

**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: Submission of EMC Revised District Map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors with Supporting Materials**

Date: October 5, 2021

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The purpose of this memo is to:

1. Provide our revised Proposed EMC Map, briefly compare the current and proposed districts, and describe changes we propose;
2. Provide supporting data for EMC's proposed map; and
3. Summarize relevant Communities of Interest within each Proposed District.

We believe the Advisory Redistricting Commission should recommend, and the Board of Supervisors should adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's revised map because it 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 confirms 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	1,008,514	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 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.

## **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
- 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 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

### **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.

## **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](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



### 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 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 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](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 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.

### 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 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.

#### 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](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 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 CalEnvironScreen 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.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



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

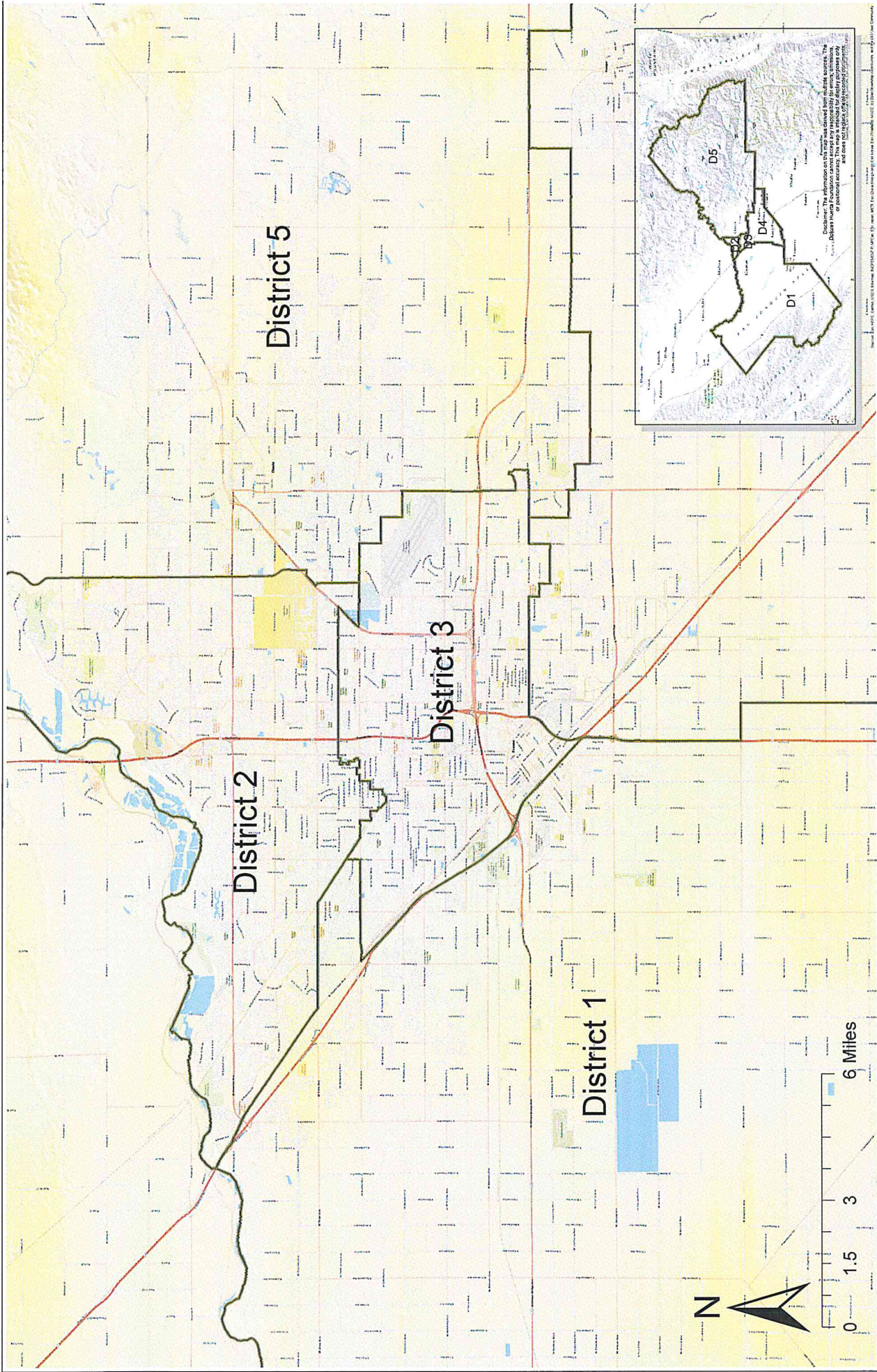


water was diverted from the Kings River and the Easterby ranch at Kings Canyon and Peach became a “miracle in the desert.” Fresno’s wine industry began on Fancher Creek. Sunnyside was very different from the rest of rural Fresno as great wealth flowed in, mostly from San Francisco. Sunnyside has many ranch style homes built in the 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 urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take these comments about important communities of interest seriously and adopt the Equity Maps Coalition’s revised map.



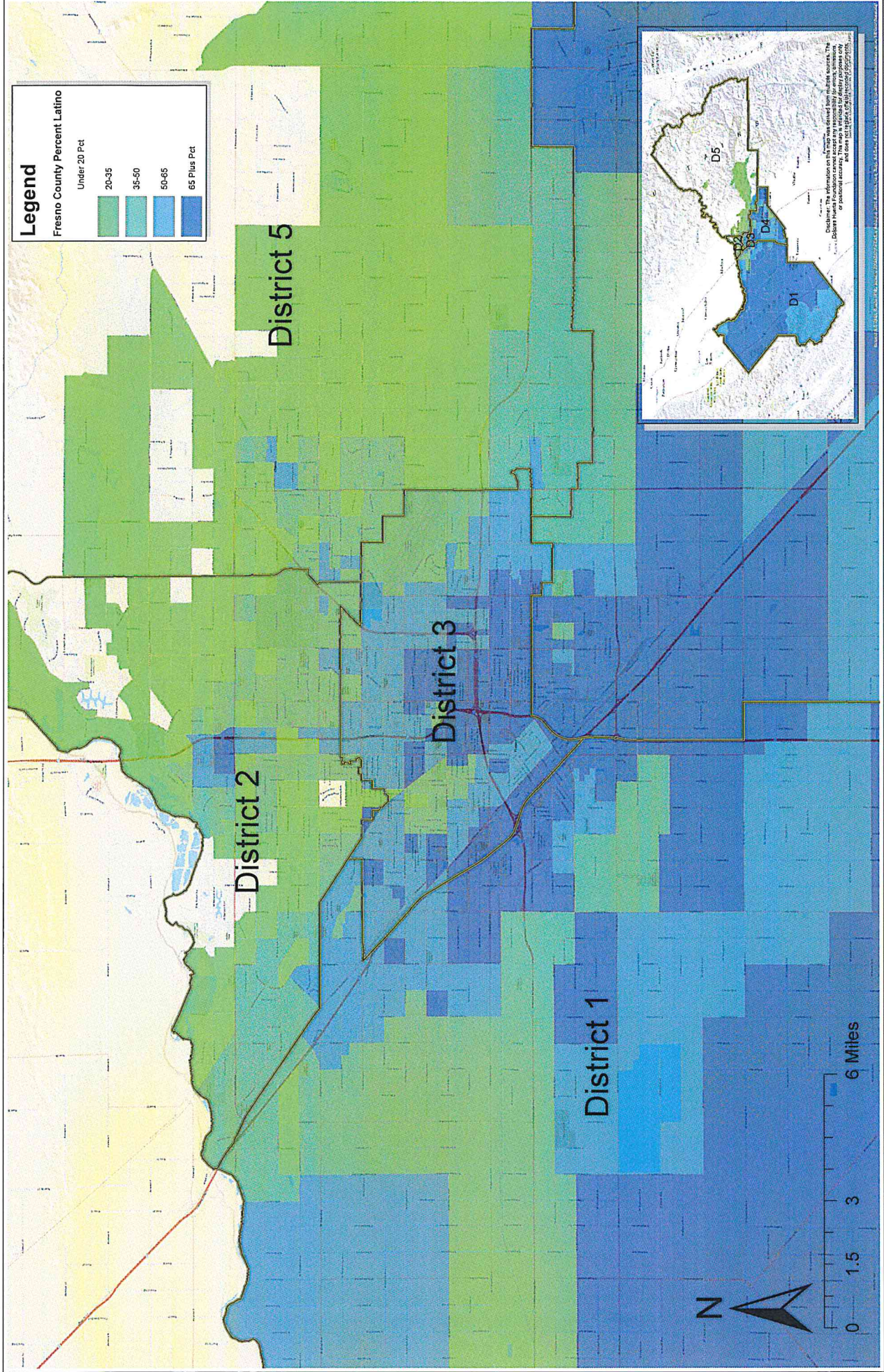


# Fresno County Board of Supervisors Proposed Districts October 2021

Fresno County  
Equitable Maps Coalition

Map was created by La Cresta Demographics  
Using ArcView GIS 10.8  
State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 83





Fresno County  
 Equitable Maps Coalition  
 Map was created by La Cresta Demographics  
 Using ArcView GIS 10.8  
 State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 83

