Thank
21 you so much for your time.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

23 And right now we will have 030 and then up next
24 will be 034.

25 030, I will be promoting you now. 030, your

1 speaker order number will be number 28, if you'll please
2 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
3 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
4 discuss, the floor is yours.

5 MS. LIM: Great, thank you. Fresno County,
6 please.

7 Good evening, my name is June Lim and I am the
8 Demographic Research Project Director at Asian Americans
9 Advancing Justice Los Angeles.

10 I am joining you today to present data supporting
11 the community of interest testimony you heard from our
12 partners representing the AAPI and AMESA Redistricting
13 Collaborative. These include COIs from the Punjabi, Sikh,
14 Muslim, and Hmong communities in Fresno County.

15 The Asian American Pacific Islander and AMESA
16 community is a large and fast growing part of Fresno
17 County. The latest Census data show that while the
18 population in Fresno County grew by 10 percent between 2010
19 and 2020, the AAPI communities in the county grew faster by
20 27 and 18 percent, respectively. And now are over 12
21 percent of the county.

22 In specific cities and Census designated places
23 within the county, the AAPI and AMENSA communities have
24 grown even faster. The Asian American community has grown
25 by more than 40 percent in Clovis and Sunnyside, and the

1 AAPI and AMENSA communities now make up more than 15
2 percent of Clovis, Sunnyside, and the City of Fresno, 21
3 percent of Fresno County's immigrants. Nearly half of the
4 AAPI and AMESA community in Fresno is foreign born. Over
5 one-third of AAPI and AMESA communities in Fresno is
6 limited English proficient, meaning they speak English less
7 than very well.

8 Asian Americans are most likely of any racial
9 group in Fresno County to be LEPs. Over 40 percent of
10 Hmong and Asian Indian communities, which include the Sikh
11 communities, speak English less than very well. The rate
12 is disproportionately higher among older adults. 95
13 percent of Hmong elders and 100 percent of PI elders in the
14 City of Fresno speak English less than very well.

15 The per capita income for Asian Americans in
16 Fresno County is less than two-thirds of the per capita
17 income for whites. And Hmong Americans are among the
18 poorest in the region, with a per capita income under
19 \$10,000.

20 There are regional differences as well. While
21 slightly more than 34 percent of Asian Americans in Clovis
22 are low income, more than 55 percent of Asian Americans in
23 the City of Fresno are low income, and over 31 percent live
24 in poverty.

25 In closing, the AAPI and AMENSA Redistricting

1 Collaborative ask the Commission to respect the integrity
2 of the communities of interest presented today for the
3 communities I've mentioned. I will submit to the
4 Commission data maps and shape files of these communities
5 of interest with my written testimony. Thank you very much
6 for your time.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

8 All right, now we will go to 034 and then up next
9 after that will be 032.

10 034, I will be promoting you now. 034, your
11 speaker order number is number 29, if you'll please make
12 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
13 audio and video in the lower left corner of your screen.
14 If you would please let the mapper know what area you would
15 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

16 Unique ID 034, if you could please follow the
17 prompt to unmute at this time. Unique ID 034? I believe
18 they dropped off.

19 All right, on to the next. At this time we will
20 be going to 032. 032, your speaker order number will be
21 number 30, if you'll please make note of that for future
22 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the
23 lower left corner of your screen. If you'll please let the
24 mapper know what area you'd like to discuss, the floor is
25 yours.

1 MR. MONDRAGON: Yes, the area of interest is Kern
2 Congressional District 23, Kern County, Ridgecrest, and
3 including NAWs China Lake.

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

5 MR. MONDRAGON: Good afternoon Commissioners. My
6 name is Bernie Mondragon and I am a 25-plus year resident
7 of the City of Ridgecrest, a Mexican American small
8 business owner. And I'm currently serving as a City
9 Planning Commissioner. Thank you for the opportunity to
10 speak today.

11 I am calling today in regards to the community of
12 interest area, which is all of Kern County, including
13 Ridgecrest, NAWs China Lake, Inyo, Kern, and Indian Wells
14 Valley. I request that the City of Ridgecrest and our
15 valley remain with the county and district lines as it has
16 been since 2011.

17 Ridgecrest is a remote and rural desert community
18 and is next to NAWs China Lake, which accounts for an
19 approximate 86 percent of our local economy. With that,
20 China Lake accounts for a significant portion of our local
21 economy and has a unique mission along with Edwards Air
22 Force Base. The two military bases share the common
23 mission of aerospace defense, research development, testing
24 and evaluation which require a unique knowledge and
25 understanding from a representative in order to serve our

1 community.

2 In Ridgecrest, we have weathered two disasters.
3 Because of the relationships that have already been
4 established, from the 2019 earthquakes to the pandemic, our
5 county has supported our rural communities. In July 2019,
6 the two major earthquakes showed the strength of our county
7 and the critical importance of maintaining our 23rd
8 District and county lines.

9 Words fail to express the impact to small
10 businesses in Ridgecrest and the Base at China Lake
11 experienced following the earthquakes because of the fast-
12 acting impact our valley currently knows.

13 COVID has been difficult on all of us, but in
14 Kern our small businesses benefited from county-direct PPP
15 grants. Our community, our base, and our small businesses
16 are stronger because of our county, state and federal
17 interconnections.

18 If we were to be absorbed into our neighboring
19 districts, we would certainly lose our voice and
20 connection. Kern County as a whole, and Ridgecrest in
21 particular has very little in common with L.A. and San
22 Bernardino County, which have large urban centers.
23 Representatives serving in those areas are likely be
24 disconnected at best from the needs of our areas, and at
25 worst inclined to support competing interests.

1 As a resident, a small business owner, I know we
2 all well represented through the relationships that have
3 been forged within our county and district. And so, I
4 request that we maintain the 23rd District and Kern County
5 lines to support our rural communities. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

7 And 034, you came back to join us. I will be
8 doing the audio only option at this time. 034, your
9 speaker order number is 29, if you'll please make note of
10 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the
11 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
12 is yours.

13 MS. MCCOY: Hi. My name is Kimberly McCoy,
14 Project Director for Fresno Building Healthy Communities.
15 And I will be speaking on Central Valley.

16 When the CRC conducts redistricting, it allows
17 the politicians to choose their constituents, rather the
18 other way around. Redistricting should encourage community
19 cohesion, rather than division. Done poorly, redistricting
20 often divides communities of interest, making it difficult
21 for them to find representatives to champion their causes
22 and advocate for them.

23 African Americans have also doubled in some
24 communities in the Central Valley, like Fresno and Kings
25 County. It can also make it difficult for Legislators to

1 serve their constituents, since it may be difficult for
2 them to travel easily throughout the district, or never see
3 the Legislator all in high poverty Census tracts,
4 especially majority black Census tracts in the Central
5 Valley in communities like Pixley, Atwater, Fairmead and
6 Chowchilla.

7 Unfair redistricting creates safe districts which
8 result in uncontested or uncompetitive elections, leading
9 to reduced voter interest and turnout. Poorly contested
10 Assembly and Senate seats, and the Central Valley has had
11 low voter turnout.

12 We must do better to meet the needs of African
13 American families in communities like Southwest Fresno, or
14 we'll continue to see this disproportionate jarring impacts
15 on black families related to poor health in outcomes, and
16 income equality. Thank you.

17 MR. MANOFF: Thank you so much.

18 All right, now we will go to 039. 039, if you
19 will follow the prompts to unmute in the lower left corner
20 of your screen. 039, your speaker order number will be
21 number 31, if you will please make note of that for future
22 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
23 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

24 039, you are unmuted. Can you hear me? 039, you
25 may want to check your audio settings next to the

1 microphone. Check your speaker.

