

Dianne McKenna

September 28, 2021

Nancy Smith, Chairperson
Santa Clara County 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission
Office of the County Executive
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Chairperson Smith:

I want to thank you and your fellow commissioners for taking on the important task of drawing supervisorial district boundaries. When districts cross city boundaries it may be difficult to keep communities of interest together. Your work is challenging and important.

As a former Supervisor who represented District 5, I would like to recommend keeping the City of Sunnyvale within one district. For over half a century, the City of Sunnyvale has been split between two districts. During this time, the second largest city in the county saw its influence divided between districts and sometimes divided between competing interests.

More importantly, the "Community of Sunnyvale" is split in two. Residents are unclear who represents them and find it frustrating when they are directed to the "other" district office. Political and civic leaders in Sunnyvale feel a need to contact two Supervisors to gain support on issues. Also, when an elected official resides within your community there is a greater sense that he/she understands the issues. When both of your representatives live outside your community that focus may be more difficult to achieve.

I recognize the commission is receiving input from many sectors of the community and I appreciate your consideration of my recommendation

Sincerely



Dianne McKenna, former Supervisor District 5 (1984-1996)

cc. Redistricting Commission members
Board of Supervisors
Mayor and Sunnyvale City Council