# Fresno County Board of Supervisors Proposed Districts: Latino Percent October 2021



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

A.1: Population by Race by Year	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity						All Remaining	%		
		Latino	White	Black	Asian /PAC	White	Black				
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	1,008,511	540,652	53.6%	271,350	26.9%	49,259	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,637	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						All Remaining	%		
		Latino	White	Black	Asian / PAC	White	Black				
Total	1,008,511	540,652	53.6%	271,350	26.9%	49,259	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,637	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%	11,043	5.5%	24,443	12.3%	6,630	3.3%
BOS District 3	188,305	123,912	65.8%	24,987	13.3%	12,340	6.6%	22,373	11.9%	4,693	2.5%
BOS District 4	185,974	143,254	77.0%	30,416	16.4%	1,701	0.9%	7,308	3.9%	3,295	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						All Remaining	%		
		Latino	White	Black	Asian / PAC	White	Black				
Total	1,008,511	540,652	53.6%	271,350	26.9%	49,259	4.9%	118,613	11.8%	28,637	2.8%
BOS District 1	201,675	136,486	67.7%	28,887	14.3%	12,741	6.3%	19,344	9.6%	4,217	2.1%
BOS District 2	201,703	67,754	33.6%	87,719	43.5%	11,921	5.9%	27,657	13.7%	6,652	3.3%
BOS District 3	201,722	125,516	62.2%	32,467	16.1%	14,937	7.4%	23,166	11.5%	5,636	2.8%
BOS District 4	201,702	150,103	74.4%	27,420	13.6%	3,982	2.0%	16,672	8.3%	3,525	1.7%
BOS District 5	201,709	60,793	30.1%	94,857	47.0%	5,678	2.8%	31,774	15.8%	8,607	4.3%



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

B.1: CVAP by Year	Total CVAP	Race/Ethnicity					
		Latino	White	Black	Asian / PAC	Remaining	%
YEAR							
2013	531,771	203,639	244,575	31,393	47,004	5,160	8.8%
2015	551,385	220,749	241,598	32,209	51,270	5,559	9.3%
2019	590,119	249,736	234,729	34,691	61,834	9,129	10.5%

B.2: CVAP by Current District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity					
		Latino	White	Black	Asian / PAC	Remaining	%
Total	579,119	225,682	46,776	46,776	45,384	261,277	45.1%
BOS District 1	147,321	23,867	9,227	9,227	4,762	109,465	74.3%
BOS District 2	127,586	28,669	3,979	3,979	8,333	86,605	67.9%
BOS District 3	127,734	58,892	16,023	16,023	3,021	49,798	39.0%
BOS District 4	87,964	53,328	4,551	4,551	12,940	17,145	19.5%
BOS District 5	88,514	60,926	7,305	7,305	2,083	18,200	20.6%

B.3: CVAP by Proposed District	Total Population	Race/Ethnicity					
		Latino	White	Black	Asian / PAC	Remaining	%
Total	590,119	249,736	234,729	34,691	61,834	9,129	10.5%
BOS District 1	99,444	53,848	25,542	9,378	9,217	1,459	1.5%
BOS District 2	144,284	39,358	79,410	8,216	15,198	2,102	1.5%
BOS District 3	114,751	58,573	31,159	10,930	12,410	1,679	1.5%
BOS District 4	104,344	65,998	24,051	2,628	9,763	1,904	1.8%
BOS District 5	127,296	31,959	74,567	3,539	15,246	1,985	1.6%



## 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%





## 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, appearing to read "Andrew Escamilla".

# CCCFER

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR EQUITABLE REALIGNMENT

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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,



Michael D. Evans, Chair  
704-975-8874  
evansm@usa.net





## Central California Environmental Justice Network

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October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Via Email*

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
County Administrative Office  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

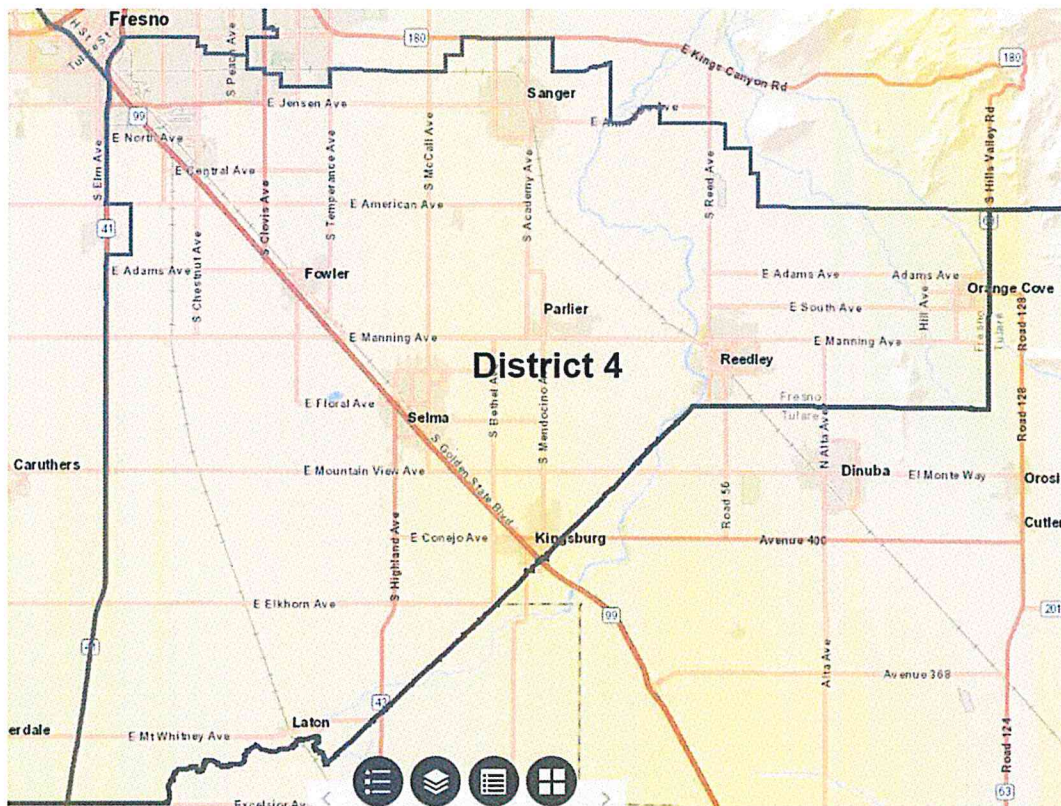
**Re: Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal**

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

On behalf of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN), we write to express our strong support of the Equity Map Coalition's ("EMC") proposed revised map, specifically as it relates to proposed District 4 which includes the communities of **Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities** such as **Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, and Laton**. The proposed District 4 also includes the **older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno**, as these residents share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside.

For over 20 years, CCEJN has worked closely with residents of the disadvantaged communities of Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, Orange Cove and Southeast Fresno and we have seen firsthand the socioeconomic and environmental similarities that warrant them being in the same district. Keeping these communities of interest whole in proposed District 4 will allow them to receive the adequate representation they deserve, and that Fresno County has failed to provide under existing supervisorial maps. For these and the following reasons, we urge the Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map and preserve our communities of interest.

Under the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors map, the communities east of Highway 41, in EMC's proposed District 4, are grouped in with towns and unincorporated communities in West Fresno County, like Huron and Coalinga, that tend to rely on Interstate 5, rather than the Highway 99. The communities in proposed District 4 are also grouped with unincorporated communities like Raisin City in West Fresno County, for which Kerman serves as its hub for shopping, pharmacy and banking needs.



EMC's proposed District 4

### The communities in proposed District 4 share socioeconomic similarities

The communities in EMC's proposed District 4 share demographic and socioeconomic similarities. For example, in the jurisdictions of Calwa (90%), Orange Cove (94.8%), Malaga (92.8%) and Parlier (97.5%), over 90 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census. In the jurisdictions of Laton (73.6%), Reedley (79.1%), Selma (89.2%), Del Rey (88.8%), and Sanger (82.6%), over 70 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census.

Residents from the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside, including living in high poverty areas, heavily Latino (as described above), seasonal income because of seasonal work, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Because these areas are heavily Latino, it also means that they share linguistic similarities.

These communities also have a more difficult time accessing broadband internet. According to ACS 2019 data, only 53.7% of Parlier residents have a subscription to broadband; only 60.3% in Orange Cove; and 68.9% in Reedley. When it comes to residents with a bachelors degree or higher, only 4.1% have one in Parlier; 1.6% in Orange Cove; and only 12.7% in Reedley.



Many residents in these communities also travel more than 20 minutes each day to work. Specifically, ACS 2019 data reveals that Kingsburg residents travel an average of 22.9 minutes; Sanger residents 26.7 minutes; Orange Cove 27.5 minutes and, Parlier 23.2 minutes.