2 MR. GAONA: I am 008.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

4 MR. GAONA: Okay.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are. Hi.

6 MR. GAONA: It's a different number that I
7 received. Okay.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh, I apologize.

9 MR. GAONA: My name is Binancho Gaona (phonetic).
10 And would you please display the map of Fresno County and I
11 will address West Fresno County, South Fresno County, and
12 the south side of the City of Fresno, please. I will
13 identify these three portions of the county as a community
14 of interest that need responsive representation.

15 To begin with, the definition of the geography.
16 West Fresno County is composed of small, rural Latino
17 majority cities west of Highway 41 and Highway 99, and west
18 of the City of Fresno. In South Fresno County are small,
19 rural Latino majority cities east of Highway 99, south of
20 Highway 180, and southeast of the City of Fresno.

21 The City of Fresno is divided north and south
22 along Shaw Avenue. The tale of two cities, as some people
23 refer to it. True South Fresno is bounded by major
24 streets, Shields Avenue to the north, Beech Avenue to the
25 east, Jensen Avenue to the south, and Highway 99 to the

1 west.

2 As per Census data, a large population of people
3 of color, especially Latinos, reside in these areas.
4 Fresno County is a Latino majority county, well over 50
5 percent. A majority of Latinos, Asians, and African
6 Americans live in south side of the City of Fresno. The
7 small, rural cities in West and South Fresno County are
8 well over 60 percent.

9 Socioeconomic issues and policy needs affect the
10 well being of all of those living in the rural areas and in
11 the south side City of Fresno. There is a need for
12 effective representation.

13 These rural residents of the Appalachia of Fresno
14 County suffer from isolation and lack of access to
15 healthcare services and hospitals. And availability of a
16 physician, eye doctor, dentist, and ambulatory services is
17 paramount. Poverty is pronounced here due to agricultural
18 related jobs available with low paying wages.

19 The quality and quantity of potable water is
20 lacking in all the rural towns and unincorporated
21 communities. Either there is a shortage of water or it's
22 contaminated.

23 Environmentally, there are three areas, these
24 three areas face higher rates of air pollution and with it
25 higher rates of illnesses.

1 Keep these three resilient communities of
2 interest together in Legislative and Congressional
3 Districts to acquire positive, effective representation.

4 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

5 MR. GAONA: Equal justice calls for making them
6 whole. Thank you. We appreciate the job that you're doing
7 in the Commission.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

9 All right, now we will be going to 042. 042,
10 your speaker order number will be number 32, if you'll
11 please make note of that for future reference. You can now
12 enable your audio and video in the lower left corner of
13 your screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what
14 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

15 DR.. CASTELLANOS: Good afternoon. The area that
16 I'd like to discuss is the area that Binancho just
17 elaborated on. And that is the south east area of Fresno
18 County, specifically the rural towns of Sanger, Reedley,
19 Selma, Parlier, and Del Rey.

20 I'm sorry, I can't see the map right now so --

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

22 DR. CASTELLANOS: I'm not sure if you'd like me
23 to specify streets, but I can't see them in front of me, so
24 I'm not sure.

25 But again, the towns I'm talking about are in

1 Southeast Fresno County. So, good afternoon,
2 Commissioners. My name is Dr. Eve Castellanos. I grew up
3 and I live in Sanger, California, which is a rural
4 community of approximately 25,000 in the Central Valley.
5 It's about 13 miles southeast of Fresno, in the County of
6 Fresno.

7 The COI that I'm advocating to request for is
8 these small town that are in Southeast Fresno County, small
9 rural towns.

10 Sanger has experienced a steady growth in
11 population since about 2000, when the population as about
12 18,000. Since then, our population has increased to about
13 25,000. And while we don't have any major thoroughfares or
14 freeways that run directly through our city, one of the
15 major highways is Highway 180, and that's located to the
16 north of us, which leads to Sequoia and Kings Canyon
17 National Park. It's about two miles outside of Sanger.

18 The expansion and the growth in population that
19 these rural towns have experienced over the past couple of
20 decades has been facilitated by the development of new
21 housing communities, as well as the creation of new P-12
22 schools that have been located in the city or close to our
23 city boundaries.

24 And while these smaller communities are
25 experiencing rapid growth, this growth has resulted in

1 further demonstrating inequities and marginalization
2 resulting from the income gap that exists in these
3 communities, including those similar to those experienced
4 by the population and residents as described previously in
5 Southwest Fresno.

6 Related to that, the equities in our community
7 includes a lack of access to public transportation, higher
8 education, physical and mental healthcare providers, and
9 other factors that contribute to advancing upwards social
10 mobility.

11 These disparities are unique and different from
12 those experienced in other surrounding cities, such as
13 Clovis and Fresno, that has already previously been alluded
14 to, which are more urban.

15 Reedley, Sanger, Selma, Parlier and Del Rey are
16 all located in south east areas of Fresno, again south east
17 of Highway 180. And these disparities have contributed to
18 already existing economic challenges and disproportionate
19 income disparities.

20 For example, the unemployment rate in California
21 is currently 8.6 percent. The unemployment rate in Sanger
22 is 10.8 percent.

23 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

24 DR. CASTELLANOS: These cities primarily are
25 resided by Latinx families, many of whom are low income.

1 So, I'm asking for your consideration in helping advance
2 more direct representation for these --

3 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

4 DR. CASTELLANOS: -- areas of Fresno County.

5 Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

7 At this time I'd like to invite those that have
8 called in to please press *9 on their telephone keypad to
9 raise their hand, indicating they wish to give comments.

10 We will be going to caller 0311, and then up next
11 after that will be caller 3745.

12 Caller 0311, if you will please follow the
13 prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 0311, your speaker
14 order number will be number 33, if you'll please make note
15 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let the
16 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
17 is yours.

18 MICHAEL: Yes, I'd like to speak about the 10th
19 Congressional District of Stanislaus County. I would
20 encourage the -- my name is Michael, sorry -- to keep
21 Stanislaus County within the 10th Congressional District.
22 We'd like to include areas of Lodi, instead of Tracy.

23 And I'd also like to mention that I would like to
24 not have Stanislaus County included into Merced County, as
25 many of the students for CSU go -- the CSU Stanislaus, we

1 have a satellite campus in San Joaquin, and so a lot of the
2 students there go to the same college.

3 Also that Modesto is -- the Modesto area and
4 MNSOB (phonetic) is also part of the Sacramento immediate
5 area. And so, we believe that the needs of our community
6 would be best served with keeping Stanislaus County as one
7 Congressional District and including the areas of Lodi and
8 the rural areas of San Joaquin, as we are a more
9 agricultural with the wine industry in Modesto, with Gallo,
10 and parts of Lodi. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

12 All right, now we will go to caller 375, and then
13 up next after that will be caller 6096.

14 Caller 3745, if you will please follow the
15 prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 3745, your speaker
16 order number will be number 34, if you'll please make note
17 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let the
18 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
19 is yours.

20 MS. ALIA: Hello, I'll be talking about the
21 Central Valley.

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

23 MS. ALIA: Hello Commissioners. My name is
24 Ariana Alia and I grew up in the east side of Bakersfield,
25 but currently I am a sophomore at UC Merced. I just want

1 to give my input today because I understand it is a very
2 important process that we get only once a decade.

3 UC Merced is the newest campus and it's grown a
4 lot over the last decade. We are a very unique community
5 of interest. UC Merced community is closely tied to the
6 City of Merced and the Central Valley. We are valley in
7 our city and should be kept in a district with the valley.
8 The campus is not in the City of Merced, it is kind of on
9 the outskirts of town by Yosemite Lake. But we should be
10 kept together with Merced.

