

CCCFER

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR EQUITABLE REALIGNMENT

October 2, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors Redistricting Advisory Commission

Re: Equity Coalition Map

The Central California Coalition for Equitable Realignment (CCCFER) began meeting more than a year ago to lay the groundwork for community participation in redistricting discussions this year. Many of us had been involved with the process 10 years ago and recognized how challenging it was to ensure that the community was effectively informed and given every opportunity to engage.

We reached out to several community-based organizations and advocacy groups to collaborate. Earlier this year, when we learned of a larger Valley-wide collaborative, we combined our group with theirs. The Equity Coalition Map is the product of our collective input.

Board of Supervisor districts throughout the Central Valley are not currently designed to reflect the region's demographics or its diversity. Moreover, in previous cycles, the process has often been rushed, opaque and lacking community voices.

The Equity Coalition Map outlines a path to achieving equitable realignment. The map addresses the most problematic issue with the county's current districts, which is not respecting the east and west divide in rural farming communities. Indeed, the current District 4 runs from Orange Cove to Coalinga. How many people in Coalinga have ever been to Orange Cove? Or even know where it is?

Several laws now govern the development of maps for legislative districts, and the Equity Coalition Map adheres to all those requirements. The map accurately reflects communities of interest throughout the county and is a data-driven proposal that is legally defensible.

The map reflects three majority-minority districts, which is reflective of the county's current population. Such districts increase the likelihood of electing supervisors who are knowledgeable of and committed to addressing the many issues that face our challenged communities.

We reiterate our support of the Equity Coalition Map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



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