**The communities in proposed District 4 experience shared environmental burdens**

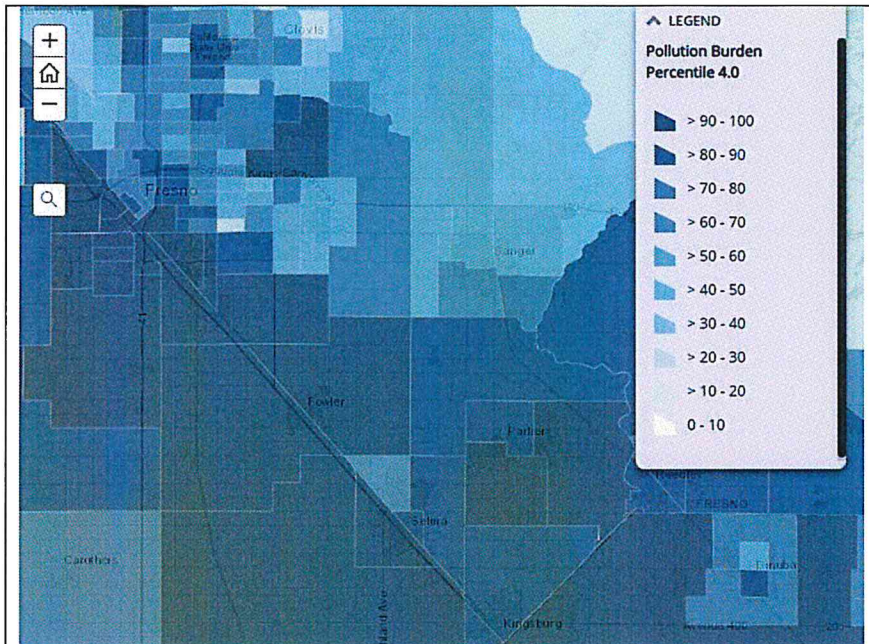
While much of Fresno County experiences environmental burdens such as poor air quality and water insecurity issues, the communities in proposed District 4 share similarities in how they are disproportionately burdened with pollution and pesticide contamination. The undersigned organizations used California's CalEnviroScreen's mapping tool to illustrate this point.<sup>1</sup> This screening tool is particularly effective because it uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Under such screen, almost all of the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Score of 91-100% or above. This means that these communities are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. The screen is also used by CalEPA and its departments to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. As such, it is important that these communities remain "whole" to ensure that they benefit from the same grants and funding that could be available through the state using such screening tool.

When analyzing these communities further, these communities are similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to the screening tool, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg and the unincorporated communities in-between all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentile. *See* Images below.

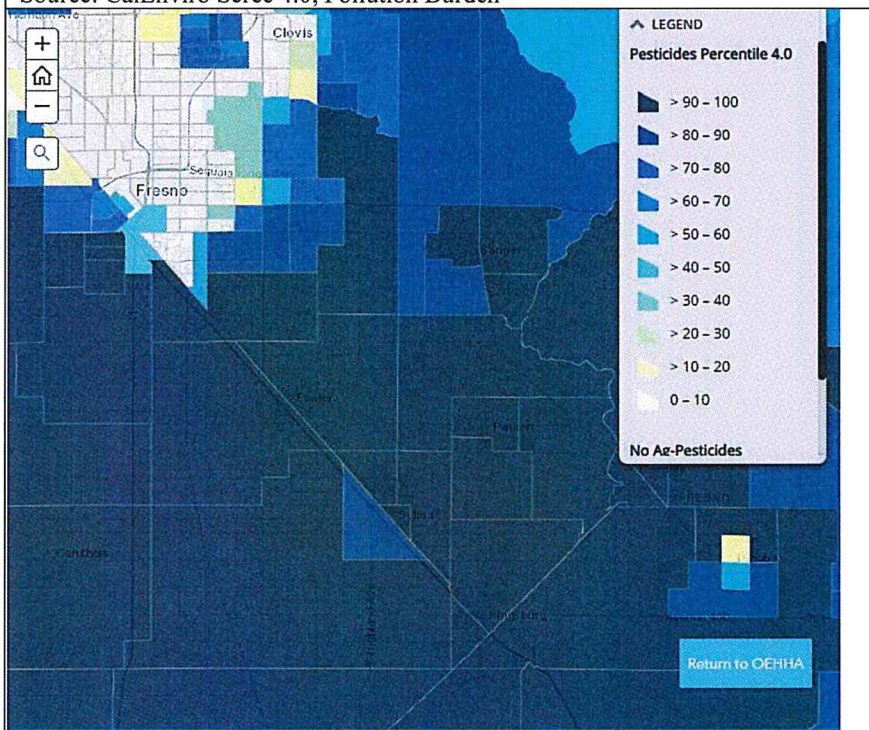
These communities have and will continue to advocate for environmental protections, as illustrated by the screening tool. As such, they will benefit from remaining together in one district as proposed in the Equitable Map Coalition's map.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pesticides Percentile 4.0

*Similarities in the type of crops farmworkers harvest*



Residents who live in the communities in proposed District 4 also work in and harvest similar crops, including crops that are different from those grown in West Fresno County. For example, citrus and fresh fruit are more commonly grown in the communities of proposed District 4 while West Fresno County is known for row crops like processing tomatoes, garlic, alfalfa, and cotton. Specifically, in the Orange Cove Irrigation District, 75% of farmland is citrus and only 16% nuts and grapes.<sup>2</sup> These differences are important because it impacts skills required to cultivate and harvest the different crops. In other words, the farmworkers in West Fresno County are more familiar working with row-crops while those in Sanger, Selma, and Parlier are more familiar with citrus.

### **Conclusion**

We urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take our comments about our communities of interest seriously and adopt the proposed Equity Maps Coalition's map that keeps the communities of **Calwa, Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities, and the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno** together within one district. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the undersigned organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nayamin Martinez', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nayamin Martinez, MPH  
Executive Director  
Central California Environmental Justice Network  
4991 E McKinley Ave. Ste. 109  
Fresno CA 93727  
[www.ccejn.org](http://www.ccejn.org)

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<sup>2</sup> Orange Cove Irrigation District, available at:  
<http://www.orangecoveid.org/about%20the%20district.php#>.



## Central Valley Leadership Round Table

September 15, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

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

Re: Central Valley Leadership Round Table Strong Support  
for **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

The Central Valley Leadership Round Table (CVLRT) is a group of rural elected and community leaders in Fresno County, many of whom are former farm laborers or the children of farmworkers. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

The CVLRT represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for more farmworker protections, a pathway to citizenship, and inclusion in coronavirus relief funding.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms 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 %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

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. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.



**Re: Central Valley Leadership Roundtable's Strong Support  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Two**

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial Districts, to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

The CVLRT believes the current map for the Fresno Board of Supervisors 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).

EMC's Proposed Map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type, or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. 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.

We are pleased District 1, as proposed by EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the City of Fresno west of Highway 99.

- **Rural Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin. Proposed District 1 **ADDS** Huron and Coalinga, which are now in District 4. The current District 4 stretches 100 miles, from Coalinga to Orange Cove.
- **Unincorporated communities:** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquility, and West Park. As proposed, District 1 **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City, & Riverdale, which are now in District 4.

These unincorporated rural communities are among the poorest and most isolated, and lack the basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhood—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. Moreover, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions.

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency transit routes shed light on transportation patterns in the rural Westside and support use of Highway 41 as the dividing line.

Westlands and Westhills College District are currently split into two supervisor districts, but EMC's Proposed District 1 includes:

- All of the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.
- All of the Westlands Water District

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the Supervisorial District map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the Central Valley Leadership Round Table stands in strong support.

**Re: Central Valley Leadership Roundtable's Strong Support  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three**

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

Sincerely,

*Eliseo Gamino*

President,  
Central Valley Leadership Round Table  
P.O. Box# 1201, Firebaugh, CA 93622  
(559) 250-1253  
[gamayer20@gmail.com](mailto:gamayer20@gmail.com)





October 5, 2021

*Via Email*

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
County Administrative Office  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

**Re: Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal**

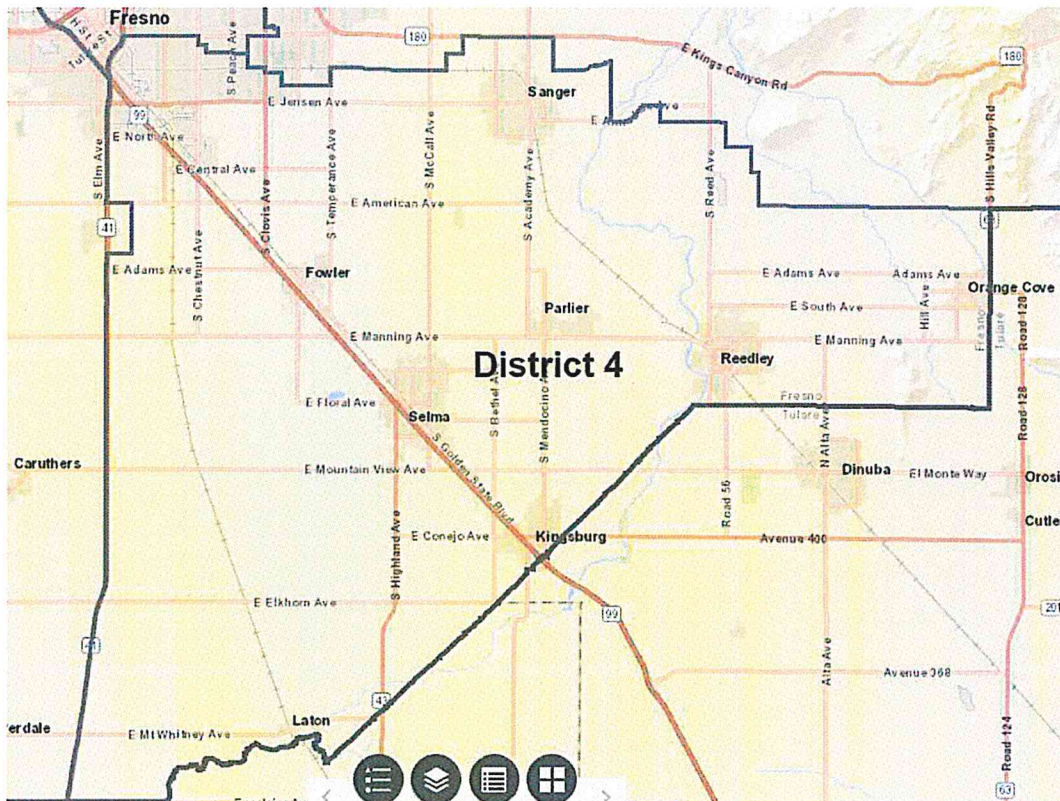
Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and  
Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

I write to express Cultiva La Salud's strong support of the Equity Map Coalition's ("EMC") proposed revised map, specifically as it relates to proposed District 4 which includes the communities of **Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities** such as **Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, and Laton**. The proposed District 4 also includes the **older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno**, as these residents share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside.