11 A lot of the students live in the city and also a
12 lot of the students commute from other parts of the valley
13 to campus. Some of my friends commute from Modesto and
14 Fresno to attend UC Merced. Merced and UC Merced should
15 not be in districts with any of the foothill and mountain
16 communities to the east of the valley. For example,
17 Turlock and Stanislaus County is connected to the foothills
18 in the State Senate, and we do not want that for Merced or
19 the UC.

20 So, we ask please keep the valley communities
21 paired with each other when making the districts, and not
22 with the foothills or mountains. The valley has
23 experienced a lot of growth over the last decade, according
24 the Census data, so the Commission might even have to split
25 some of our valley communities and big cities when making

1 the districts. It's okay to split some of the communities
2 and cities if necessary, but whatever you do, we ask to
3 keep our valley cities along Highway 99 away from districts
4 with the foothills and mountains. Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Caller, you started to get to
6 it at the end there, but just wanted to see if you could be
7 a bit more specific about which communities you talk about
8 when you say don't separate the valley communities.

9 MS. ALIA: More of the cities are along that --
10 by along the Highway 99.

11 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Okay. Which ones do you
12 consider okay to split along that 99 corridor?

13 MS. ALIA: I would say there --

14 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: It's also okay to send a
15 follow-up email. We just -- it would be great to have that
16 specificity. So, if you need some time, we would love to
17 have that over email.

18 MS. ALIA: Okay, yeah, the email I'll do. Sorry.

19 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great, thank you. We're
20 asking you to make tough choices.

21 MS. ALIA: Yeah.

22 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: So, appreciate you taking the
23 time to consider it. Thank you so much.

24 MS. ALIA: Yeah, thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great, thanks.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 All right, now we will go to caller 6096. If you
3 will follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
4 6096, your speaker order number will be number 35, if
5 you'll please make note of that for future reference. And
6 if you'll please let the mapper know what area you would
7 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

8 MR. MOLINA: Okay, thank you. Good afternoon,
9 everyone. I'm going to speaking about Fresno County.

10 My name is Samuel Molina, born and raised here in
11 Fresno, and have a home here in Fresno. I've worked
12 throughout the San Joaquin Valley on civic engagement
13 issues within the Latino community for the last seven
14 years.

15 My input today is sharing with the Commission the
16 connectivity among Latinos throughout the South San Joaquin
17 Valley, from the south side City of Fresno, to east side
18 City of Bakersfield, and all of the small rural communities
19 in between.

20 Just so the Commission understands, the South
21 City of Fresno is everything south of Shaw Avenue, east
22 side City of Bakersfield is east of Highway 99, and the
23 west side are the small, rural Latino towns from Fresno
24 County to Kern, between Highway 99 and I-5.

25 The Commission must do all that it can to

1 recognize the Latino majorities across the region and
2 empower these Latino communities when drawing new
3 districts. Latinos in south side Fresno and east side
4 Bakersfield share cultural roots, socioeconomics, and face
5 similar equality challenges along with the Latinos in rural
6 communities. Latinos are the vast majority of population
7 in these areas, with the west side communities claiming
8 nearly 90 percent Latino populations, such as Mendota,
9 Heron, Avenal, Corcoran, McFarland, and Wasco.

10 Many are immigrant families with Mexican heritage
11 and have a farmworker background or work in ag-related
12 jobs. Many families are low income, but hardworking, and
13 face challenges around homeownership, building
14 intergenerational wealth, and being able to access a
15 college education.

16 South Fresno, East Bakersfield, and small rural
17 towns often lack green space, have older neighborhoods with
18 significant infrastructure needs, and face challenges
19 around water and air pollution.

20 There are many amazing nonprofit organizations
21 and local elected officials working together on these
22 issues, but there is much work that needs to be done.

23 These Latino majority communities must have their
24 voices heard and their needs met, which can only happen
25 when they are empowered at the ballot box. The Commission

1 has the power to make sure that happens with representative
2 districts.

3 Again, Latinos are clearly the majority in the
4 South San Joaquin valley, from south side City of Fresno to
5 east side Bakersfield, and all the small, rural town in
6 between. It is very important today for the Commission to
7 recognize and respect that by drawing Latino majority
8 districts, they'll be doing right by the Latino community.
9 Thank you.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 All right, now we will going to the caller with
12 the last four 9723. If you will please follow the prompts
13 to unmute at this time. Caller 9723, your speaker number
14 is number 36, if you'll please make note of that for future
15 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
16 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd like to discuss --
18 hello, can you hear me?

19 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm so sorry, I've
21 been waiting like two hours.

22 I'd like to discuss to the Commission to remove
23 the City of Tracy from the 10th District because -- replace
24 Tracy to encourage the Commission and to add the City of
25 Lodi in the rural community of the east side of San Joaquin

1 County. Linden, like for Farmington, et cetera, we have
2 more in common.

3 But I thank you so much for taking my call. Are
4 you there?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Thank you so
6 much.

7 All right, now we will be going to caller 4700,
8 if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this
9 time. Caller 4700, your speaker order number is number 37.
10 If you will please let the mapper know what area you would
11 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

12 MR. SINGH: I'd like to speak about Fresno
13 County, but specifically the City of Fresno.

14 MR. MANOFF: Thank you, go ahead.

15 MR. SINGH: My name is Mandeep Singh. And I
16 called in some ways in two capacities, both in I'm the
17 Executive Director of the Jakara Movement, but I also serve
18 as a School Board Trustee for the West Fresno Region,
19 specifically Central Unified.

20 Most importantly for the purpose of this, I'm a
21 resident of Fresno, California and I'm calling in today to
22 provide a little bit of input on the 99 corridor and the
23 West Fresno neighborhoods, and to provide an introduction
24 for the -- I'm sorry, to further kind of share about the
25 work of the AAPI and AMESA, the State Redistricting

1 Collaborative.

2 Over the past few months, the Jakara Movement has
3 worked as a regional partner with the AAPI, the AMESA State
4 Redistricting Collaborative in the San Joaquin Valley,
5 Sacramento Valley, and the Bay Area.

6 The testimony that my colleagues and I have been
7 preparing and sharing with you throughout the day is a
8 reflection of our coalition's engagement with our
9 communities, collecting feedback from multiple stakeholders
10 regarding COIs across West Fresno.

11 This past summer our state collaborative held
12 four community workshops for communities in the Central
13 Valley, reaching 10 different community-based
14 organizations, with other 20 community members and staff.

15 Across these workshops we've mapped a variety of
16 COIs that capture the diversity of the AAPI and the AMESA
17 community in the Central Valley, especially Fresno, while
18 providing education on the ways to engage with the
19 redistricting process.

20 Outside these meetings, members have also engaged
21 in direct outreach to their respective communities,
22 gathering insight from religious leaders, business owners,
23 students and families.

24 We hope our collaborators' work helps the
25 Commission better understand the diverse AAPI and AMESA

1 communities in the Central Valley, especially the Fresno
2 area.

3 With the most recent data release from the 2020
4 Census, we now know Asian Americans make up more than 11
5 percent of Fresno County residents, making this population
6 one of the largest and fast growing groups in the region.

7 The 99 corridor, skirting both sides of the 99 is
8 home to one of the fastest growing Punjabi-speaking
9 communities in the country.

10 Various industries, especially that of transport
11 and the trucking business, common languages, backgrounds,
12 and even difficulties unite Punjabi-speaking communities
13 throughout the region.

14 The implications of a large, concentrated
15 racialized minority has many huge impacts, including
16 environmental issues related to health disparities,
17 exacerbated by the poor air quality straddling the 99, lack
18 of language access due to a large, limited English
19 proficient Asian community, which is the case for most
20 Punjabis. And lack of access to parks and other
21 recreational activities, especially for our senior
22 citizens.

