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MEMORANDUM

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors and
Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission

Cc: Fresno County CAO Jean M. Rousseau and County Liaison John Thompson

From: The Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)

Re: REVISED Submission of EMC District Map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors with Supporting Materials and Updated Data Tables

Date: October 20, 2021

The purpose of this memo is to:

1. Identify and Explain Discrepancies in Fresno County Redistricting Data,
2. Provide Updated Equity Coalition Map Data Tables, and
3. Provide supportive information for EMC’s proposed map.

We request that this Commission officially recommend that the Fresno Board of Supervisors adopt the Equity Coalition Map¹ (also known as “Public Map 116”²), and they they adopt the following findings in support of this recommendation:

That the Equity Coalition Map was generated by the community,
 That the Equity Coalition Map complies with all laws and requirements, and
 That the Equity Coalition Map is an equitable distribution of voting power in Fresno County

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Pesante, Director of Civic Engagement, lpesante@doloreshuerta.org (661) 204-9843 or Greg Daisa, Director of Information Technology, gdaisa@doloreshuerta.org (661) 262-9803.

1. Fresno County Redistricting Data
a. Total Population

The Equitable Map Coalition’s October 5, 2021 submission package used an unadjusted total population of 1,008,511 that was later adjusted by the State of California to 1,008,526. The attached Equity Coalition Map Submission Package has been updated to reflect the adjusted

¹ <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/60614>

² <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/resources/redistricting/draft-maps> accessed on October 21, 2021.

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Statewide Database total population of **1,008,526** and the attached data tables have been updated.

The total Fresno County population being used by National Demographics Corporation (NDC) is incorrect. According to the Fresno County Redistricting Website accessed on 10/20/21, NDC lists the total population of Fresno County as **1,008,530**³. According to the California Statewide Database, the final adjusted total population of Fresno County is **1,008,526**⁴. The Fresno County Redistricting website continues to show NDC is using a total population that does not match the final adjusted Statewide Database.

a. Total Fresno County Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)

With regard to the total number of Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in Fresno County, the Equitable Coalition Map Submission Package has been updated to reflect total Fresno County CVAP as **590,160**, which matches the California Statewide Database exactly. By contrast, NDC's most recent data table⁵ states that CVAP for Fresno County is **585,047** which is incorrect as it differs from the Statewide Database by 5,113 people.

Finally, we note that NDC used Maptitude software to analyze proposed maps. A public comment was submitted on October 20, 2021 outlining concerns that Maptitude has not been updated to reflect the current data and may be analyzing maps incorrectly.

As the Equitable Map Coalition does not use Maptitude, this concern would not apply to any Equity Coalition Map submission. All Equitable Map Coalition submissions were created using ArcGIS by ESRI and Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

We respectfully request that all data and software used by Fresno County or its consultant NDC in its redistricting process be checked and verified with official State of California Redistricting data, and that Public Notice be given at the completion of this verification process, before this Commission decides which maps will be advanced to the Board of Supervisors.

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³ <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/59700>

⁴ <https://statewidedatabase.org/redistricting2021/>

⁵ <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/59700> accessed October 21, 21

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2. Updated Equitable Map Coalition Data Tables

**Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Population Growth & District Population**

A.1: Population by Race by Year	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian /PAC	%	All Remaining	%
YEAR											
1990	666,675	236,168	35.4%	338,272	50.7%	31,295	4.7%	54,107	8.1%	6,833	1.0%
2000	798,800	351,338	44.0%	317,239	39.7%	40,285	5.0%	63,705	8.0%	26,233	3.3%
2010	930,453	468,073	50.3%	304,522	32.7%	45,005	4.8%	87,922	9.4%	24,931	2.7%
2020	1,008,526	540,652	53.6%	271,352	26.9%	49,256	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,653	2.8%
2025E	1,004,244	546,738	54.4%	291,129	29.0%	40,928	4.1%	100,087	10.0%	25,362	2.5%
2030E	1,023,218	568,596	55.6%	292,061	28.5%	38,556	3.8%	100,014	9.8%	23,991	2.3%

A.2: Population by Current District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian / PAC	%	All Remaining	%
Total	1,008,526	540,652	53.6%	271,352	26.9%	49,256	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,653	2.8%
BOS District 1	205,264	128,337	62.5%	32,105	15.6%	15,932	7.8%	24,169	11.8%	4,721	2.3%
BOS District 2	199,107	67,628	34.0%	89,363	44.9%	11,040	5.5%	24,443	12.3%	6,633	3.3%
BOS District 3	188,305	123,912	65.8%	24,989	13.3%	12,340	6.6%	22,373	11.9%	4,691	2.5%
BOS District 4	185,974	143,254	77.0%	30,416	16.4%	1,701	0.9%	7,308	3.9%	3,310	1.8%
BOS District 5	229,861	77,521	33.7%	94,479	41.1%	8,243	3.6%	40,320	17.5%	9,298	4.0%

A.3: Population by Proposed District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian / PAC	%	All Remaining	%
Total	1,008,526	540,652	53.6%	271,352	26.9%	49,256	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,653	2.8%
BOS District 1	201,692	136,486	67.7%	28,889	14.3%	12,741	6.3%	19,344	9.6%	4,232	2.1%
BOS District 2	201,702	67,755	33.6%	87,719	43.5%	11,920	5.9%	27,657	13.7%	6,651	3.3%
BOS District 3	201,719	125,516	62.2%	32,466	16.1%	14,935	7.4%	23,166	11.5%	5,636	2.8%
BOS District 4	201,703	150,103	74.4%	27,421	13.6%	3,981	2.0%	16,672	8.3%	3,526	1.7%
BOS District 5	201,710	60,792	30.1%	94,857	47.0%	5,679	2.8%	31,774	15.8%	8,608	4.3%

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**Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)**

B.1: CVAP by Year	Total CVAP	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian / PAC	%	All Remaining	%
YEAR											
2013	531,771	203,639	38.3%	244,575	46.0%	31,393	5.9%	47,004	8.8%	5,160	1.0%
2015	551,385	220,749	40.0%	241,598	43.8%	32,209	5.8%	51,270	9.3%	5,559	1.0%
2019	590,160	249,725	42.3%	234,485	39.7%	34,222	5.8%	60,840	10.3%	10,888	1.8%