Cultiva La Salud works closely with those communities and strongly believe that they share socioeconomic and environmental similarities that warrant them being in the same district. Keeping these communities of interest whole in proposed District 4 will allow them to receive the adequate representation they deserve, and that Fresno County has failed to provide under existing supervisorial maps. During our years of work in these communities we know that they often lack equitable investments that promote health such as easy access to healthy foods, clean water and safe places to be physically active. The absence of these investments played a role in residents' susceptibility to COVID, given the burden of pre-existing conditions in these communities. During the pandemic, there has been a lack of early outreach and education as well as the provision of resources, such as PPE, that could have helped prevent COVID spread. Now these communities are struggling to fight back against COVID. For these and the following reasons, I urge the Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map and preserve our communities of interest.

Under the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors map, the communities east of Highway 41, in EMC's proposed District 4, are grouped in with towns and unincorporated

communities in West Fresno County, like Huron and Coalinga, that tend to rely on Interstate 5, rather than the Highway 99. The communities in proposed District 4 are also grouped with unincorporated communities like Raisin City in West Fresno County, for which Kerman serves as its hub for shopping, pharmacy, and banking needs.



EMC's proposed District 4

### **The communities in proposed District 4 share socioeconomic similarities**

The communities in EMC's proposed District 4 share demographic and socioeconomic similarities. For example, in the jurisdictions of Calwa (90%), Orange Cove (94.8%), Malaga (92.8%) and Parlier (97.5%), over 90 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census. In the jurisdictions of Laton (73.6%), Reedley (79.1%), Selma (89.2%), Del Rey (88.8%), and Sanger (82.6%), over 70 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census.

Residents from the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the eastside of Fresno County, including living in high poverty areas, heavily Latino (as described above), seasonal income



because of seasonal work, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Because these areas are heavily Latino, it also means that they share linguistic similarities.

These communities also have a more difficult time accessing broadband internet. According to ACS 2019 data, only 53.7% of Parlier residents have a subscription to broadband; only 60.3% in Orange Cove; and 68.9% in Reedley. When it comes to residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, only 4.1% have one in Parlier; 1.6% in Orange Cove; and only 12.7% in Reedley.

Many residents in these communities also travel more than 20 minutes each day to work. Specifically, ACS 2019 data reveals that Kingsburg residents travel an average of 22.9 minutes; Sanger residents 26.7 minutes; Orange Cove 27.5 minutes and, Parlier 23.2 minutes.

**The communities in proposed District 4 experience shared environmental burdens**

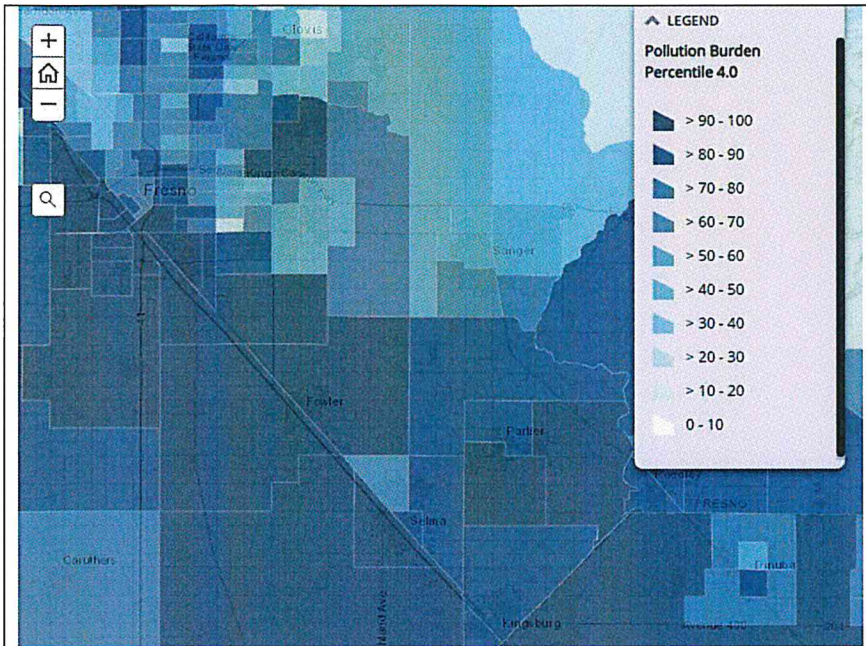
While much of Fresno County experiences environmental burdens such as poor air quality and water insecurity issues, the communities in proposed District 4 share similarities in how they are disproportionately burdened with pollution and pesticide contamination. The undersigned organizations used California's CalEnviroScreen's mapping tool to illustrate this point.<sup>1</sup> This screening tool is particularly effective because it uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Under such screen, almost all of the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of 91-100% or above. This means that these communities are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. The screen is also used by CalEPA and its departments to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. As such, it is important that these communities remain "whole" to ensure that they benefit from the same grants and funding that could be available through the state using such screening tool.

When analyzing these communities further, these communities are similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to the screening tool, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg and the unincorporated community's in-between all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentiles. *See Images below.*

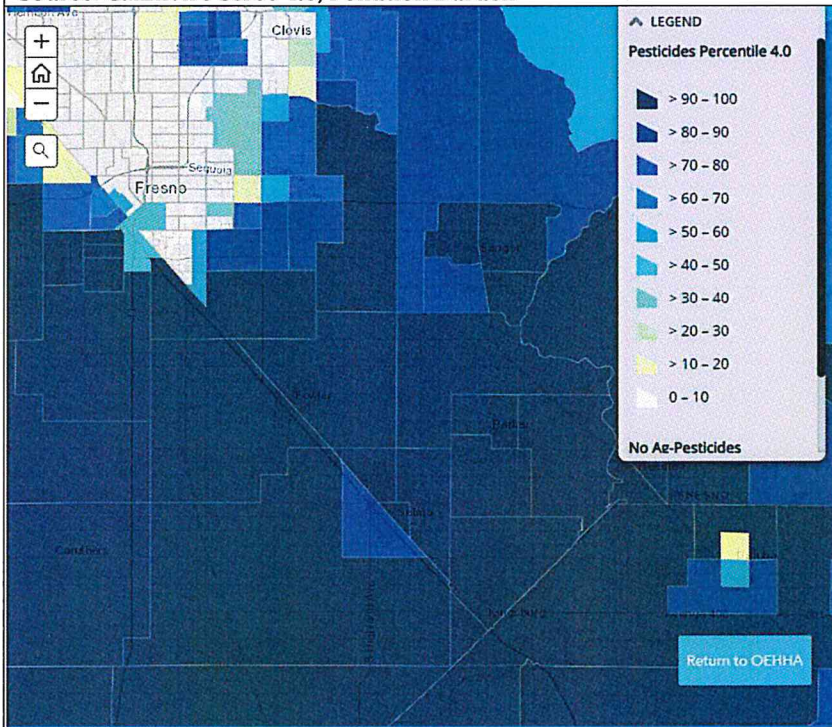
These communities have and will continue to advocate for environmental protections, as illustrated by the screening tool. As such, they will benefit from remaining together in one district as proposed in the Equitable Map Coalition's map.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pesticides Percentile 4.0



### **Similarities in the type of crops farmworkers harvest**

Residents who live in the communities in proposed District 4 also work in and harvest similar crops, including crops that are different from those grown in West Fresno County. For example, citrus and fresh fruit are more commonly grown in the communities of proposed District 4 while West Fresno County is known for row crops like processing tomatoes, garlic, alfalfa, and cotton. Specifically, in the Orange Cove Irrigation District, 75% of farmland is citrus and only 16% nuts and grapes.<sup>2</sup> These differences are important because it impacts skills required to cultivate and harvest the different crops. In other words, the farmworkers in West Fresno County are more familiar working with row-crops while those in Sanger, Selma, and Parlier are more familiar with citrus.

### **Conclusion**

We urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take our comments about our communities of interest seriously and adopt the proposed Equity Maps Coalition's map that keeps the communities of **Calwa, Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities, and the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno** together within one district. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [Genoveva@CultivaLaSalud.org](mailto:Genoveva@CultivaLaSalud.org).

Sincerely,



Genoveva Islas, MPH  
Executive Director, Cultiva La Salud

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<sup>2</sup> Orange Cove Irrigation District, available at: <http://www.orangecoveid.org/about%20the%20district.php#>.



October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

Re: Central Valley Partnership Strongly Supports **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

The Central Valley Partnership (CVP) is a progressive network of labor unions, environmental organizations and community leadership with a mission to achieve social, racial, environmental and economic justice in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Noting the history of exclusion, segregation and racism prevalent in the San Joaquin Valley, often resulting in the disenfranchisement of democratic voting for the region’s residents, we strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that voters from underrepresented groups, communities of color and immigrant backgrounds have an opportunity to participate fully in our electoral system of government and to have their voices heard at the ballot box.