23 This region has also seen an uptick with regards
24 to hate-related violence --

25 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

1 MR. SINGH: -- especially against elderly Sikh
2 men. The core of the region I'm talking about straddles
3 the 99 corridor from Herndon and Grantland to McKinley
4 Boulevard. Despite Punjabis being well represented in all
5 counties across the Central Valley, their political voices
6 have been --

7 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

8 MR. SINGH: -- stifled via splitting.

9 Today I'm urging the Commission to consider
10 keeping the 99 West Fresno corridor and adjacent
11 neighborhoods whole. It's important that they're drawn
12 together. Thank you so much for hearing me today and the
13 rest of the AAPI and AMESA State Redistricting
14 Collaborative.

15 MR. MANOFF: Time.

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

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Caller? Could we --
19 could you give us your boundaries for West Fresno?

20 MR. SINGH: Absolutely. So, basically,
21 Commissioner, more often than not people draw the 99 as the
22 dividing line. And what I'm actually suggesting is that
23 there's an adjacent region that actually straddles both the
24 east and west.

25 And so, the region I'm actually talking about on

1 the northern border comes from the Herndon/Grantland area,
2 and the south to about McKinley Avenue. But both east and
3 west, about a mile, a mile an a half on both sides of the
4 99. So, whether that groups with the east or the west, my
5 only suggestion is that area should be kept whole, where
6 more often as not people use the 99 as the dividing line.
7 But whether it be from air quality whether it be about the
8 types of occupations, or whether it even be the languages
9 spoken, both sides of the 99 draw very much as an RCOI.

10 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great, thank you so much.

11 MR. SINGH: Thank you, appreciate all of your
12 hard work.

13 CO-CHAIR VAZQUEZ: All right. Thank you.

14 Okay, everyone, we're a bit over time. We are
15 going to take another 15-minute break. And when we return
16 at 6:30 sharp, we will move into general public input
17 public comment.

18 (Off the record at 6:17 p.m.)

19 (Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.)

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Welcome back to the California
21 Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Interest
22 Input Meeting. I'm Commissioner -- Chair Turner, joining
23 you again.

24 And for anyone who has joined us recently, want
25 you to know that we are offering language lines for Spanish

1 language speakers to listen to the meeting in their native
2 language. And a separate line for those who wish to
3 provide public comment or public input.

4 Could I please have our interpreter provide our
5 language line number and the information to provide public
6 input. Would our Spanish interpreter please read the site
7 translation of full call in instruction.

8 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair, this is
9 Margarita, Spanish interpreter. I will go ahead and read
10 the full call in instructions in Spanish.

11 [Instructions read in Spanish]

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum, thank you so much. And
14 I'd like to thank my co-chair for the previous session that
15 we just had.

16 This session is specifically dedicated to those
17 that did not have an appointment. However, if you had an
18 appointment and were unable to call in during your time
19 block, we encourage you to call in now.

20 As a reminder, even though we are focusing on
21 this specific county, Californians from anywhere in the
22 state are welcome to provide input.

23 We'll continue to take public input at this time
24 and also invite public comment at this time. The phone
25 line for public input and public comment will close at 7:00

1 p.m. We will get to all the callers who were in the queue
2 at that time to include going beyond 7:00 p.m., if needed.

3 At this time, we're going to pass over to Katy,
4 our comment moderator.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

6 In order to maximize transparency in public
7 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
8 taking community of interest input and general public
9 comments for items not on the agenda by phone.

10 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
11 the live stream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted
12 to enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream
13 feed it is 88913953415 for this meeting. When prompted to
14 enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

15 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
16 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9.
17 This will raise your hand for the moderator.

18 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a
19 message that says the host would like you to talk, and to
20 press *6 to speak.

21 If you would like to give your name, please state
22 and spell it for the record. You're not required to give
23 your name to give public comment.

24 Please make sure to mute your computer or live
25 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during

1 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
2 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down
3 the live stream volume.

4 At this time, we will go caller 9563, which I
5 believe is unique ID 043. If you will please follow the
6 prompt to unmute at this time. Caller 9563, if you will
7 please press *6 to unmute at this time. And one last time,
8 caller 9563, if you'll please press *6 at this time.

9 And there may be some connectivity issues, we
10 will come right back to them.

11 All right, now we'll go to caller 8443. If you
12 will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time.
13 Caller 8443, your speaker order number will be number 38,
14 if you'll please make note of that for future reference.
15 And if you'll please let the mapper know what area you
16 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

17 MS. BAIM: Hello. Can you focus on the map on
18 Stanislaus County, specifically the City of Turlock.

19 MR. MANOFF: We sure can. Thank you, go ahead
20 please.

21 MS. CAGAYAN: Thank you so much. Good evening
22 Commissioners. My name is Isabel Cagayan. I am a member
23 of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, also known as
24 CHIRLA, and I'm a resident of Turlock.

25 Today I will be talking about the diverse

1 community of Stanislaus County, more significantly about
2 the students of color at Stan State, and those that
3 transfer from Modesto Junior College.

4 I have been a resident of this community for the
5 past six. In my time here I've experienced a neighborhood
6 that is a melting pot. There are many races and
7 ethnicities. We are a mix of minorities, black, Latinx,
8 Sikh, Punjab, Assyrian, and many others. We also have
9 homeless people from not just minorities, but also white
10 ethnicities. The main languages spoke are as diverse as
11 the ethnic groups here.

12 For Stan State students, the majority of us are
13 renters who usually a part of the community during the time
14 in which we are finishing our degrees. We do have people
15 in my community that are homeowners, but they reside on the
16 east side of Turlock.

17 The financial economic status of people in my
18 neighborhood varies. Sometimes renters, even in areas of
19 Central Valley, which are considered affordable, ask for
20 two or three times the monthly rent. The largest employer
21 is Stan State. Most employees, such as professors and
22 administrators live in the Stanislaus County, but not
23 necessarily the City of Turlock.

24 The jobs available to local residents are big
25 chain companies like Costco, WalMart, McDonald's, other

1 fast food places, Foster Farms, and a big local company
2 called the Gallo Winery.

3 For Stan State active registered students, the
4 services available are the health center in which you can
5 get COVID tested, vaccinated, and get urgent primary care.
6 The health center also has a pharmacy on site, which has
7 lost cost medicine. Also, we have this Warrior Food
8 Pantry, which was established because we have a high
9 population of homeless students.

10 Due to the demand from the students in need, it
11 flourished from a place where you can get ten items a week,
12 into a place where students even with dietary restrictions
13 could access food and sanitary products.

14 For the first time, students, and undocumented
15 students, the Warrior Cross-Cultural Center offers services
16 such as immigration legal services, career counseling,
17 social justice workshops. Although we have all these
18 services available for students specifically, the Warrior
19 Cross-Cultural Center, they are not widely advertised to
20 students in need, such as myself. I didn't even find out
21 that I can receive this support into my third year because
22 oftentimes these resources are underfunded and understaffed
23 to reach all the students in need.

24 And my community is located between the 99
25 freeway and Main Street. It would include Geer Road, Monte

1 Vista Avenue, and Golden State Boulevard.

2 My community is similar to the following cities

3 --

4 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

5 MS. CAGAYAN: -- like Modesto, Newman, Ceres,
6 Keyes, Salida, Ripon, Hughson, and my community is
7 different from the following cities, Hilmar, Oakdale, and
8 Riverbank.

9 It is important that my community sticks together
10 because we want access to higher education for students of
11 color --

12 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

13 MS. CAGAYAN: -- who are facing a lack of access
14 to healthcare, housing, food. We were especially hit hard
15 by COVID. By keeping my community together in one
16 district, we can collectively advocate to representatives
17 at the state and federal level to serve students in need.
18 Thank you for your time.