B.2: CVAP by Current District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian / PAC	%	All Remaining	%
Total	590,160	249,725	42.3%	234,485	39.7%	34,222	5.8%	60,840	10.3%	10,888	1.8%
BOS District 1	105,691	53,529	50.6%	27,443	26.0%	11,947	11.3%	10,704	10.1%	2,068	2.0%
BOS District 2	143,189	38,443	26.8%	80,960	56.5%	7,571	5.3%	14,004	9.8%	2,211	1.5%
BOS District 3	101,918	55,970	54.9%	23,566	23.1%	8,432	8.3%	12,158	11.9%	1,792	1.8%
BOS District 4	96,032	60,842	63.4%	27,066	28.2%	1,140	1.2%	4,498	4.7%	2,486	2.6%
BOS District 5	143,330	40,941	28.6%	75,450	52.6%	5,132	3.6%	19,476	13.6%	2,331	1.6%

B.3: CVAP by Proposed District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity									
		Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian / PAC	%	All Remaining	%
Total	590,160	249,725	42.3%	234,485	39.7%	34,222	5.8%	60,840	10.3%	10,888	1.8%
BOS District 1	99,595	53,841	54.1%	25,358	25.5%	9,270	9.3%	8,960	9.0%	2,166	2.2%
BOS District 2	144,207	39,360	27.3%	79,390	55.1%	8,100	5.6%	15,059	10.4%	2,298	1.6%
BOS District 3	114,570	58,572	51.1%	31,148	27.2%	10,786	9.4%	12,166	10.6%	1,898	1.7%
BOS District 4	104,704	65,997	63.0%	24,034	23.0%	2,588	2.5%	9,620	9.2%	2,465	2.4%
BOS District 5	127,084	31,955	25.1%	74,555	58.7%	3,478	2.7%	15,035	11.8%	2,061	1.6%

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**Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Voter Registration / Voting by Year**

C.1: Voter Registration/Voting											
By Year	Reg. Total	Vote Total	Reg. Latino	%	Reg. Asian	%	Vote Latino	%	Vote Asian	%	
Year											
2016	437,796	286,184	157,357	35.9%	22,928	5.2%	91,795	32.1%	6,260	2.2%	
2018	454,090	247,620	167,243	36.8%	25,148	5.5%	76,585	30.9%	5,674	2.3%	
2020	503,955	366,199	191,495	38.0%	30,448	6.0%	126,612	34.6%	9,313	2.5%	

C.2: Current District - Voter Registration/Voting											
	Reg. Total	Vote Total	Reg. Latino	%	Reg. Asian	%	Vote Latino	%	Vote Asian	%	
	503,955	366,199	191,496	38.0%	30,448	6.0%	126,612	34.6%	9,313	2.5%	
BOS District 1	89,954	59,862	41,944	46.6%	6,523	7.3%	26,783	44.7%	976	1.6%	
BOS District 2	122,413	97,950	28,872	23.6%	7,679	6.3%	21,141	21.6%	3,396	3.5%	
BOS District 3	78,025	46,131	40,347	51.7%	3,226	4.1%	23,228	50.4%	1,015	2.2%	
BOS District 4	79,487	56,469	47,248	59.4%	3,802	4.8%	30,948	54.8%	831	1.5%	
BOS District 5	134,076	105,787	33,085	24.7%	9,218	6.9%	24,512	23.2%	3,095	2.9%	

C.3: Proposed District - Voter Registration/Voting											
	Reg. Total	Vote Total	Reg. Latino	%	Reg. Asian	%	Vote Latino	%	Vote Asian	%	
	503,955	366,198	191,495	38.0%	30,448	6.0%	126,613	34.6%	9,314	2.5%	
BOS District 1	83,067	54,526	41,143	49.5%	5,518	6.6%	25,661	47.1%	773	1.4%	
BOS District 2	122,529	98,251	29,679	24.2%	8,356	6.8%	22,212	22.6%	3,308	3.4%	
BOS District 3	85,998	52,517	41,326	48.1%	3,441	4.0%	24,398	46.5%	1,131	2.2%	
BOS District 4	88,757	60,826	52,251	58.9%	5,092	5.7%	33,776	55.5%	1,231	2.0%	
BOS District 5	123,604	100,078	27,096	21.9%	8,041	6.5%	20,566	20.5%	2,871	2.9%	

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3. Supporting Information for the Updated Equity Coalition Map

We ask that this Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission recommend that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopt the Equitable Map Coalition’s updated map.

The Equity Coalition Map is data-driven including key [equity indicators](#) and refined every week for 9 months in an inclusive process that began with the collection of hundreds of Community of Interest Surveys at food banks, vaccination clinics and flea markets, then inviting those residents and anyone else interested in fair maps to work with a demographer to make the map even more responsive to Fresno County’s needs. The EMC Map draws lines that give all Fresno residents the best opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, no matter their race, ethnicity or zip code.

The 2020 Census data confirm that significant demographic changes continue to transform Fresno County.

Fresno County Board of Supervisors - 2020

Current Districts			Race/Ethnicity				
YEAR	Total Population	Year % Change	Latino %	White %	Black %	Asian %	2+ Races/ Other%
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	8.0%	3.3%
2010	930,453	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.4%	2.7%
2020	1,008,526 ⁶	8.40%	53.6%	26.9%	4.9%	11.8%	2.8%

While the Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, the opportunity for disadvantaged populations to elect candidates of their choice at the County Supervisor level, has not kept pace. The FAIR MAPs Act of 2019 and the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) require Fresno County to do more than simply move a few census tracts between districts to equalize population.

A different legal standard was in effect the last time the Board went through redistricting and adopted the 2011 District Map, and County Supervisors were permitted to consider traditional redistricting principles and minimize change to existing districts. But a new supervisorial map in 2021 that is largely the same as the 2011 map, which is largely the same as the 2001 map would likely violate state law.

To ensure fair representation, the Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors must start with a blank slate, hear and consider public testimony, and approve a map that respects

⁶ This total population has been verified using the Statewide Database

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communities of interest with similar values, backgrounds, and characteristics, as required by the California FAIR MAPs Act.

The constitutionally protected class of people most likely to trigger VRA obligations in Fresno County is the Latino population because Latinos are 53.6% of the total population. The EMC map draws three districts with Latino Citizen Voting Age Population (Latino CVAP) over 50%:

- District 1, in the rural Westside with a Latino CVAP of 54.1%,
- District 3, in the southern urban core of the City of Fresno; Latino CVAP of 51%, and
- District 4, in the rural Eastside with a Latino CVAP of 63.3%.

EMC closely followed the ranked criteria, in the order and priority laid out in the FAIR MAPs Act:

1. Each proposed Supervisor district is **contiguous**.
2. Local **Communities of Interest** and neighborhoods have been kept together.
3. The **geographic integrity** of cities and census designated places has been respected.
4. Easily **identifiable boundaries** like rivers, highways and major streets are used.
5. To the extent practicable, each proposed district is **geographically compact**.