We preface our comment letter with reference to new Census data, which confirms 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 %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

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. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and



requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

After a thorough review of the district boundaries proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, the Central Valley Partnership is in full, strong support of the map. The proposed districts are contiguous, respect neighborhoods and cities as well as communities of interest, have easily identifiable boundaries, and are compact.

We particularly support the use of Highway 41 as an easily identifiable artificial boundary 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 its needs.

Under the proposed maps, the entirety of the Westside is kept whole. We support this because it would strengthen the Westside community of interest by including together all the area served by West Hills Community College District and Westlands Water District, and all the areas connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes. The Westside has been divided for too long.

In order to meet population requirements and in keeping with the use of easily identifiable boundaries, the proposed map uses Highway 99 as a boundary and includes City of Fresno communities west of the highway with the rural Westside communities. There is precedent for this in the current Supervisorial District map and neighborhoods west of Highway 99 are tied to some of the rural Westside communities via the many farmworkers and ag-related employees living in this area.

City of Fresno neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa are put in a proposed district with the rural Eastside cities in current Supervisorial District Four. We support this because these neighborhoods and cities together form a community of interest and are bound together by work, family, shared culture and religion, and socioeconomics. Additionally, together, they all face similar challenges around educational attainment, housing, and healthcare access. District Four includes all the rural towns connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Eastside routes.

We support keeping the City of Clovis whole and together, anchoring its own supervisorial district and including areas with new growth along with the foothill and mountain areas. Willow Avenue serves as the border between the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis and should also serve as an easily identifiable artificial boundary between Supervisorial District Two and District Five, respectively.

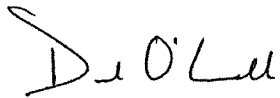
The proposed districts for Central and North City of Fresno maintain the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and respects the ethnic communities of interest in the city's urban core. The Central Supervisorial District Three is largely preserved, along with well-established and historic neighborhoods of working class and low-income families. The North Fresno Supervisorial District Two is also largely preserved and uses well understood natural and artificial boundaries like the San Joaquin River, Highway 99, Shaw and Ashlan Avenues.

The latest Census data shows the great diversity and significant growth of Fresno County. That diversity is represented in the map proposed by the Equity Map Coalition, which creates three effective Latino majority districts, while also ensuring our Supervisors represent distinct regions and communities of

interest within our county. These proposed districts will result in policy, programmatic, and funding decisions that will have a positive and equitable impact for all residents of Fresno County.

We strongly support these proposed districts and urge your serious consideration and ultimate support for this Equity Coalition map.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a clear "O'Connell".

**Daniel O'Connell**  
**Executive Director**  
**Central Valley Partnership**



# Central Valley Progressive PAC



September 22, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

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

Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

The Central Valley Progressive PAC is a group of concerned activists in Fresno County. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters would have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for all progressives in the Central Valley to have a voice and get the resources they need to thrive.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms 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 %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
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2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%

Although 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. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the Federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few Census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Two

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial districts to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

The Central Valley Progressive PAC believes the current map for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors 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).

EMC's proposed map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. 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.

We are pleased that District 1, as proposed by the EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the city of Fresno west of Highway 99.

- **Rural Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin. Proposed District 1 **ADDS** Huron and Coalinga, which are now in District 4. The current District 4 stretches 100 miles, from Coalinga to Orange Cove.
- **Unincorporated communities:** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquillity and West Park. As proposed, District 1 **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City and Riverdale, which are now in District 4.

These unincorporated rural communities are among the poorest and most isolated, many of which lack the basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhoods—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. Moreover, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions.

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency transit routes shed light on transportation patterns in the rural Westside and support use of Highway 41 as the dividing line.

Westlands and the West Hills Community College District are currently split into two supervisorial districts, but EMC's proposed District 1 includes the following:

- All the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.
- All the Westlands Water District.

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the supervisorial district map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the Central Valley Progressive PAC stands in strong support.



Re: Central Valley Progressive PAC Strong Support  
for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three

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

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Simone Cranston-Rhodes*

Central Valley Progressive PAC President

P.O. Box 5845

Fresno, CA 93755

559-978-4504

centralvalleyprogressives@gmail.com



October 4, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail

*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

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

Re: Fresno Barrios Unidos Support for **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

Fresno Barrios Unidos is a community-based organization serving marginalized, systems-impacted youth and their families. We transform communities by empowering the youth and families we serve in Fresno and surrounding cities, with a focus on our homebase in Southeast Fresno. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect our community's diversity, and strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle to ensure fair representation.

We have reviewed the district boundaries proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and we are in full support of the map. The proposed districts are contiguous, respect neighborhoods and cities as well as communities of interest, have easily identifiable boundaries, and are compact,

The proposed districts for Central and North City of Fresno maintain the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and respects the ethnic communities of interest in the city's urban core. The Central Supervisorial District Three is largely preserved, along with well-established and historic neighborhoods of working class and low-income families. The North Fresno Supervisorial District Two is also largely preserved and uses well understood natural and artificial boundaries like the San Joaquin River, Golden State Boulevard, Shaw and Gettysburg Avenues, and Willow Avenue at the Clovis border.

We particularly support the use of Highway 41 as an easily identifiable artificial boundary 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 its needs.

City of Fresno neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa are put in a proposed district with the rural Eastside cities in current Supervisorial District Four. We support this because these neighborhoods and cities together form a community of interest and are bound together by work, family, shared culture and religion, and socioeconomics. Additionally, together, they all face similar challenges around educational attainment, housing, and healthcare access. District Four includes all the rural towns connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Eastside routes.

Under the proposed maps, the entirety of the Westside is kept whole. We support this because it would strengthen the Westside community of interest by including together all the area served by West Hills Community College District and Westlands Water District, and all the areas connected by Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes. The Westside has been divided for too long.

In order to meet population requirements and in keeping with the use of easily identifiable boundaries, the proposed map uses Highway 99 as a boundary and includes City of Fresno communities west of the highway with the rural Westside communities. There is precedent for this in the current Supervisorial District map and neighborhoods west of Highway 99 are tied to some of the rural Westside communities via the many farmworkers and ag-related employees living in this area.

We support keeping the City of Clovis whole and together, anchoring its own supervisorial district and including areas with new growth along with the foothill and mountain areas. Willow Avenue serves as the border between the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis and should also serve as an easily identifiable artificial boundary between Supervisorial District Two and District Five, respectively.

The latest Census data shows the great diversity and significant growth of Fresno County. That diversity is represented in the map proposed by the Equity Map Coalition, which creates three effective Latino majority districts, while also ensuring our Supervisors represent distinct regions and communities of interest within our county. These proposed districts will result in policy, programmatic, and funding decisions that will have a positive and equitable impact for all residents of Fresno County.



We strongly support these proposed districts and urge your serious consideration and ultimate support for this Equity Coalition map.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley C. Rojas".

Ashley C. Rojas  
Executive Director  
Fresno Barrios Unidos



# **Latino Educational Issues Roundtable**

**September 27,2021**

**TO: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
& Fresno County Advisory Redistricting Commission**

**RE: Latino Educational Issues Roundtable Support  
for the Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map**

**My name is Venancio G. Gaona, chair of the Latino Educational Issues Roundtable (LEIR) organization. The Latino Educational Issues Roundtable organization is an advocate for the advancement of the socio-economic and educational programs and services for the Chicano/Latino residents in the County of Fresno. The LEIR advocacy is conducted before federal, state, municipal, and county agencies and offices.**

**The LEIR organization has carefully studied the map developed and proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for Supervisorial district boundaries. We are in full support. The proposed districts are compact and easily understandable.**

**We have also reviewed the U.S. Census data, which confirms the significant demographic changes that have transformed the County of Fresno. The Chicano/Latino population has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, yet the opportunity for disadvantaged communities of interest to elect candidates of their choice for supervisorial seats has not kept pace.**

**The proposed supervisorial redistricting map complies with our review of all mandated federal and state laws, especially the California Fair Maps Act (A.B. 849) passed in 2019 to standardize the local redistricting process, to ensure fairness and prohibit gerrymandering.**

**We particularly support the grouping of communities of interest and the division between the rural areas of the Eastside and the Westside of the County, at Highway 41. There is a significant difference between the two mentioned areas. Each deserves to have its own supervisorial representative. The proposed map by EMC attempts to keep the whole Westside together for the first time, including all the area served by West Hills College, Westlands Water District, and Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routs.**

**We believe incorporating Southeast Fresno with the rural towns in District 4 makes sense, as residents are bound together by work, family, ethnicity, income levels, language, and face the similar socio-economic challenges and living conditions.**

2.

We also strongly support the concept of the City of Clovis having its own Supervisor, along with the new growth, foothill, and mountain areas. Furthermore, we especially 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.

Conclusion: The Equitable Map Coalition map proposal is fair, research-based, meets all federal and state legal requirements, and provides a democratic opportunity for fair representation for a significant underrepresented numbers of citizens with the right to vote.

Respectfully,

Venancio G. Gaona, Chair  
Latino Educational Issues Roundtable  
5209 E. Hamilton Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727  
559---367-8554  
[vaona@education-leadership.org](mailto:vaona@education-leadership.org)





September 13, 2021

Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition  
c/o Dolores Huerta Foundation  
P.O. Box 2087  
Bakersfield, Ca 93303  
Phone: (661) 322-3033

Dear Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition:

As the President of Nueva Alianza of the City of San Joaquin, I support and recommend the map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition. In their proposed Redistricting map for Fresno County, the Dolores Huerta Foundation has done a diligent job of ensuring that all diverse populations are able to participate and be represented.