19 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

21 All right, now we'll go to caller 3359. If you
22 will please follow the prompt to unmute at this time.
23 Caller 3359, your speaker order number will be number 39,
24 if you'll please make note of that for future reference.
25 And if you'll let the mapper know what area you would like

1 to discuss, the floor is yours.

2 GLORIA: Yes, we can continue focusing on the
3 City of Turlock.

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

5 GLORIA: Good evening Commissioners. My name is
6 Gloria and I'm the Central Valley organizer for the
7 California (indiscernible) Network, the youth branch for
8 the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, known as CHIRLA.

9 I'm a resident of Turlock and before become staff
10 at CHIRLA, I had been organizing in the area for about a
11 year and a half on issues such as immigration, healthcare
12 and resources for students at Stanislaus State.

13 Today I'm going to illustrate the challenges and
14 issues within the diverse community of Stanislaus County.
15 Within Turlock, you will see a high number of students,
16 factory workers, farmworkers, and small business owners in
17 the area. Due to these diverse populations, Turlock
18 comprises student housing apartments, apartment complexes,
19 homeowners and senior retirement homes.

20 My neighbors and I are different races or
21 ethnicity. Our community is made of Latino, black,
22 Assyrian, Portuguese, Caucasian, and other ethnic groups.
23 The primary languages spoken besides or Spanish are
24 Punjabi, Portuguese and Assyrian.

25 During my time in Stanislaus County, I've

1 organized and spoken with undocumented youth, alongside
2 their families on resources needed such as access to
3 healthcare, COVID relief, resources to succeed in obtaining
4 a higher education at Stanislaus State, mental health
5 resources, homeless shelters, and food pantries which are
6 limited in Turlock.

7 Also, being able to provide the correct personal
8 protective equipment, known as PPE, to the factory workers
9 and for our farmworkers to be able to breath during the
10 California fires, protect themselves from harmful
11 pesticides and, of course, combat COVID-19.

12 With this in mind, my community is physically
13 similar to the following cities, Modesto, Newman, Ceres,
14 Keyes, Hughson, Salida and Ripon, but different to Hilmar,
15 Oakdale, and Riverbank.

16 It is important that my community sticks together
17 because we want access to healthcare, COVID relief, mental
18 health services, food pantries, homeless shelters, personal
19 protection equipment and higher education for our
20 undocumented students.

21 By keeping the following neighborhoods of Ceres,
22 Hughson, Keyes, Newman, Salida, Ripon and Modesto together
23 in one district, we can collectively advocate to our
24 representatives at the state and federal levels to serve
25 the community need.

1 Thank you so much for your time.

2 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

4 All right, now we will go to caller 9052. If you'll please
5 follow the prompt to unmute at this time. If you'll please
6 press *6 one more time. I apologize, that was my fault.
7 I'm so sorry.

8 Your speaker order number will be number 39, if
9 you'll please make note of that for future reference. Oh,
10 wait. No, I apologize, your speaker order number will be
11 number 40, if you'll please make note of that for future
12 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
13 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

14 MS. ZANTE: All right, thank you so much. Good
15 evening Commissioners. My name is Gina Zante and I'm a
16 resident of the City of Clovis, discussing North Fresno and
17 Clovis.

18 I really appreciate the opportunity to share my
19 opinions and input with you this evening on how the
20 community that I live in should be drawn in this
21 redistricting process.

22 I was born and raised in North Fresno for -- and
23 I've lived here for almost 25 years. And I am now a
24 homeowner in Clovis, just recently bought a home here.
25 I've always considered the North Fresno and Clovis area as

1 one community and deeply related to, and valued, and
2 invested into the unique characteristics that make our
3 community such a great place to live.

4 To be more specific, the definition of North
5 Fresno is between State Route 99 to the west, and Willow
6 Avenue to the east, and north of Shaw Avenue. Included in
7 this community is also the entire City of Clovis.

8 Our communities have nationally recognized
9 schools, they share transportation corridors, shopping,
10 entertainment, restaurants, cultural landmarks, parks,
11 utilities and a myriad of other services.

12 Our communities have generally been a part of the
13 same Legislative and Congressional Districts for decades,
14 and given the growth in both North Fresno and Clovis, I
15 believe it further solidifies the case that they should
16 make up the bulk of their own Legislative Districts.

17 My family and I consider ourselves part of the
18 North Fresno and Clovis community. In fact, all members of
19 my family and my husband's family, including our parents,
20 siblings, aunts, uncles, six living grandparents, and
21 cousins live in both North Fresno and Clovis.

22 Our friends and their families share similar
23 experiences, which further demonstrate how this area is one
24 unique community. It's been a wonderful place to grow up,
25 raise a family, and make our California dream a reality.

1 Central Fresno and South Fresno share much more
2 in common than they do with North Fresno and Clovis. They
3 share the same school districts, cultural traditions, and
4 cultural centers and economy.

5 We believe that because of this, they should also
6 be their own Legislative Districts. Central and Southern
7 Fresno have much more in common with many of the ag-based
8 and rural communities in other parts of Fresno County.

9 So, I'd like to strongly urge you to take that
10 into consideration and our communities' history, our
11 similarities, and the things that make North Fresno and
12 Clovis unlike anywhere else in our country or region.

13 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

14 MS. ZANTE: Thank you for your time this evening.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 All right, now we will be going to caller 7727.
17 I would like to invite those in the queue to press *9 if
18 you wish to raise your hand.

19 Caller 7727, your speaker order number will be
20 number 41, if you will please make note of that for future
21 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
22 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 MS. WILLIAMS-VASQUEZ: Thank you very much. Good
24 evening, Commissioners. My name is Alondra Williams-
25 Vasquez. I am lifting up the southwest region of Fresno

1 because I'm a Fresno native and this is the area of town I
2 grew up in, played in, walked in, went to school in. And
3 it's also the area in which my mother still resides for 43
4 years and counting.

5 It is for these reasons that I am very passionate
6 about Southwest Fresno and how it is redistricted. This
7 area of town has historically been neglected, underserved,
8 and disinvested. The aforementioned issues have resulted
9 in the area having a tremendous amount of (indiscernible)
10 and under-resources neighborhoods.

11 As you well know, redistricting directly impacts
12 funding to communities for education, economic development,
13 infrastructure, and other resources that make communities
14 safe and livable.

15 My values are also, and my passions are also
16 reflected for this area of town in the work that I do as
17 the Fresno Regional Manager for Community Vision, Capital
18 and Consulting. Our organization's mission is to promote
19 economic justice, alleviate poverty, and increase financial
20 resilience and stability for community-based nonprofits and
21 enterprises. Through flexible financial products and sound
22 advise we create opportunities to help make socially
23 responsible investments and revitalize Northern and Central
24 California communities. We envision financially strong and
25 culturally vibrant communities where each person has access

1 to decent jobs, homes, healthcare, education, and economic
2 opportunities.

3 And we also work in partnership with individuals
4 and organizations who share our vision for sustainable
5 communities, and social and economic justice, which is why
6 this topic of redistricting in Fresno is so vitally
7 important to our work.

8 I hope it's also vitally important to your work
9 as you contemplate shifting boundaries in Southwest Fresno,
10 in the community. I hope that you'll have me, my family,
11 my mother and other community members that live in the area
12 in mind.

13 And thank you so much for the opportunity to
14 speak to you today. Again, my name Alondra Williams-
15 Vasquez. That is A-L-O-N-D-R-A, Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S,
16 Vasquez, V-A-S-Q-U-E-Z. And I am a Fresno native.

17 Thank you so much and you have a great evening.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Ms. Williams-Vasquez, before
19 you hang up, thank you so much for your testimony. Would
20 you please define the boundaries of Southwest Fresno? How
21 are you thinking of that?