Importantly, the FAIR MAPs Act **prohibits** the consideration of political advantage, disadvantage or incumbency. The EMC Proposed Map did not consider any political data, political candidate or incumbent information when drawing proposed district boundaries.

The EMC proposed map complies with the laws that guide how local governments draw their district lines and we strongly believe it deserves your serious study and consideration. We thank you in advance for your willingness to consider the EMC proposed map, which we believe best meets the spirit and the letter of the laws regarding redistricting in California.

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Equitable Map Coalition’s Revised District Map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Proposed District 1 covers the entire rural Westside of the County, west of Highway 41.

- **Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin & City of Fresno west of Highway 99. **ADDS** Huron, & Coalinga.
- **Unincorporated communities (CDPs):** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquility, & West Park. **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City, & Riverdale.

Proposed District 1 continues to include areas in the City of Fresno west of Highway 99 BUT LOSES most of the area from Highway 99 east to the Santa Fe railroad tracks EXCEPT the area between Shaw and Ashlan Avenues.

Proposed District 1 preserves the geographic integrity of:

- West Hills Community College District
- Westlands Water District
- West Fresno and the Southwest Fresno Specific Plan area covering the area south of Highway 180 to North Ave, Valentine/Marks east to Highway 41.
 - Washington Union High School District: the portion that lays west of 41 is kept with historic West Fresno to the north
- West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan, covering the area west of Highway 99, east of Garfield Avenue, and generally north of Clinton Avenue
 - Central Unified School District areas: Most of Central Unified is West of Highway 99, and has significant communities of Punjabi/Sikh, African Americans, Hmong, and AAPI residents, whose children attend Central Unified.
- Highway City, a community near the junction of Highway 99 and Shaw Avenue
- Jane Addams neighborhood, cut off from the rest of Fresno by Highway 99

Proposed District 2 becomes a true North Fresno District, from Golden State Boulevard / Highway 99 east to Willow Avenue, the dividing line between the cities of Fresno and Clovis, and from the San Joaquin River south to Shaw or Gettysburg Avenue. Proposed District 2 continues to include the Old Fig Garden community, while adding the area north of Shaw, from Highway 99 east to the Santa Fe railroad tracks, as well as the area from Shaw to Gettysburg, east of First Street.

Proposed District 2 preserves the geographic integrity of:

- Bullard, Hoover and Woodward Park Plan areas
- Woodward Lake, Fort Washington, Van Ness Extension, Sierra Sky Park and San Joaquin River Bluffs
- Pinedale
- County islands around Bullard High School

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- Fig Garden Loop
- Old Fig Garden
- California State University Fresno campus and off campus student housing near campus
- El Dorado Park, a Southeast Asian community west of Fresno State
- Significant Muslim communities in neighborhoods surrounding Mosques at Shaw & Cedar and Herndon & Milburn

Proposed District 3, the Central Fresno District, maintains its focus on Fresno's central core and the many working class and low-income residents there, but shifts slightly north. It maintains its character as a central Fresno district and government center, with Downtown, Community Regional Medical Center, Cultural Arts District, and the Tower and Mayfair Districts. Proposed District 3 is bounded by Highway 99 to the west, Clovis Avenue to the east, Ashlan or Gettysburg Avenues to the north and Kings Canyon Avenue to the south.

Proposed District 3 preserves the geographic integrity of:

- Downtown Fresno
- Chinatown
- Cultural Arts District
- Lowell-Jefferson Neighborhoods
- Tower District, Tower District Specific Plan
- Mayfair District
- Blackstone Corridor
- Huntington Boulevard
- Hmong & Asian American communities of interest:
 - Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) and surrounding neighborhoods including Somerset Apartments
 - Romain Park and surrounding neighborhoods
 - First & McKinley Shopping Center, an Asian American business COI
 - Asian Village and Southeast Asian businesses along the Kings Canyon corridor east of Chestnut

Proposed District 4 covers all the rural towns and communities east of Highway 41.

- **Cities:** Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, & Selma and **ADDS** the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno.
- **Unincorporated Communities (CDPs):** Del Rey, Laton, & Malaga. **ADDS** Calwa.

We propose to **ADD** older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno (south of Kings Canyon Avenue), and Calwa, as we strongly believe they share socioeconomic similarities with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside, that warrant being in the same district. In this heavily Latino district, many families share immigrant backgrounds and are limited English proficient. They live in high poverty areas in crowded housing, with work both

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low wage and seasonal, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Many travel to work in the surrounding fields and packing houses or other ag-related jobs.

Proposed District 4 preserves the geographic integrity of:

- Calwa and Calwa Parks & Recreation District
- Malaga
- Vang Pao Elementary School with strong AAPI & African American COIs
- Central Southeast Area Specific Plan area covers most of the 2,200 acres just east and southeast of downtown, even though NOT a cohesive neighborhood (see below)
- South Central Specific Plan (SCSP) Area – aka the Industrial Triangle.
- Selma Kingsburg Fowler County Sanitation District
- Southeast Regional Disposal Site (SERDS)

Proposed District 5 respects the geographic integrity of the City of Clovis, unlike the current District, and continues to capture the new growth and rural residential areas east of Clovis Avenue, as well as all the foothill and mountain communities of eastern Fresno County.

- **Cities:** Clovis and new growth areas in the City of Fresno, east of Clovis Avenue
- **Unincorporated Communities (CDPs):** Auberry, Centerville, Friant, Huntington, Millerton, Minkler, Prather Shaver Lake, Squaw Valley, Sunnyside, and Tarpey Village.

Willow Avenue, which divides Clovis and Fresno, is the western border, which shifts east to Clovis Avenue in the City of Fresno. This Proposed District 5 no longer juts into the City of Fresno, between Shaw and Ashlan Avenues, east of First Avenue.

Proposed District 5 preserves the geographic integrity of:

- City of Clovis
 - Loma Vista Specific Plan, Clovis' Southeast Urban Center, from Bullard Ave south to Gould Canal, and east from the existing Clovis city limit on Locan to McCall. Substantially built out.
 - Heritage Growth Specific Plan, Clovis' Northwest Urban Center, from Shepherd to Copper Ave, and from Willow to Sunnyside Ave.
- Tarpey Village
- Melody Park and surrounding neighborhoods at Shields & Fowler Ave, a significant Hmong COI
- Clovis East High School attendance area, with significant Punjabi/Sikh and Asian American COI
- Sunnyside
- Valley floor communities, including Minkler, Centerville, and Friant
- All foothill and mountain communities

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Easily Identifiable Boundaries.

