



November 2, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail

[ClerkBOS@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:ClerkBOS@fresnocountyca.gov)

2281 Tulare Street, # 301

Fresno, CA 93721

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 Territory, Cantua Creek, and El Porvenir to advocate for local, regional and state government entities to address their communities' 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.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to reject the maps recommended by the Advisory Redistricting Commission and adopt the Equity Coalition map, namely because the proposed maps may not comply with California's Fair Maps Act by failing to take into account communities of interest that share common interests including around housing, land use, and water.

The Fair Maps Act states:

“To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A ‘community of interest’ is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.”

All three maps recommended to the Board of Supervisors - NDC maps 120 and 121 and public map 101b - fail to respect communities of interest in Fresno County. The Western and Eastern sides of the County are distinct Communities of Interest - after speaking with residents in both Cantua Creek/El Porvenir and Lanare on the western side of the county and in Tombstone on the eastern side, we found there was overwhelming support for a map that consisted of the western communities in one district and the eastern communities in another. We submitted 29 COI maps to support this. None of the three maps proposed by the Advisory Redistricting Commission respect these communities of interest, which are based on the fact that the water, housing, land use and other issues facing communities in the west differ from those faced by communities in the east.



The Equity Coalition's proposed map upholds these communities of interest by thoughtfully splitting the rural communities along Highway 41. Furthermore, the Equity Coalition map has a smaller population deviation than any of the three maps recommended by the Advisory Redistricting Commission, with a deviation of 0.02% compared to the three recommended maps' deviations of 1%, 2.75%, and 3.33%.

After many conversations with community members in Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, and Lanare on the western side of the county, and Tombstone Territory on the eastern side, we believe that it is vital to preserve their communities of interest by dividing the districts so that the western side of the county is in one district and the eastern side is in another. The issues facing the western side, specifically related to housing, land use, and water, are different from those facing the eastern side. As such, we urge the Board to reject the three maps proposed by the Redistricting Advisory Redistricting Commission and adopt the Equity Coalition's proposed map.

Sincerely,

Olivia Seideman

Civic Engagement Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

[oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:oseideman@leadershipcounsel.org)