22 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: How I'm thinking of
23 Southwest Fresno is everything that is encompassed from,
24 what is it, south -- wait.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum.

1 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: North of 99 Fresno -- I
2 mean the Highway 99.

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

4 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: Between 99, Jensen, all
5 the way down through Olive. And I'm trying to think of the
6 other street that goes down to kind of like box that in and
7 I think the street is --

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: West Belmont? No.

9 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: Yes. Yes, West Belmont.

10 CO-CHAIR TURNER: California. Okay.

11 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS. I'm sorry if my directions
12 were a little bit off.

13 CO-CHAIR TURNER: I'm just calling out streets,
14 trying to get you close.

15 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: Yeah, yeah, thank you so
16 much.

17 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, perfect. Okay, thank
18 you.

19 MS. VASQUEZ-WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

21 Up next we will have caller 2806, unique ID 044.
22 If you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this
23 time. Caller 2806, your speaker order number will be
24 number 42, if you'll please make note of that for future
25 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what

1 area you would like to see discussed, the floor is yours.

2 MR. CRUZ: Hello, my name is William Cruz and I
3 want to give an input today on two locations, the City of
4 Fresno in Fresno County, and the City of Bakersfield in
5 Kern County.

6 I live in Fresno and I have very close friends
7 and family in Bakersfield. My partner's family also lives
8 there. And I work throughout the San Joaquin Valley as a
9 Spanish interpreter for local governments and different
10 agencies.

11 When the Commission is creating the districts, it
12 will be necessary to divide some cities and counties in the
13 valley in order to respect communities of interest,
14 especially Latinos, African Americans, and also Asian
15 communities.

16 In Fresno, for example, Shaw Avenue starts as the
17 dividing line of the city and North Fresno is very closely
18 aligned with the City of Clovis to the east. North Fresno
19 has new neighborhoods, people have higher incomes, Clovis
20 Unified Schools actually serve a large portion of Fresno
21 East, off Highway 41.

22 South of Shaw Avenue, neighborhoods like our
23 district, Southeast Fresno, and the West side are older and
24 more diverse. Heavily Latino and immigrant with historic
25 African American neighborhoods and Asian neighborhoods. A

1 lot of those neighborhoods have issues with bad air quality
2 from the freeways and a lack of park space.

3 When drawing districts, this Commission should
4 keep South Fresno with rural Fresno County which have small
5 towns that are majority Latino, and working class like
6 South Fresno.

7 Down in Bakersfield it's a new story. West
8 Bakersfield is newer, more affluent neighborhoods, with
9 amenities like high-end shopping centers, nice restaurants,
10 and a lot of park space.

11 East Bakersfield it's much more working class,
12 has many immigrant Latino families and a historic African
13 American neighborhood. East Bakersfield is generally east
14 of 99, including the neighborhoods around Bakersfield
15 College, it's high school, Mercado Latino on Edison
16 Highway, and the neighborhoods on south of Highway 58, like
17 Cottonwood, Rexland Acres, and Greenfield.

18 Just like in Fresno, these neighborhoods deal
19 with a lack of sidewalks in all in their neighborhoods, air
20 quality and a lack of park space. East Bakersfield is
21 closely aligned with communities like Galena, Wasco and
22 Arden.

23 South Fresno and East Bakersfield face a lot of
24 similar issues, shared socioeconomics and demographics. It
25 will be really difficult for these communities to organize

1 and get their fair share of resources if they are drowned
2 out by louder voices in more affluent areas that don't
3 share the same interests and struggles.

4 Again, the Commission, in order to respect our
5 communities it will be necessary to split some of our
6 cities and counties so that --

7 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

8 MR. CRUZ: -- we are heard in Sacramento and DC.
9 Thank you, this is my comment.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 All right, now we will go to caller 3204. If
12 you'll please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by
13 pressing *6. Caller 3204, if you wish to give comment at
14 this time, please press *6 to unmute. And one last time,
15 caller 3204 if you wish to give comment, please press *6.

16 Caller 3204, your speaker order number will be
17 number 42, if you'll please make note of that for future
18 reference -- or 43, sorry.

19 MS. QUINTEZ: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 43, if you'll please
21 make note of that for future reference.

22 MS. QUINTEZ: Okay.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And if you'll please
24 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
25 the floor is yours.

1 MS. QUINTEZ: Okay, great. I would like to speak
2 to North Fresno and the Clovis area. My name is Amy
3 Quintez and I appreciate the opportunity to give my
4 opinions and preferences on how the community that I have
5 grown up in and currently live in should be drawn through
6 the redistricting process.

7 So, as a resident of North Fresno, specifically
8 right by Woodward Park, I have always related to, valued,
9 and invested into unique characteristics that make our
10 community a great place to live. To be specific, North
11 Fresno is defined as the area between California, Highway
12 99 to the west, and Willow Avenue to the east, and North of
13 Shaw Avenue. Included in this community is all of Clovis.

14 I grew up in Northwest Fresno and currently live
15 in North Fresno. You know, these communities on this side
16 and around Clovis, you know, we have fantastic schools that
17 I now have two daughters that go to. You know, we share
18 all of the same transportation corridors, a lot of times
19 the same shopping, restaurants, and style of neighborhood.

20 So, you know, our communities historically have
21 generally been part of the same Legislative and
22 Congressional Districts for several decades. And I believe
23 it further solidifies the case that they should make up the
24 bulk of their very own district.

25 My family and I, you know, consider ourselves

1 very, very lucky to live in this part of the valley, and
2 just want to make sure that we continue to grow our
3 communities as they should. So, thank you again for your
4 time today and the opportunity to speak.

5 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum, thank you.

6 And I'd also like to remind, just give a final
7 announcement that the phone lines will be closing at 7:00
8 p.m. So, please get into the queue so we can listen to
9 your input before adjourning for the day. Thank you.

10 Thank you, Katy.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much,
12 Chair.

13 Right now, we'll go to caller 7644. If you will
14 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. And then
15 up next, after that, will be caller 9563, I see your hand.

16 Caller 7644, if you'll please follow the prompts
17 to unmute. Caller 7644, your speaker order number will be
18 number 44, if you'll please make note of that for future
19 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what
20 area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

21 MR. PAYNE: All right, hello. My name is Eric
22 Payne, I'm the Executive Director of the Central Valley
23 Urban Institute. We have provided commentary and feedback
24 to this body at previous meetings. If the mapper would
25 like to go to Tulare and - Tulare County and Kings County,

1 we would like to ensure that those two communities stay
2 together because there is a significant African American
3 population in those communities as a COI.

4 We feel that their ideologies are much different
5 than Kern County. We recognize that California City, which
6 has a 39 percent African American population in Kern -- in
7 California City, we feel as though with the residents that
8 we've engaged and spoken with, and many of which have
9 provided public testimony to this body, that their
10 ideologies much more align with L.A. County. More
11 specifically, with the communities of Palmdale and
12 Lancaster.

13 And then, shifting gears, moving up to Fresno
14 County, the communities of West Fresno, as a COI where it
15 is a historical black community. Specifically, what is it,
16 the 99 freeway is the dividing -- I would say it is the
17 dividing line for the neighborhood. And it would go from
18 north to south. It would be North Avenue to the south and
19 to the north it would be like Fresno Street to the north.

20 But that would -- we would describe that as a
21 minority coalition district. There's -- when you go from
22 the city sphere of Fresno from North Avenue all the way to
23 Herndon, with 99 being the dividing factor, we would
24 describe that as a minority coalition district. There is
25 significant Sikh and Punjabi population, AAPI population in

1 that community.

2 And then, a significant amount of African --

3 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. PAYNE: -- a significant amount of African
5 American families.