To make sure each district has the opportunity to select a representative responsive to their region's concerns, our map proposes several easily identifiable boundaries, including Highway 41 / South East Avenue, Highway 99 / Golden State Boulevard, Shaw Avenue, Gettysburg Avenue, Willow Avenue, Clovis Avenue, Kings Canyon Road, Butler Avenue, California Avenue, and American Avenue.

Rationale for Dividing Rural Westside District & Rural Eastside District at or near Highway 41

The current map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors' districts should be changed to reflect two distinct communities of interest separated by Highway 41: the rural Westside (Proposed District 1) and the rural Eastside (Proposed District 4). Our map recognizes the differences between these two regions, whether we look at cropping patterns, soil type, or sources of water.

On the Eastside, the farms are smaller with more communities that are more densely populated. On the Westside, the communities are fewer and farther apart, with much bigger farms and more mechanized agriculture, requiring less labor. The soils are different, as well as the crops grown. The Eastside grows citrus and fresh fruit, whereas the Westside grows almonds, pistachios, tomatoes, garlic and melons. Even their water comes from different sources. Most of the Westside gets its water from Northern California and, as the Westlands Water District knows well, the supply is unreliable and at times provides minimal to no water allocation. The Eastside has more reliable sources of water from Sierra runoff and the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers but has drinking water contamination problems unique to their area. Other significant differences include higher education. The proposed map correctly places Reedley College with the Eastside Proposed District 4 and West Hills College District in the Westside Proposed District 1.

In sum, this map makes sense, preserves communities of interest, and will result in five districts that have representatives responsive to their region's concerns. This proposed map fully meets the requirements of California's FAIR MAPs Act and we urge its consideration.

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Bases for an Equitable Community-Based Supervisorial Map:

Equity Indicators: Fresno County Supervisors should prioritize data that identify historically and currently marginalized residents, for example:

- Advancement Project California IVE Redistricting Alliance’s Equity Index, including:
 - Foreign Born Population and Limited English Proficient
 - Education Attainment: College AA Degree or higher
 - Housing Cost Burdened
 - Pollution Burden
 - COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index
- Census Hard to Count Indices
- CalEnviro Screen 4.0 Pollution Burden and Pesticides Percentage
- 2020/2021 Cropping patterns for County’s top 10 commodities
- Broadband connectivity, SJV Broadband Regional Broadband Consortium data)
- American Community Survey data re Poverty Level, Median Household Income, Agricultural employment, Immigration status, English Language Fluency, Language Spoken at Home, Housing statistics (single family, multi-family, rented, owner-occupied)
- Census 2020 adjusted data re Total Population & Total Citizen Voting Age Population (eligible voters) for Latinos, Asians and Blacks
- Evidence of Redlining, Racially Restrictive Covenants and Other Forms of Historical and Current Discrimination

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) transit routes shed light on transportation patterns and support the use of Highway 41 as the dividing line, separating rural Fresno County into a Westside District and an Eastside District. https://www.ruraltransit.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FCRTA_20180701.jpg

- Rural transit services serving the rural Westside are all in Proposed District 1. These routes connect Firebaugh, Mendota, Kerman, San Joaquin, Huron and Coalinga, and unincorporated communities like Cantua Creek, Tranquility, Five Points, Raisin City, Riverdale, and Easton, with each other and downtown Fresno.
- Rural transit services serving the rural Eastside are all in Proposed District 4. These routes are designed to transport rural residents to the other Eastside communities, and connect Kingsburg, Reedley, Selma, Fowler, Parlier, Orange Cove, Sanger, and Del Rey to downtown Fresno

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Community College Districts:

- **State Center Community College District (SCCCD).** Several State Center campuses serve Fresno County students at:
 - Fresno City College Campus (Proposed District 3)
 - Reedley College (Proposed District 4) - several FCRTA transit routes travel through the Eastside rural towns to Reedley College
 - Clovis Community College (Proposed District 5)
 - West Fresno Campus under construction (Proposed District 1)
- **West Hills Community College District.** Proposed District 1 includes all the West Hills Community College District in Fresno County. The main campus of West Hills College is in Coalinga, with classes offered at the Firebaugh campus, all within the Proposed District 1. Currently, Firebaugh and Coalinga are in different supervisorial districts. <https://www.westhillscollge.com/district/administration/board-of-trustees/documents/trusteeareasdistrictwide.pdf>

Relevant Communities of Interest (COI):

Proposed District 1:

- **Keeps West Hills Community College District intact.**
- **Keeps Westlands Water District (“Westlands”) intact.** The current map splits Westlands into two supervisorial districts. Westlands, the largest agricultural water district in the nation, is made up of more than 1,000 square miles of prime farmland in western Fresno County. Westlands has federal contracts to provide water to 700 family-owned farms that average 875 acres in size. Westlands is 15 miles wide, beginning just west of Highway 5, and 74 miles long, from Firebaugh and Mendota on the north, south through Huron and Coalinga to the Fresno County border. Annual crop production is over \$1 billion. The water the CVP delivers to Westlands is pumped from Northern California, through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and then through the Delta-Mendota Canal to the San Luis Reservoir. It is unreliable. <https://wwd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Westlands-Blue-Map.compressed.pdf>
- **Land subsidence.** Groundwater pumping has led to severe overdrafts and widespread land subsidence, which is most prominent on the Westside, due to clay soils that, once tapped, tend to collapse. Once aquifers collapse, the damage is permanent as they can never be refilled, even during wet years. See photo of Land Subsidence along the Delta-Mendota Canal and Neighboring Areas (from 1925 through 1977), by Michelle Sneed, U.S. Geological Survey, <https://images.app.goo.gl/r676hoHzZw7jZARG9>
- **West Fresno and Southwest Fresno Specific Plan.** West Fresno residents have been ignored for decades. On any measurement, from income to health to the environment — residents are poorer and sicker than elsewhere in Fresno. The most recent [CalEnviro](#)

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[Screen](#) pollution map shows the West Fresno census tracts score at the 98th percentile or higher, meaning they are more polluted than 98% of all census tracts in California. Life expectancy is more than 20 years shorter than residents in North Fresno, the poverty rate is nearly double the rest of Fresno, and home ownership significantly lower. The business sector is small and struggling, and unemployment and crime are high. The Southwest Fresno Specific Plan, which covers the area south of Highway 180 to North Ave, Valentine/Marks east to Highway 41, was approved in October 2017 and provides a strong vision for transforming West Fresno. See two Fresno Bee Editorials dated 7-25-21, See *Fresno's great shame: City must apologize for its terrible legacy of racist policies* and *West Fresno residents have strong vision for their area*.
<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/editorials/article252936488.html>,
<https://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/editorials/article252963163.html>.