San Joaquin is a severely disadvantaged, farmworker community in the center of the rural Westside of Fresno County. About half the 4000 residents are undocumented and live below the poverty level, and about 54% are renters. Only about 30% of adults age 25 and up have a high school diploma or GED and under 4% have a college degree.

Huron, Raisin City, Caruthers, Riverdale and Lanare, as well as Mendota, and Firebaugh are all similar to San Joaquin. Our residents are predominantly Latino, immigrants or the children of immigrants, and we share the same struggles of poverty, unemployment, and underemployment, aggravated by the drought and extreme reductions in imported water. It makes sense for all these small rural towns and small communities on the rural Westside to be grouped together in the same Supervisor District.

Nueva Alianza recognizes the tremendous efforts by the Dolores Huerta Foundation and the Equitable Map Coalition to prepare a balanced and fair redistricting map. Without any hesitation, Nueva Alianza stands with the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Eva Luna*

President  
8339 Elm Street, Suite #B  
P.O. Box 834, San Joaquin, Ca. 93660  
[Evangeliluna@att.net](mailto:Evangeliluna@att.net)

September 24, 2021

**TO: Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Planned Parenthood Mar Monte**

**RE: SUPPORT EQUITY COALITION MAP FRESNO COUNTY BOS**

My name is Socorro Santillan, Regional Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (PPMM)

PPMM operates two health care centers in the City of Fresno, one Regional Administrative office and a Call Response Center in Clovis. Our Fulton Street Health Center originally opened on Van Ness Ave in District 3 in 1971 before moving to Fulton Street. The original site serves as the organizations Regional Administrative & Education site. Both remain in District 3, employs **37 fulltime employees** (FTEs), and served over **12,000 unduplicated patients** in fiscal year 2021 (FY21).

Our Family First health center is located in District 2 and served over **9,000** unduplicated patients in FY21, and employs **27 FTE**. Nearby in Clovis, District 5, is the PPMM Call Response Center which employs **73 FTE** whose Response Agents assisted with over 1 million calls for appointments or questions in 2020.

Of our **21,000+** patients in Fresno County, **75% live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, 71% are between the ages of 20-34** and **76% identify as non-white**. Patients served in Fresno are representative of all BOS Districts, and depending on where they live, Fresno County patients are also served at our Madera, Visalia, and even our Merced & Gilroy health centers. Services provided to residents outside of the county is often due to geographical proximity to their homes, work or college. It is also important to note that because of electronic health records, **and telemedicine** we are able to provide seamless, quality care for patients living in rural communities. It is important to note that rural residents often face limited access to health care due to a lack of public transportation and/or broadband internet connection due to cost or limited coverage.

PPMM has reviewed the map proposed by the Equity Map Coalition for Supervisor district boundaries and we found it to be in compliance with the California Fair Map Act and thoughtfully drawn. We are in full support and feel the proposed districts make sense, are compact and easily understandable.

We particularly endorse the grouping of communities of interest and the division of the rural areas on the Eastside and the Westside of the County, at Highway 41. There are significant



differences between these two areas, and each deserves to have its own, dedicated representative. We feel it is notable that the entire Westside is kept whole for the first time, including the area served by West Hills College, Westlands Water District, and Fresno County Rural Transit's Westside routes.

Our organization strongly believes that including Southeast Fresno with the rural towns in District 4 makes perfect sense, since they are bound together by work, family, ethnicity and income levels, and collectively face the similar economic challenges and living conditions.

We enthusiastically support Clovis having its own Supervisor, based on the new growth in the foothill and mountain areas. We support the logical decision to establish Willow Avenue as the border between the cities of Fresno and Clovis, and also between Districts 2 and 5, respectively.

Finally, the proposed districts for Central Fresno and North Fresno group together communities of interest. 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, the sixth largest County by geography in California, is diverse in its residents, industry/business and geographical characteristics. This map will ensure 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.

We believe the proposed Equity Coalition Map is compliant with the mandates of the California Fair Map Act, and best represents the demographic shifts that have happened over the last two decades. It is imperative that the Supervisor map in 2021 reflects these shifts and recognizes communities of interest.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, and many more, we strongly urge you to seriously consider the proposed Equity Coalition Map.

Respectfully,

Socorro Santillan  
Regional Director of Public Affairs  
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte  
[Socorro\\_Santillan@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:Socorro_Santillan@ppmarmonte.org)



**SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**

September 22, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
*FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov*

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

Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE Strong Support  
for **Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC)** Map Proposal

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), local 521 Fresno Committee on Political Education (COPE) is a group of concerned workers and community members in Fresno County. We note with concern that our representatives often do not reflect the region's diversity. We strongly believe that fair maps must be drawn and approved this redistricting cycle, so that minority voters have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice.

SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE represents many families and cities in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. We advocate for working families in the Central Valley to have rights and get the support they need to thrive.

We have carefully reviewed the new Census data, which confirms 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 %	% of Pop
1990	666,675		35.4%	50.7%	4.7%	8.1%	1.0%
2000	798,800	19.82%	44.0%	39.7%	5.0%	7.9%	3.4%
2010	930,450	16.48%	50.3%	32.7%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%
2020	1,008,654	8.40%	53.6%	27.0%	4.4%	10.9%	2.7%



**Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Two

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. We see the Fair Maps Act of 2019 and the Federal Voting Rights Act as opportunities and requirements to do more than simply move a few census tracts between urban districts to equalize population.

We are excited at the potential for significant change in the boundaries of County Supervisorial Districts, to reflect the demographic shifts that have occurred.

SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE believes the current map for the Fresno Board of Supervisors 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).

EMC's Proposed Map recognizes the significant differences between these two regions, whether we look at crops grown, soil type, or transportation patterns. Even their water comes from different sources. 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.

We are pleased District 1, as proposed by EMC, covers the entire rural Westside, everything west of Highway 41 and all areas of the City of Fresno west of Highway 99.

- **Rural Cities:** Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, San Joaquin. Proposed District 1 **ADDS** Huron and Coalinga, which are now in District 4. The current District 4 stretches 100 miles, from Coalinga to Orange Cove.
- **Unincorporated communities:** Biola, Cantua Creek, Five Points, Tranquility, and West Park. As proposed, District 1 **ADDS** Caruthers, Easton, Lanare, Raisin City, & Riverdale, which are now in District 4.

These unincorporated rural communities are among the poorest and most isolated, and lack the basic features of a safe, healthy, sustainable neighborhood—potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, parks, sidewalks, and streetlights. Moreover, these communities are systematically underserved in the overall allocation of public resources and are frequently overlooked in local decisions.

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency transit routes shed light on transportation patterns in the rural Westside and support use of Highway 41 as the dividing line.

Westlands and Westhills College District are currently split into two supervisor districts, but EMC's Proposed District 1 includes:

- All the West Hills Community College District located within Fresno County, including the main Coalinga campus and the Firebaugh campus.

- All the Westlands Water District  
**Re: SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE**  
for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition Map Proposal  
Page Three

For these, and many other reasons, and after carefully reviewing the Supervisorial District map proposed by the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE stands in strong support.

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

Sincerely,

*Brian Murillo*

Fresno COPE Chair  
SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE  
5228 E Pine Ave  
Fresno, CA 93727  
(559) 447-2560  
Bmurillo84@gmail.com

Sincerely,

*Heather Evans*

Fresno COPE Vice Chair  
SEIU local 521 Fresno COPE  
5228 E Pine Ave  
Fresno, CA 93727  
(559) 447-2560  
Marie.heather@gmail.com





October 3, 2021

Submitted via Electronic Mail  
FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov

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

Re: Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter support for the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition  
map proposal

The Sierra Club is our nation's premier, volunteer-driven environmental organization, with more than 760,000 dues-paying members. Our Club's Tehipite Chapter covers four counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills and central San Joaquin Valley, including 1,330 members in Fresno County. Our Club's mission is, "To explore, enjoy and protect the planet. To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives."

The Sierra Club is best known for advocating for protection of the magnificent wildlands of the United States, and has played a significant role in preserving public lands, including Yosemite National Park, back to our founding by John Muir in 1892. In the past decade, however, the Club has recognized that we need to influence local government, as well, if we are to limit climate change, which is breaking our planet's life support system. For this reason, the Sierra Club is involved with electing and supporting elected officials with the courage to speak up on environmental issues, and has allied with communities on the front lines of the environment, including San Joaquin Valley residents confronting air pollution, toxic waste, or a lack of safe and affordable drinking water.

Our Sierra Club believes that elected government functions best when it makes decisions in the open, with transparency and accountability to the public. The California FAIR Map Act, passed in 2019, provides the guidance for local government to use in redistricting. The Act lays out clear guidelines for how political district lines, including County Supervisorial districts, need to be drawn in time for the 2022 elections. Districts must comply with seven criteria, in the following order: (1) equal population to comply with the U.S. Constitution; (2) compliance with the federal Voting Rights Acts to ensure minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice; (3) districts must be contiguous; (4) they must respect the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest; (5) they should be geographically compact; (6) they should have two Assembly districts nested within each State Senate district; and (7) they shall not be drawn to favor or discriminate against an incumbent, candidate or political party. California Constitution article XXI; CA Government Code, §§ 8251 - 8253.6.