6 But more specifically, we would describe the
7 Tulare County/Kings County communities as crossover
8 districts. So, yes. And we would describe California City
9 as an --

10 MR. MANOFF: Five seconds.

11 MR. PAYNE: -- influence district. And that will
12 conclude my comments, thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, Mr. Payne, hold on one
14 moment. Just checking with our mappers to see if we got
15 east and west of what we needed for Fresno.

16 MR. PAYNE: Yes. Oh, and then also the
17 communities of Chowchilla, Pixley and Madera, we would like
18 to see them stay together as well, along with Atwater.

19 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. In your describing
20 Fresno, when you talked and you gave us north, south, east,
21 west, I was trying to ensure that we have the correct
22 borders. You mentioned Herndon.

23 MR. PAYNE: Yes. It would be the COI for African
24 Americans would be north to south. It would be North
25 Avenue all the way to Fresno Street.

1 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum.

2 MR. PAYNE: And the divider to the east would be
3 the 99 highway. But because of the -- we feel as though
4 that it would be a minority coalition district if you were
5 to include North Fresno, Northeast Fresno, which is the
6 Central Unified -- Central Unified School District
7 community, which has a significant AAPI population.

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay, thank you. Thank you so
9 much.

10 Also wanting to know -- let everyone know that
11 the public input phone line and webinar is now locked. And
12 so, thank you. We will finish and complete those that are
13 in queue at this time, Katy.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Will do, Chair.

15 Caller 9563, if you will please follow the
16 prompts to unmute at this time. I'm going to try again.
17 There you are. Caller 9563 --

18 MAYOR LEON: Hello, good afternoon.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi.

20 MAYOR LEON: It's been a long four hours here.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, sorry.

22 MAYOR LEON: But my name is --

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment.

24 MAYOR LEON: That's all right, my name is --
25 sure.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just real quick, let
2 me just let you know what your speaker order number is
3 going to be.

4 MAYOR LEON: Okay.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It will be -- sorry,
6 I'm trying to find where you're at. I apologize, I --

7 MAYOR LEON: That's all right. I'm ready, I'm
8 ready.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It will be number 45.

10 MAYOR LEON: I'm on the line right now.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Your speaker order
12 number 45.

13 MAYOR LEON: Okay.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And if you'll let the
15 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
16 is yours.

17 MAYOR LEON: Sure, sure. Mayor Rey Leon, City of
18 Huron in Fresno County. The areas are the west side of
19 Fresno County, all the way down towards Bakersfield, Kern
20 County area.

21 But first and foremost I just want to share, you
22 know, the characteristics of my city which are similar to
23 many in Fresno County. Another city is going down all the
24 way through to Kern County. Huron has over 98 percent
25 Latinos. And Huron's the brownest city in the country, I

1 like to say. But there's other cities that are very
2 similar, over 90 percent Latino, very farmworker cities.
3 Huron was one of the four poorest cities a couple years
4 back, during the same time the County of Fresno had the
5 highest ag revenue of the four poorest cities in the State
6 of California. I think that's important to note just in
7 terms of what's going on.

8 And I think it's important to make sure that all
9 these communities that share the struggles in
10 environmental, economic, climate justice, as well as
11 education equity and health justice stick together.

12 In my community there's over 13 languages spoken,
13 over 9 of which are indigenous Mesoamerican languages, all
14 the way from Malwa to a couple of different Mayan
15 languages. Of course, Mixteco, Zapoteco and other Quechua
16 languages, and Purepecha. Very similar to other
17 communities in Fresno County, the four that I mentioned of
18 which are Heron, San Joaquin, Mendota. And the one that
19 isn't on the east side, but is very much like the -- on the
20 west side, but is very much like these communities on the
21 west side where we're at, is Parlier, with a large
22 Purepecha community, indigenous community from Michoacán.

23 I also am the CEO or the Executive Director and
24 founder of the LEAP Institute, LEAP standing for Latino
25 Equity Advocacy and Policy. And we focus on environmental,

1 climate justice, and economic justice. And we work with
2 low-income farmworker communities throughout the region and
3 other agricultural regions in the state.

4 So, I urge the Commission, when drawing the lines
5 to respect the vast Latino majority population in the south
6 valley and in other parts of the valley for that matter.
7 You know, not just between Bakersfield and Fresno.

8 In Fresno County, we're over 50 percent the
9 Latinos, and at least 50 percent in many other counties in
10 the San Joaquin Valley.

11 So, as best you can please create as many Latino
12 majority districts or Latino safe districts in the south
13 valley because the numbers are there. We are the majority
14 and what we see is that when -- that we need the fair
15 representation that understand our issues, and that seems
16 to most of the time only happen when we have our own
17 representatives --

18 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

19 MAYOR: LEON: -- that share the agricultural
20 background that's farmworkers and the struggle within to
21 make that happen.

22 By the Latino south valley I mean, of course,
23 Western Fresno County and the southern half of the City of
24 Fresno, down to Northwest Kern County --

25 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

1 MAYOR: LEON: -- and the eastern half of
2 Bakersfield, along with all the small Latino communities
3 doing their way up I-5 and Highway 99. And some of these
4 cities and towns, we are more than a simple majority, as
5 was mentioned, and I mentioned some of those cities already

6 I'd like to concur with the statements from --
7 MR. MANOFF: Time.

8 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Mayor. Mayor. Mayor Rey.
9 Mayor Leon, you are amazing going so fast, a couple of
10 things we need to clarify. Did you -- were you trying to
11 include Kings, and maybe you could give some more detail on
12 what's your Eastern Fresno, how are you considering that,
13 or you can send it all to us in an email to make sure we
14 have the proper boundaries.

15 MAYOR LEON: You know, I can send it to you guys
16 in an email and along with the rest of my statement, if
17 that's all right.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Oh, that's perfect. Thank you
19 so much, sir.

20 MAYOR LEON: All right, you guys have a good one.
21 Adios.

22 CO-CHAIR TURNER: All right, adios.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
24 All right, now we have caller 7770, if you will please
25 follow the prompts to unmute at this time.

1 Caller with the last four 7770, if you will press
2 the -- there you are. Your speaker order number will be
3 number --

4 MS. TYLER: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You're welcome. Your
6 speaker order number will be number 46, if you'll please
7 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll let
8 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the
9 floor is yours.

10 MS. TYLER: Yes, good evening everyone. My name
11 is Tammy Tyler and I represent California City, which is
12 west of Hacienda Boulevard in Kern County. And I would
13 like to start off by saying that Tehachapi, Edwards,
14 Ridgecrest, Kern River Valley, otherwise known as Lake
15 Isabella, they do not represent us.

16 This being our first time speaking and never
17 being represented, we have collected a bunch of surveys and
18 that speak and say that we represent the high desert. But
19 we are underrepresented in the local offices, and education
20 and law enforcement. We do represent the community of
21 interests in California City, which is about 70 percent of
22 color. Our community is of all ages, background, and we
23 are not represented.

24 We would like to see leaders who represent our
25 black and Latino communities so that we do not have to use

1 external involvement with the Attorney General due to our
2 local offices ignoring our complaints.

3 All we want is equality, equitable education,
4 equality policing for our community, for which I heard
5 earlier it is exactly 39 percent of blacks that represent,
6 and also 30 percent of the enrolled black students here are
7 failing in the Mojave Unified School District.

8 If you add those two numbers together, they do
9 not add up and it does show and speak that we are
10 underrepresented. We need equitable (indiscernible) and
11 opportunities that we don't have to travel so far.

12 In our district we want to see Cal City, Mojave,
13 Rosamond, Lancaster, and Palmdale which also represents 70
14 percent of community of color again.

15 We do not want anything to do with Edwards,
16 Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, and parts of Hacienda, East
17 Hacienda, excuse me, in Cal City, which those areas do not
18 speak equality for our community of color.