- **West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan.** This area is home to over 38,000 people – 42% Latino, 14% Asian, 9% black and 20% white. Due to piecemeal development and county islands, residents complain of developer driven planning, traffic congestion, few public transit options, lack of safe routes to schools, lack of access to health care, and minimal infrastructure to support growth plans.

Significant populations of Punjabi/Sikh, African Americans, Hmong, and AAPI residents reside in West Area neighborhoods and their children attend Central Unified which provides a sense of community for many residents living West of Highway 99. The Sikh Temple creates a sense of belonging for the many Punjabi residents.

The West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan covers the area west of Highway 99, generally north of Clinton Avenue and east of Garfield Avenue.

<https://www.fresno.gov/darm/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2018/03/West-Area-Map.pdf>

- **Highway City** is an unincorporated community near the junction of Highway 99 and Shaw Avenue, although a portion has been incorporated into the City. The community, named Highway City by fig grower J. C. Forkner, was a railroad shipping center. Bisected by the realignment of Highway 99, which opened in 1960, and Shaw Avenue, lots of asphalt, cars, and noise pound Highway City every day. Residents often feel treated like orphans. Their Community Center in a small public park is just north of Shaw Avenue. The boundaries are from Barstow to Gettysburg, and Hayes Ave east to the Union Pacific tracks.
- **Jane Addams neighborhood (“Addams”).** Cut off from the rest of Fresno by Highway 99 and the railroad tracks, Addams has suffered decades of under-investment. 6,700 residents live in Addams, half live in poverty and 77% live below 200% of the poverty line. Over half of renters pay more than 30% of their income on rent. Of the 1,200 rooms on Motel Drive, many serve as families’ primary residence. Recently, many motels were rehabbed to house the homeless, creating new challenges. Home to the most vacant land and more mobile home parks, the immediate need is for quality, safe affordable housing for low-income and moderate-income families. The boundaries are Census

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Tract 20, from Highway 99 on the east, to Marks Avenue on the west, and from Clinton Ave on the north to Belmont Avenue on the south.

- **Easton** is a census-designated place located 7.5 miles south of Downtown Fresno. This rural community has just over 2,000 residents, 63% of whom are Latino. Mr. Easton bought 7680 acres of land in 1878 and formed the Washington Irrigated Colony. Those buying 20-acre farms got a lot in the town nearby. Washington Union High School provides a sense of community for many Easton residents. Easton celebrates its Portuguese heritage each year at the Portuguese Festa Parade; the C.P.D.E.S Hall provides a spirit of camaraderie for Portuguese in the surrounding area and dairies.
- **Unincorporated rural communities** in our Proposed District 1 are among the poorest and most isolated, and far too many lack some of the most basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhood—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. People of color make up a disproportionate number of those living in these underinvested neighborhoods. These unincorporated rural communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions. See *California Unincorporated: Mapping Disadvantaged Communities in the San Joaquin Valley* at file:///C:/Users/owner/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(DESKTOP-JEOEJNG)/Downloads/CA%20UNINCORPORATED_FINAL.pdf

Proposed District 2:

- **Encompasses Bullard, Hoover and Woodward Park Plan areas**, with few exceptions. <https://www.fresno.gov/darm/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/10/planbnds1.pdf>
 - **Bullard Community Plan area** (1988): Union Pacific railroad tracks to Blackstone Avenue, San Joaquin River south to Ashlan Avenue.
 - **Hoover Community Plan area** (1980): Blackstone to Fresno/Clovis border at Willow Avenue, Herndon Avenue south to Ashlan Avenue.
 - **Woodpark Community Plan area** (1989, 2003): is bounded on the south by Herndon Avenue and on the north by the San Joaquin River and Copper Ave, and from Blackstone Avenue east to the Fresno/Clovis border at Willow Avenue.
- **Woodward Lake and Fort Washington** are among the wealthiest areas in Fresno on the northeastern edge of the City. Moderate to above-average priced single-family homes in Woodward Lake were constructed during the late 1980s to mid-1990s in low-density neighborhoods. The area is named after Woodward Park, a 300-acre regional park donated to the City in 1968. The Fort Washington subdivision was constructed in the 2000s and includes large custom homes, a manmade lake and two country clubs.
- **Van Ness Extension** is a North Fresno neighborhood with wealthy residents, large homes and large lots. Many homes surround a manmade lake. Van Ness Extension covers the area from Shaw Avenue north to the San Joaquin River, and Fruit west to Marks. **Sierra Sky Park**, an aviation community to the west, allows residents to taxi their

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private planes along roads shared by cars and airplanes. Each house has its own hangar. The **San Joaquin River Bluffs**, north of Herndon Avenue, is home to many large homes with easy access to the San Joaquin River. Until recently, two country clubs bordered the south bank of the San Joaquin River

- **Old Fig Garden** is a County island which the city of Fresno, through annexations, has entirely circled. This desirable residential neighborhood, set within a mature urban forest, has a rural quality, an eclectic mix of homes, and lacks traditional city amenities such as streetlights and sidewalks. The area has its own police protection district. The Fig Garden Homeowners Association was founded in 1947 and Beautification Ordinances safeguard its traditional large lots with tree-lined streets and required setbacks. Van Ness Boulevard, the main axis, transforms into Christmas Tree Lane each year.

- **California State University Fresno**. Fresno State, with 25,000 students helps a diverse cross-section of the region's residents succeed, including nontraditional students and historically underrepresented groups. Athletics programs draw tens of thousands each year and the Fresno State Bulldogs are the pride of the County.

Bulldog Village west of the campus and Sun Garden Acres to the south are major neighborhoods for off-campus housing. High density student off campus housing influences the neighborhoods around the campus and is a reason for several hard to count census tracts surrounding the University. There are significant communities of Muslim, Southeast Asians and African Americans around the University.

- **Pinedale** is a working-class community with the City's only industrial park in North Fresno. Pinedale was once a rural community located on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Camp Pinedale began during World War II as a temporary detention center for up to 5,000 Japanese Americans on route to internment camps and was later converted to army quarters. Most homes are modest and built in the '70s and '80s. Pinedale has been annexed by the City of Fresno and is now adjacent to the River Park shopping center. Pinedale covers the area from Herndon to Nees Avenues, and Blackstone to Ingram.
- **El Dorado Park** neighborhood has approximately 5,000 residents, with a significant population of Hmong and Southeast Asians, living in old student apartment complexes west of Fresno State. Food insecurity and crime are major concerns. Several anchor partners are Wesley United Methodist Church, Stone Soup, and the El Dorado Community Development Corporation (CDC). The CDC is committed to revitalize the neighborhood and improve public safety, public green spaces and the quality of affordable housing. In Census Tract 54.03, it covers the area from Barstow to Shaw Ave, and First to Cedar Avenues.