*Despite these explicit instructions required by state law, three Fresno County Supervisors have stated on the record that existing Supervisorial districts, with very minor modifications, will be left unchanged in the current redistricting. This intransigence in the face of significant shifts in the County's demographics would, in our opinion, violate the California FAIR Map Act.*

The Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition has done an impressive amount of work to carefully identify the Communities of Interest in our county, and to work to ensure these are not diluted by splitting them across County Supervisor districts in our proposed map.

For example, in our proposed map, Supervisorial District 4 is reduced to a manageable geographic size, combining the population centers along Highway 99 south of Fresno, from Calwa to Kingsburg, and adding in the farming communities of Reedley and Sanger. Also, Westside Fresno County is no longer arbitrarily split in two, and the western half of existing District 4 is merged with District 1. Also, District 5 includes East Clovis and the developing region of former farmland, now transforming into bedroom communities, and keeps the City of Clovis intact. Communities of Interest of District 5 are preserved, including the surviving groves of Sequoia trees and Sierra foothill tourism-oriented communities such as Squaw Valley.

In conclusion, the Sierra Club urges that you support the proposed map of the Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition. We believe it is healthy when government responds to the needs of the entire electorate rather than catering to the needs of a limited segment of our population, one which has historically had the ear of our Fresno County Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Lasky".

Gary Lasky, Chair  
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

4677 N Safford Ave  
Fresno, CA 93704  
tehipite.chapter@sierraclub.org and  
data.nations@icloud.com  
559-790-3495 cell





October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Via Email*

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:Clerk/BOS@co.fresno.ca.us)

Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission  
County Administrative Office  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 304  
Fresno, CA 93721  
[FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FresnoCounty2021Redistricting@fresnocountyca.gov)

**Re: Support for Fresno County Equitable Map Coalition (EMC) Map Proposal**

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Members of the Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Commission:

On behalf of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, we write to express our strong support of the Equity Map Coalition's ("EMC") proposed revised map, specifically as it relates to proposed District 4 which includes the communities of **Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities** such as **Calwa, Del Rey, Malaga, and Laton**. The proposed District 4 also includes the **older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno**, as these residents share much in common with residents in the rural Eastside communities.

The communities share socioeconomic and environmental similarities as to warrant their inclusion in the same district. Keeping these communities of interest whole in proposed District 4 will allow them to receive the adequate representation they deserve; we urge the Commission and Board of Supervisors to adopt the Equitable Map Coalition's proposed map and preserve our communities of interest.

Under the current Fresno County Board of Supervisors map, the communities, east of Highway 41, in EMC's proposed District 4, are included with towns and unincorporated communities in West Fresno County, such as Huron and Coalinga (communities that tend to rely on Interstate 5, rather than the Highway 99.) The communities in proposed District 4 are also joined by the unincorporated communities of Raisin City in West Fresno County.

### **The communities in proposed District 4 share socioeconomic similarities**

The communities in EMC's proposed District 4 share demographic and socioeconomic similarities. For example, in the jurisdictions of Calwa (90%), Orange Cove (94.8%), Malaga (92.8%) and Parlier (97.5%), over 90 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census. In the jurisdictions of Laton (73.6%), Reedley (79.1%), Selma (89.2%), Del Rey (88.8%), and Sanger (82.6%), over 70 percent of the population identified as Hispanic in the 2020 census.

Residents from the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno and Calwa share much in common with residents in the rural communities on the Eastside, including living in high poverty areas, heavily Latino (as described above), seasonal income because of seasonal work, and difficulty accessing health and social services. Because these areas are heavily Latino, it also means that they share linguistic similarities.

These communities also have a more difficult time accessing broadband internet. According to ACS 2019 data, only 53.7% of Parlier residents have a subscription to broadband; only 60.3% in Orange Cove; and 68.9% in Reedley. When it comes to residents with a bachelors degree or higher, only 4.1% have one in Parlier; 1.6% in Orange Cove; and only 12.7% in Reedley.

Many residents in these communities also travel more than 20 minutes each day to work. Specifically, ACS 2019 data reveals that Kingsburg residents travel an average of 22.9 minutes; Sanger residents 26.7 minutes; Orange Cove 27.5 minutes and, Parlier 23.2 minutes.

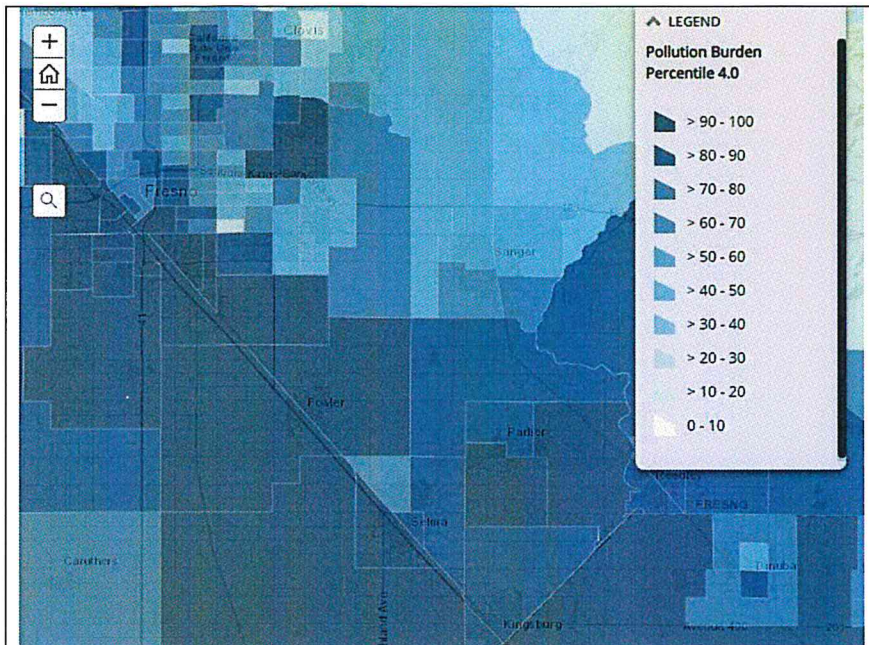
### **The communities in proposed District 4 experience similar environmental burdens**

The communities in proposed District 4 share a disproportionate burden in their exposure to pollution and pesticides. California's CalEnviroScreen's mapping tool illustrates these similarities.<sup>1</sup> This screening tool is particularly effective because it uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. All of the communities in proposed District 4 have a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Score of 91-100% or above. This means that these communities are some of the most environmentally burdened and vulnerable communities in California. The screen is also used by CalEPA and its departments to aid in administering environmental justice grants, promote compliance with environmental laws, prioritize site-cleanup activities and identify opportunities for sustainable economic development. As such, it is important that these communities remain "whole" to ensure that they benefit from the same grants and funding that could be available through the state using such screening tool.

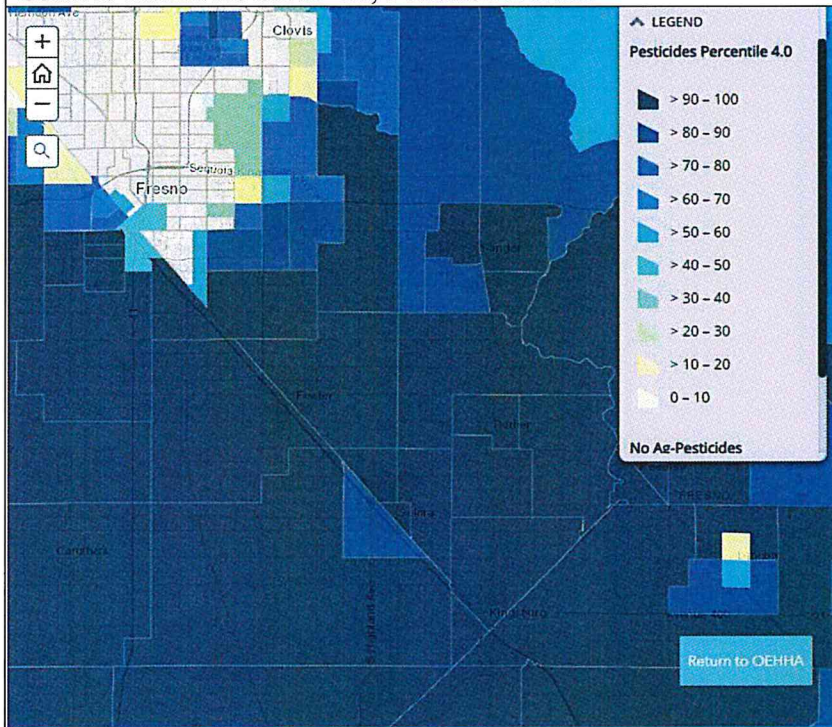
These communities are similarly burdened by pollution and pesticides. According to the screening tool, the communities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Selma, Parlier, Kingsburg and the unincorporated communities in-between all have a pollution burden percentile in the 80 to 100 range and a pesticide range in the 90 to 100 percentile. These communities will benefit from remaining together in one district as proposed in the Equitable Map Coalition's map.

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<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen 3.0, available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>.