19 I would like to thank everyone for giving me the
20 opportunity to speak and I really understand and hope that
21 you guys will really reconsider the graphics of -- our
22 demographics here in California City, how we have been for
23 decades unrepresented. We would like to see maps with
24 other communities that do represent us so we can have a
25 voice to speak, a stage to stand on, and movement to

1 improve our education.

2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

3 MS. TYLER: Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Uh-hum, thank you so much
5 caller.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

7 All right, now we have caller 7712, if you will
8 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time. Caller
9 7712, your speaker order number will be number 47, if
10 you'll please make note of that for future reference. And
11 if you'll please let the mapper know what area you would
12 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening
14 Commissioners. For the mapper, I'm calling regarding the
15 community of interest which includes the San Joaquin County
16 communities of Acampo, Collierville, Woodbridge, Lodi,
17 Lockeford, Peters, Linden, Waterloo, Ripon and Escalon, as
18 well as those communities of Stanislaus County east of the
19 San Joaquin River.

20 These communities share common values and
21 interests and should be represented by shared elected
22 officials. These interests include a crucial history of
23 working together to improve lives in the valley. With
24 projects like the McHenry Avenue Bridge and Tri-Dam
25 project, which were completed through cooperation between

1 entities on both sides of the Stanislaus River.

2 These communities also share a strong
3 interdependence in which the City of Modesto serves as the
4 political, cultural, and economic nucleus for the many
5 people, communities, and industries that call them home.

6 Grapes grown in Lodi travel Highway 99 to Bronco
7 and E&J Gallo's wineries in Modesto and Ceres. Almonds
8 from Ripon and Escalon are processed at Blue Diamond
9 Growers' Salida facility. And residents of the small rural
10 communities in East San Joaquin County drive to Modesto to
11 shop and eat.

12 This community of interest should not share
13 Legislative nor Congressional Districts with the Western
14 San Joaquin County communities of Lathrop, Tracy, Mountain
15 House, nor Stockton. These communities are very different
16 from Eastern San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties in several
17 important ways.

18 It is evident to anyone who travels on Interstate
19 5, 205, or 580 these communities have colossal commercial
20 enterprises such as Tesla, In-N-Out, Wayfair, Amazon,
21 Costco and Safeway distribution hubs that cater to
22 clientele in the Greater Bay Area.

23 They've also embraced massive suburban
24 developments like Tracy Hills, and Ellis, Mountain House,
25 River Islands, and Weston Ranch that cater to Bay Area

1 expatriates pricing out many long-time Central Valley
2 residents, and greatly diminishing the influence of the
3 agricultural sector, creating a culture that is decidedly
4 different from that of Eastern San Joaquin or Stanislaus
5 County.

6 These communities also share close governmental
7 ties with the Bay Area. Tracy residents can choose to buy
8 their power from East Bay Community Energy. Stockton's
9 deep water port transports raw and finished goods to the
10 San Francisco Bay, and all of these communities share the
11 congestion struggles of the East Bay, and they're working
12 together to address them through a multi-billion dollar
13 commuter rail project.

14 These similarities and differences mentioned are
15 by no means comprehensive. But I hope they help this
16 Commission recognize the importance of keeping Eastern San
17 Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties together and separate from
18 Western San Joaquin County.

19 In 2010, these communities in Stanislaus and
20 Eastern San Joaquin County were split between Congressional
21 Districts 9 and 10, and we're also split in the State
22 Senate now.

23 I really appreciate your time and your service to
24 the State of California. Thank you and good luck.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Next we have caller
2 6042, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at
3 this time. Caller with the last four of 6042, if you will
4 please press *6 to unmute at this time. Caller with the
5 last four of 6042, if you will please press *6 to unmute at
6 this time.

7 MS. WATKINS: Hello?

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi caller 6042. Your
9 speaker order number will be number 48, if you'll please
10 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll
11 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
12 discuss, the floor is yours.

13 MS. WATKINS: Yes, hi, my name is Tara Watkins.
14 And I would like to speak about California City, which is
15 west of Hacienda Boulevard in Kern County, and Tehachapi,
16 Edwards, Ridgecrest, and Kern River Valley, and Lake
17 Isabella do not represent us.

18 We represent a community of interest in
19 California City that is 70 percent a community of color.
20 Our community is of all ages and backgrounds. And we are
21 not represented. We would like to see leaders that
22 represent African Americans and not use external
23 involvement with the Attorney General's Office due to the
24 local office ignoring our complaints.

25 We also would like equality and equitable

1 education, and equality policing for our community, which
2 again is 39 percent African American and 70 -- 37 percent
3 of the African Americans are failing in the Mojave Unified
4 School District. We need equitable maps and opportunities
5 so we don't have to travel so far.

6 In our district, we want to see Cal City, Mojave,
7 Rosamond, Lancaster and Palmdale for which represents our
8 large, 70 percent community of color. Again, we don't want
9 anything to do with Edwards, Ridgecrest, Tehachapi, and
10 parts of the east -- parts of East Hacienda in Cal City,
11 which those areas do not speak equitably for our community
12 of color.

13 Thank you, Commissioner, for the opportunity.

14 CO-CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome and thank you
15 for calling in.

16 Katy, do we have one last caller in the queue?

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do.

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Have they raised their hand?

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: They have not.

20 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Can you ask the Spanish
21 Interpreter, please, or Margarita perhaps if you would
22 please give the instructions for raising hands in Spanish.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I could just allow
24 them to talk.

25 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Oh, that's okay.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 9643, if you
2 wish to give comment at this time, please press *6.

3 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Margarita?

4 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Oh, I'm sorry, did you want
5 me to interpret that?

6 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Yes, please.

7 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Sure. [Instructions
8 interpreted into Spanish]

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 9643, if you
10 wish to give comment this evening, please press *6. You
11 are the last caller in the queue. If you do not wish to
12 give comment, we will be deferring to the Chair.

13 I'm assuming they're just here to listen, Chair.

14 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Margarita, ask them if they're
15 just here to listen.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: [Question asked in
17 Spanish]

18 CO-CHAIR TURNER: Okay. All right, Katy,
19 Margarita, I think we've done our due justice trying to get
20 -- make sure we're not ending too soon.

21 So, with that I'd like to thank you for joining
22 our community of interest input meeting today.

23 We have one additional community of interest
24 input meeting this week. It's going to take place on
25 Friday, August 27th, at 3:00 p.m. There, we will be

1 focusing on Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa
2 Cruz, Ventura, and the surrounding area.

3 This means we will have a Spanish listening line
4 and Spanish interpreters available.

5 Next week we have three community of interest
6 input meetings. The first one will take place on Monday,
7 August 30th, at 4:00 p.m., focusing on Riverside, San
8 Bernardino County, and their surrounding areas.

9 And we'll have Spanish listening line and Spanish
10 interpreters available.

11 Now, the second meeting is on September 1st, at
12 4:00 p.m., focusing on Orange County and their surrounding
13 areas. We will have Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese
14 listening lines and interpreters, a Spanish listening line
15 and a Spanish interpreter available.

16 Registration for each meeting closes two calendar
17 days before, at 5:00 p.m.

18 Our next Commission Business Meeting will be on
19 August 31st, at 9:30 a.m.

20 Callers at the community of interest meetings are
21 not limited to the specifically mentioned county. You can
22 visit the meetings page at our website to see a list of
23 upcoming community of interest input meetings at
24 www.wedrawthelinesca.org/meeting.

25 And with that, thank you to my Co-Chair,

1 Commissioner Vazquez, to our interpreters, to all of our AV
2 folk, and all of the amazing Commissioners. We will for
3 this evening adjourn.

4 (Session recessed at 7:22 p.m. until August 27,
5 2021, at 3:00 p.m.)

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