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Proposed District 3:

- **Downtown Fresno**, The Fresno County Hall of Records, which houses the County Administrative and Supervisors' Offices, Fresno City Hall, the U.S. District Court, the California Fifth District Court of Appeals, several Fresno County Superior Court facilities, the Fresno County Jail, the administrative offices for Fresno Unified School District and State Center Community College District, Chuckchansi Park, and the Fresno Convention Center are all in Downtown Fresno.

For decades, Fresno's downtown served as the gathering place for the entire central San Joaquin Valley. Starting in the 1950s, retail anchors in downtown Fresno started moving out to suburban shopping centers near new homes constructed farther and farther from the urban core. Multiple planning efforts have focused on Downtown Fresno, to reverse its decline as the city grows ever outwards and revitalize surrounding older neighborhoods, including the recent Fulton Corridor Specific Plan and the Downtown Neighborhoods Community Plan. Downtown Fresno, which covers the triangle from Highway 99 to Highway 41 to Divisadero Ave on the north, is on the original railroad grid axis that runs in a northeast-southwest direction, a constant reminder that the city was designed around the Southern Pacific Railroad.

- **Chinatown**, established around 1872, was a vibrant live-work-play environment where most ethnic communities in Fresno got their start. With urban renewal in the 1960s, Chinatown lost both businesses and residents. Historic buildings were demolished, buildings became vacant, and vagrants congregated. Chinatown has suffered decades of neglect and attempts at improvement have been haphazard and poorly funded. Now, with high speed rail being built, there's \$30 million in state investment. While some consider high speed rail yet another nail in Chinatown's coffin, many see an opportunity to plan for an influx of people, who will generate an improved business environment and expanded housing opportunities. The Chinatown district is bordered by the railroad tracks, Freeway 99, Fresno Street and Ventura Street.
- **Cultural Arts District** has art galleries, music venues, and locally owned businesses. The anchor locations are the Warnors Theater, Arte Americas, and All Things Fresno. More than 10 apartment communities were developed and renovated in the past decade, including Iron Bird Lofts, Fulton Village, and Van Ness Cottages, transforming downtown Fresno at night and showing a growing demand for urban life and the arts in Fresno. While the official borders are Tuolumne to Calaveras and H Street to L Street, unofficially it covers the triangle from Divisadero south to Tuolumne and west to H St.
- **Lowell-Jefferson Neighborhood**, developed about 1900, served as Fresno's first suburb with porched single-family homes and cottages. The Lowell neighborhood has survived, despite the building of the Highway 180 through it, a proliferation of vacant lots, many properties in disrepair, and infill apartment buildings too large for their lot, with no frontage along the street. The Jefferson neighborhood also contains many late 19th and early 20th century homes but has suffered more damage from demolition and incompatible infill development. Jefferson also has more multi-family properties and

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more vacant parcels. The Lowell-Jefferson neighborhoods are bounded by Highway 180 on the north and west, Divisadero on the south, and Highway 41 on the east.

- **Tower District** was a “streetcar suburb” with fancy homes built in the 1930s along streetcar lines, now mixed in with apartment buildings, bungalow courts, and small commercial districts lined with restaurants, bars, and shops. Named for the neon-lit Tower Theatre, this is one of the city’s last intact walkable urban districts that hasn’t been destroyed by urban renewal or freeway construction. A nightlife destination, the Tower is the alternative culture and LGBTQ+ capital of the San Joaquin Valley. The Tower District Specific Plan was adopted in 1991 to protect its charm and unique character. The Tower District runs from Shields Ave south to Hwy 180, Fruit Ave east to Blackstone.
- **Mayfair District**, aka Cincotta, is an unincorporated County island encircled by the City of Fresno. Mayfair was the first major subdivision completed in Fresno after World War II at a time when Fresno County didn’t even have a building code to establish minimum housing standards. Mayfair also included the first suburban shopping center at McKinley and First, now a significant Southeast Asian business COI. The boundaries of this CDP are Shields south to McKinley, and First Ave east to North Barton Ave /Highway 168.
- **Blackstone Corridor**. The Better Blackstone Association, who’s lead anchor partner is Fresno Metro Ministry, wants to see new investment and revitalization along this aging, deteriorating commercial corridor. The Association is working to expand and start businesses and mixed-use developments. A Bus Rapid Transit system and a Building a Better Blackstone CDC are expected soon. The Blackstone Corridor runs from Shaw south to Olive Ave. See Blackstone Corridor Transportation and Housing Study, 2017
- **Huntington Boulevard**, one of Fresno’s most architecturally distinct neighborhoods, features grandiose homes from the 1910s to the 1930s on large lots, alongside more modest bungalows, facing onto a wide boulevard with a grassy median. An area of older wealth where many prominent residents lived, Huntington Boulevard is a popular urban park that many community members use for walking and jogging. Surrounding streets are lined by older homes. Huntington Boulevard, the first subdivision to be annexed into the City of Fresno, was recently designated as a historic district. The boundaries are Tulare to Ventura/Kings Canyon Ave, and Highway 41 east to Cedar Ave.

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Proposed District 4:

- **Calwa**, an impoverished census-designated place, developed as a railroad town when the Santa Fe Railway built a switching yard and houses for railway employees. Calwa grew up around the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroad corridors. Calwa residents are over 90% Latino and the median household income is under \$30,000. Home to Calwa Elementary School in Fresno Unified, Calwa covers the area from California Ave south to Jensen Ave, and East Ave to Cedar Ave.

Calwa Parks & Recreation District provides and maintains recreation facilities and community enrichment activities. Calwa Park serves as the main recreational outlet for community members from surrounding neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno. District boundaries are from California Ave south to North Ave, and from East Ave to Peach Ave. <https://mydashgis.com/CSDA/map>

- **Malaga**, a census-designated place located six miles south-southeast of Downtown Fresno, has approximately 1,000 residents, 93% of whom are Latino. The post office opened in 1886. The boundaries are Chestnut east to Willow, and Muscat south to Central Avenue. Residents are proud of their Malaga Community Center and Malaga Elementary School in Fowler Unified. The Malaga County Water District serves the area.
- **Central Southeast Area Specific Plan** intends to provide a vision for the next 20 years. The Plan Area covers a mix of suburban housing developments, industrial uses, and vacant land. Community feedback reports the need to improve infrastructure, increase access to parks and open space, develop vacant lots, and revitalize key commercial corridors such as Ventura/Kings Canyon Rd. The Plan will address affordable housing, economic development, transportation, parks and open space, and a healthy environment. This Specific Plan area covers over 2,200 acres (3.4 square miles) just east and southeast of downtown, bounded by Belmont Ave to the north (largest portion south of Kings Canyon), S Orange Ave to the west, E Church Ave to the south, and S Peach Ave to the east. https://www.fresno.gov/darm/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2018/01/CSEASP_project_area.jpg

This Plan area is NOT a cohesive neighborhood as it covers only as many CDBG acres east of the Downtown Neighborhoods Plan as the City had CDBG funding for.