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviro Scree 4.0, Pesticides Percentile 4.0

### Similarities and Differences in Agricultural Production



Residents who live in the communities in proposed District 4 also work in and harvest similar crops, including crops that are different from those grown in West Fresno County. For example, citrus and fresh fruit are more commonly grown in the communities of proposed District 4 while West Fresno County is known for row crops like processing tomatoes, garlic, alfalfa, and cotton. Specifically, in the Orange Cove Irrigation District, 75% of farmland is citrus and only 16% nuts and grapes.<sup>2</sup> These differences are important because it impacts skills required to cultivate and harvest the different crops. In other words, the farmworkers in West Fresno County are more familiar working with row-crops while those in Sanger, Selma, and Parlier are more familiar with citrus.

## **Conclusion**

We urge that the Commission and Board of Supervisors take our comments about our communities of interest seriously and adopt the proposed Equity Maps Coalition's map that keeps the communities of **Calwa, Fowler, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma, and other disadvantaged unincorporated communities, and the older urban neighborhoods in Southeast Fresno** together within one district.

Sincerely,

Ivan Sandoval  
Community Organizer  
Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment  
1012 Jefferson Street  
Delano, CA 93215

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<sup>2</sup> Orange Cove Irrigation District, available at:  
<http://www.orangecoveid.org/about%20the%20district.php#>.

**September 27, 2021**

**TO: Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Ernesto Saavedra, Fresno County Resident – BOS District 1**

**RE: SUPPORT EQUITY COALITION MAP FRESNO BOS**

My name is Ernesto Saavedra, I'm writing to represent my neighbors and family.

I live in the community of District 1, a farmworking community, and a **“community of interest” that should be kept with ALL the other rural communities west of Highway 41, Mendota, Firebaugh, Huron, Riverdale, Caruthers, Kerman and Coalinga, and the urban areas west of Highway 99.**

I am in strong support of the Equity Coalition map, particularly Supervisor District 1. All of us living in Western Fresno County should be in the same District – it makes sense. The Westside has been divided for too long & this is our chance to unify in support of our unique region.

- We are majority LatinX. Lots of immigrants, undocumented. We are poor and struggle with low income and seasonal unemployment.
- Westside communities have many unmet basic needs in common, like lack of housing, water quality and availability, and access to the internet.
- The proposed Equity Coalition map keeps the historical connection to West Fresno, whose residents share many of our concerns, from quality of education to good jobs.

Please support the Equity Coalition map. It's for the benefit of all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Saavedra

**September 25, 2021**

**TO: Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Sarah Montgomery & Garreth Saxton, Fresno Residents – BOS District 2**

**RE: SUPPORT EQUITY COALITION MAP FRESNO BOS**

Our names are Sarah Montgomery & Garreth Saxton. We are writing as representatives of our family and neighbors who live in the neighborhood of Old Fig Garden, which is a “**community of interest.**”

In reviewing the Equity Coalition map We applaud it as one that truly represents North Fresno District 2. In conversation with my family and neighbors we want a District that is separate from Clovis and recognizes the unique neighborhoods, residents, businesses and geography that make up North Fresno Supervisor District 2.

- When looking at the Equity Coalition map for District 2, its boundaries are logical and easy to understand. The map uses natural and man-made boundaries like Highway 99, Willow Avenue (which divides the cities of Fresno and Clovis), the San Joaquin River, and Shaw Avenue.
- The Equity Coalition map keeps established communities whole, such as county islands around Bullard High, Old Fig Garden, Pinedale, Fresno State and its off- campus student housing near campus.
- The Equity Coalition map recognizes that many affluent developments, custom-built homes in North Fresno like Van Ness Extension, Sierra Sky Park, San Joaquin River Bluffs, Woodward Lake, and Fort Washington, are unlike the older neighborhoods in Central Fresno’s urban core.
- The Equity Coalition map reflects the City of Fresno’s diversity and respects strong Hmong communities around El Dorado Park, Muslim communities living around the Mosques by Fresno State and in Northwest Fresno, a black community west of Fresno State, and a large Punjabi community along Highway 99 in Northwest Fresno.

In closing, the Equity Coalition’s map best allows the citizens of North Fresno to select a representative who will be responsive to our unique concerns. That is why it has our full support.

Respectfully,

Sarah Montgomery & Garreth Saxton  
808 E. Lansing Way  
Fresno, CA 93704



**September 24, 2021**

**TO: Fresno County Redistricting Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Patsy Montgomery, Fresno County Resident – BOS District 3**

**RE: SUPPORT EQUITY COALITION MAP FRESNO BOS**

My name is Patsy Montgomery. I'm writing as a representative of my neighbors and my family.

I live & work in Central Fresno, District 3 which is a “**community of interest.**” I have worked for the same health care provider since 1991, and purchased a home near my work in 2008 so I could be nearby if my dying husband needed assistance.

With three decades of experience working and living in Supervisorial District 3, I understand the challenges and vibrancy of its diverse residents, and businesses. I am civically engaged and have studied the Supervisor Map proposed by the Equity Coalition and believe it will best represent each Districts' residents, businesses and geographical interests as mandated in the Fair Map Act.

I strongly support the Equity Coalition Supervisor map, especially the District 3 map in Central Fresno. The proposed map for District 3 has kept its character as the civic and government center of the County.

- In fact, District 3 is the heart of the City of Fresno, from the Hall of Records to the Airport, from the Tower District to the Mayfair District and from Manchester Center to the VA Hospital.
- The District 3 map groups modest homes and aging apartment complexes in established neighborhoods together. My own small home was built in 1921 and is surrounded by older apartment complexes, rentals and long term homeowners.
- District 3 remains a strong coalition district that celebrates the diversity of Fresno. Several significant Hmong communities around FIRM, Romain Park, and SE Asian businesses and “communities of interest” at First & McKinley, Asian Village and along the Kings Canyon corridor.

I appreciate that the Equity Coalition Map has recognized that the urban core is different than North Fresno, which is different from Clovis or the more rural parts of Fresno County. As someone who grew up in Clovis, raised my kids while living at Fort Washington Country Club while watching it transition from rural to suburban, I really value how the Equity Coalition Map keeps similar communities grouped together so their constituents can make the most of those differences when advocating for their District.

In closing, the Equity Coalition map draws three (3) effective majority-minority Supervisor Districts and followed the ranked criteria the California Fair Maps Act requires. It's a map that is inclusive and backed up by the data.

I urge strong support for the Equity Coalition map.

Respectfully,

Patsy Montgomery  
703 N. Van Ness Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93728



# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

September 24, 2021

Hand Delivered and Electronic Mail  
[fresnocounty2021redistricting@fresnocountyca.org](mailto:fresnocounty2021redistricting@fresnocountyca.org)

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

Re: Parlier Chapter of Vecinos Unidos affiliated with Dolores Huerta Foundation in support of the Fresno Equitable map Coalition EMC my proposal.

The Parlier Chapter of Vecinos Unidos is a group of concerned activists in Parlier concerned with improving the quality of life for our Latino Spanish-speaking and bilingual members. We came together in August 2017 to address concerns regarding safe streets, sidewalks, and parks; support for our youth including jobs; and access to affordable housing.

We strongly support the Fresno County Equitable map proposal because it will allow us to join with other nearby communities such as Calwa and Southeast Fresno to solve our common problems. This redistricting is needed because it is not feasible for us to join with other far-flung communities such as Coalinga, Huron, and Riverdale. The distance is prohibitive. The new Equity Maps will empower us to connect with the Latino majority in this area that shares our culture, language and occupations as well as common social issues.

We have not, under the current district lines, been able to elect county supervisors that are sympathetic or responsive to our needs. We encourage you to support our efforts for fair representation by approving the Fresno County Equitable Coalition Map Proposal.

Sincerely,

Ampelia Santillan  
Coordinator  
Parlier Vecinos Unidos Chapter  
1446 7th Street  
Sanger, Ca 93657

Ampelia Santillan

P.O. Box 2087 ♦ Bakersfield, CA 93303 ♦ P: (661) 322-3033 ♦ F: (661) 322-3171  
[www.doloreshuerta.org](http://www.doloreshuerta.org)



# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

September 24, 2021

Hand Delivered and Electronic Mail  
[fresnocounty2021redistricting@fresnocountyca.org](mailto:fresnocounty2021redistricting@fresnocountyca.org)

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

Re: Sanger Chapter of Vecinos Unidos affiliated with Dolores Huerta Foundation in support of the Fresno Equitable map Coalition (EMC) proposal.

The Sanger Chapter Vecinos Unidos is a group of concerned activists in Sanger and Del Rey concerned with improving the quality of life for our mostly Latino Spanish-speaking and bilingual members. We came together in August 2017 to address concerns regarding safe streets, sidewalks, and parks; support for our youth including jobs; and access to affordable housing.

We strongly support the Fresno County Equitable map proposal because it will allow us to join with other nearby communities such as Calwa and Southeast Fresno to solve our common problems in these areas. This redistricting is needed because it is not feasible for us to join with other far flung communities such as Coalinga, Huron, and Riverdale. The distances are prohibitive. The proposed map will empower us to connect with the Latino majority, in this more compact area, that shares our culture, language and occupations as well as common social issues.

We have not, under the current district lines, been able to elect county supervisors that are sympathetic or responsive to our needs. We are requesting that you support our efforts for fair representation by approving the Fresno County Equitable Coalition Map Proposal.

Sincerely,

Rita Flores  
Coordinator  
Sanger Vecinos Unidos Chapter  
1446 7th Street  
Sanger, Ca 93657

*Rita Flores*

P.O. Box 2087 • Bakersfield, CA 93303 • P: (661) 322-3033 • F: (661) 322-3171  
[www.doloreshuerta.org](http://www.doloreshuerta.org)