



## LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DHF EQUITY COALITION MAP

My name is Andrew Escamilla, and I am here on behalf of California Environmental Voters Education Fund where we organize with community in the San Joaquin Valley. The California Environmental Voter's Education Fund mission is to protect California's natural resources and improve the health of our communities by educating, engaging, and empowering Californians. We fight for equity and justice - from voting rights to clean air and water - for all Californians. We make government, policy, and voting accessible.

Our organization has reviewed the map proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for Supervisor district boundaries and we are in full support. Simply put, the map makes logical sense. The proposed districts are compact and easily understandable.

We particularly support the grouping of communities of interest and the division between the rural areas on the Eastside and the Westside of the County, at Highway 41. There are big differences between these two areas, and each deserves to have its own representative. The whole Westside is kept together for the first time, including all the area served by West Hills College, Westlands Water District, and Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes.

We believe including Southeast Fresno with the rural towns in District 4 makes perfect sense, as they are bound together by work, family, ethnicity and income levels, and face the same economic challenges and living conditions.

We also strongly support Clovis having its own Supervisor, along with the new growth, foothill and mountain areas. We support Willow Avenue as the border between not only the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis, but also between District 2 and District 5, respectively.

Finally, the proposed districts for Central Fresno and North Fresno group together communities of interest. The Central District 3 is largely preserved, along with established neighborhoods of working class and low-income residents. And the North Fresno District 2 uses well understood boundaries like the San Joaquin River and Highway 99.

We know Fresno County is diverse. This map ensures our Board of Supervisors represents distinct regions of our County, and will result in policy, programmatic and funding decisions that will benefit all residents of Fresno County.

After all, a new Supervisor map in 2021, that is largely the same as the 2011 map, that is largely the same as the 2001 map, ignores the demographic shifts that have happened over several decades and would be unfair to the County residents we serve. For all these, and many more reasons, we strongly believe this map merits your serious consideration, and urge your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Escamilla".