- **South Central Specific Plan (SCSP) Area**, aka the Industrial Triangle. This Project would result in the development of light and heavy industrial land uses and warehouses, causing higher heavy-duty diesel truck traffic and operation of forklifts and refrigeration units. The Project area sits adjacent to several communities already suffering from the highest pollution burdens in Fresno and the State. Residents and advocates argue the proposed industrial land uses and daily vehicle trips warehouses generate will negatively impact local air quality and create traffic congestion. This plan covers from California south to Central/American Avenue, Highway 41 to Highway 99; the portion from Jensen to North stretches east to Peach, as well as the Regional Business Park west of

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Highway 41, between North and Central Avenues. <https://www.fresno.gov/darm/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/04/Proposed-Plan-Map.pdf>

- **Agricultural workers as a community of interest.** This proposed map groups farmworkers, packing house workers, and those working in ag-related jobs from the rural towns in eastern Fresno County and older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno together as a community of interest in EMC’s Proposed District 4. Shared characteristics include similar challenges re housing, linguistics, seasonal income, employment patterns and worksite disadvantages, as well as high levels of poverty, crowded housing, difficulties accessing health and social services, limited internet access, and low educational levels. These areas are also heavily Latino, with many immigrants, many limited English, and many mixed status households.
- **Selma Kingsburg Fowler County Sanitation District** serves the three cities by agreements, under which the District owns the large sewer lines and the treatment-disposal facilities. Each city owns its sewer system while the District operates, maintains, and regulates them.
- **Southeast Regional Disposal Site (SERDS).** The County of Fresno along with all seven rural cities in Proposed District 4 own the closed Disposal Site at Academy and Dinuba Avenues. The seven cities and the County executed a JPA in 1980 to manage the solid waste generated, ensure sufficient operating funding, and closure of the site. SERDS ceased to accept waste in 1990, but a surcharge on landfilled waste generated within the SERDS area covers post-closure maintenance costs. See p. 15, <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/9024/636379641022930000>
- **The communities in proposed District 4 experience shared environmental burdens** While much of Fresno County experiences environmental burdens such as poor air quality and water insecurity issues, the communities in proposed District 4 share similarities in how they are disproportionately burdened with pollution and pesticide contamination. California’s CalEnviroScreen’s mapping tool illustrates this point.⁷ This screening tool uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Almost all the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Score of 91-100% or above, meaning they are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. CalEPA uses these scores to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. It is important that these communities remain “whole” to ensure that they benefit from available state grants and funding that use this screening tool.

These communities are also similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg

⁷ CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.

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and the unincorporated communities nearby all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentile.

Proposed District 5:

- **Keeps foothill and mountain communities intact.** Foothill and mountain community residents provided testimony before the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC) that foothill and mountain communities should be kept whole, since they have a unique culture, different than communities on the Valley floor. These communities are gateway communities to the Sierras and the national forests; local businesses rely on tourism and recreational activities, such as hiking, boating, camping, and fishing. Significant issues include fire protection, forest management, and access to insurance.
- **Keeps the City of Clovis intact.** The City of Clovis, located in the northeast quadrant of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area, has more than doubled in population since 1985, reaching 120,000 residents, and encompassing over 23 square miles. Clovis is dedicated to retaining its unique western atmosphere and “Gateway to the Sierra” role. Clovis proudly maintains its “Clovis way of life,” annual Rodeo Days, Big Hat Days, and Clovisfest celebrations. Residents like living in Clovis because it’s a tight knit community with a quaint small-town spirit, great schools, great parks, and a reputation for being really safe. Residents believe Clovis is very different from the Fresno metro area. Councilmember Diane Pearce reports that the violent crime rate in Clovis is nearly half the state’s rate, in stark contrast to Fresno. “If you happen to overhear two Clovis residents complaining, they are probably talking about their latest experience [in Fresno] west of Willow.” See 8-6-21 Fresno Bee article, *Clovis conservative explains why her hometown is special*.
- **Tarpey Village**, a census-designated place with about 4,300 residents between Fresno and Clovis. The first homes were built in 1950, when the area was rural. Today, Tarpey is bounded on three sides by Clovis, roughly between Minnewawa, Sunnyside, Dakota and Gettysburg Avenues. The area was named for a prominent local rancher and politician. Both Fresno and Clovis have unsuccessfully tried to annex the area over the years, but residents didn't want water meters, curbs and sidewalks. Today, there are still no curbs and sidewalks in residential areas. Most homes are owner-occupied. Tarpey relies on Clovis for water service and Fresno for sewer service, and is in Clovis Unified School District.
- **Keeps Sunnyside intact.** Sunnyside, a census-designated place, is an eastern suburb of the City of Fresno. Sunnyside was the original settling place for many of Fresno’s Founding Fathers: Butler, Church, Easterby, Roeding, Romain, Locan, Teague, and Kearney. Sunnyside’s soil and climate were well suited for agriculture, and in 1872, water was diverted from the Kings River and the Easterby ranch at Kings Canyon and Peach became a “miracle in the desert.” Fresno’s wine industry began on Fancher Creek. Sunnyside was very different from the rest of rural Fresno as great wealth flowed in, mostly from San Francisco. Sunnyside has many ranch style homes built in the

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1960's - 1980's on lot sizes over a quarter acre with more homes built in the early 2000's. Sunnyside has its own Country Club. Over 80% of homes are owner-occupied.

- **Minkler and Centerville** are sparsely populated census-designated places along Highway 180 in eastern Fresno County that are over 80% white. Minkler is 2.25 miles southeast of Centerville, separated by the Kings River. Minkler was a rail siding, created in 1920, with both railroad lines abandoned by the 1970s. Centerville, one of the oldest communities in Fresno County, was founded in 1854 on the Sante Fe Railroad line 16 miles east of Fresno, by a ferry crossing the Kings River. Both communities serve as Gateway communities to the National Parks.
- **Friant**, a census-designated place, is located along the San Joaquin River, at the base of Friant Dam and Millerton Lake. The town had its start as a ferry crossing in 1856. The name was changed to honor the co-owner of a local lumber company. Friant is located 11.5 miles north of Clovis and shares the rural feel, similar to the rural residential region east of Clovis.

We have outlined in this memo:

1. Discrepancies in Fresno County Redistricting Data,
2. Updated Equity Coalition Map Data Tables, and
3. supportive information for EMC's proposed map.

We request that this Commission officially recommend that the Fresno Board of Supervisors adopt the Equity Coalition Map⁸ (also known as “Public Map 116”⁹), and they adopt the following findings in support of this recommendation:

That the Equity Coalition Map was generated by the community,
That the Equity Coalition Map complies with all laws and requirements, and
That the Equity Coalition Map is an equitable distribution of voting power in Fresno County

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Pesante, Director of Civic Engagement, lpesante@doloreshuerta.org (661) 204-9843 or Greg Daisa, Director of Information Technology, gdaisa@doloreshuerta.org (661) 262-9803.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Equitable Map Coalition
Thursday, October 21, 2021

⁸ <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/60614>

⁹ <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/resources/redistricting/draft-maps> accessed on October 21, 2021.

**LIST OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR REVISED MAP
SUBMITTED BY EQUITABLE MAP COALITION on 10-5-2021**

Central Valley Leadership Roundtable
Latino Educational Issues Roundtable
Central California Coalition for Equitable Maps
Cultiva la Salud
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter
Central Valley Partnership
Fresno Barrios Unidos
Nueva Alianza
SEIU 521 Fresno COPE Committee
California Environment Voters Education Fund
Central California Environmental Justice Network, CCEJN
Center on Race Poverty and the Environment
Vecinos Unidos of Sanger
Vecinos Unidos of Caruthers - **COMING**
Vecinos Unidos of Parlier
Central Valley Progressive Political Action
Several individual letters
 Patsy Montgomery, District 3
 Ernesto Saavedra, District 1
 Sarah Montgomery & Garreth Saxton, District 2

**ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR EQUITABLE MAP COALITION
SINCE 10-5-2021 SUBMISSION**

Leadership Counsel for Justice

Central Labor Council – Fresno · Madera · Tulare · Kings - AFL-CIO

From: [Olivia Seideman](#)
To: [Fresno County 2021 Redistricting](#)
Cc: [Mariana Alvarenga](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Equitable Map Coalition's Proposed Map and COIs
Date: Tuesday, October 05, 2021 11:05:34 AM
Attachments: [Fresno Redistricting COIs.pdf](#)
[Letter of Support for Equitable Map LCJA 10052021.pdf](#)

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Hello,

My name is Olivia Seideman and I work for Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, a community-based organization that works with communities in Lanare, Cantua Creek/El Porvenir, and Tombstone in Fresno County.

Attached to this email is our letter of support for the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map, as well as 29 COI maps from residents in the communities of Lanare and Cantua Creek/El Porvenir. These COIs reflect community support for the EMC's proposed map as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Olivia Seideman

--

Olivia Seideman (she/her)
Civic Engagement Coordinator
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
2210 San Joaquin St, Fresno, CA 93721
oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org | leadershipcounsel.org
Cell: (510) 410-0151



October 5, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail
FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov

To: Fresno County Board of Supervisors & the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission

Re: Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability's Strong Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works alongside low-income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley and the Eastern Coachella Valley. As is most relevant here, we work with community leaders across Fresno City and in Lanare, Tombstone, and Cantua Creek to advocate for local, regional and state government entities to address their community's needs for the basic elements that make up a safe and healthy community, including safe and affordable drinking water, affordable housing, effective and safe transportation, efficient and affordable energy, green spaces, and clean air.

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability is in strong support of the Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)'s map proposal, as we believe that it accurately reflects the demographic change of Fresno County between 2011 and 2021. After holding multiple community meetings focused on redistricting in the communities of Cantua Creek/El Porvenir and Lanare in the western part of the county and Tombstone in the eastern region, we also support the EMC's map proposal because it preserves the communities of interest articulated by many residents in these communities. Included with this letter are 25 COIs that reflect this.

Community members in Lanare and Cantua Creek/El Porvenir would like to be in the same district, as they face similar issues in the Western part of the county around land use, housing, water, agriculture, and more. Community members in Tombstone do not want to be in the same district as the western communities, as they face different challenges around water and agriculture and feel that a district that includes more eastern communities, rather than encompassing both eastern and western parts of the county (as the map drawn in 2011 does) would allow them to be in a district with other communities with similar interests.

EMC's map is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides an opportunity for fair representation.



Best,
Olivia Seideman
Civic Engagement Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability



CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

FRESNO · MADERA · TULARE · KINGS COUNTIES

AFL-CIO

Serving Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings Counties

The Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council is chartered by the AFL-CIO to represent local labor unions and their members in our community. We serve 105,000 workers from 50 affiliated Unions in four counties. As a central body, the Council exists to create a common space for shared education, information and advocacy between our affiliate unions.

We have followed closely the redistricting process for Boards of Supervisors in the four counties that we represent. Moreover, we have participated in multiple coalitions to monitor the processes, gather community input and propose map options.

After reviewing multiple draft redistricting maps proposed by different community coalitions, we are excited by the potential of delivering equitable maps for currently underrepresented communities. As the population of the Central Valley has evolved over the last 20 years, our representation at the county level continues to be stagnant, both idealistically and ethnically. The incredible work that we have undertaken with our coalition allies in state legislature, as well as with the Census 2020, have given working families an opportunity to finally expose and eliminate gerrymandered county supervisorial districts.

One of our allied coalitions, The Equity Coalition for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, has proposed a map that clearly and directly corrects previously gerrymandered district lines. We are supportive of this map's progress. The proposed districts from this coalition meet the legal requirements and provide the opportunity for elected leadership that is more representative of our diverse communities than current leadership.

We particularly appreciate the use of city lines and highways as easily identifiable artificial boundaries between rural communities of interest in Westside and Eastside Fresno County. The two distinct regions have significant differences in the areas of agricultural economic drivers, education access and transportation. Each region deserves to have its own representative that will meet its challenges and uplift those needs.

This map creates three effective Latino majority districts, while also ensuring the supervisors represent distinct regions and communities of interest within the county. The proposed districts should result in policy, programmatic and funding decisions that will have a positive and equitable impact for all residents of Fresno County.

Dillon Savory
Executive Director
Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings
Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO