

**From:** [Mayor Marie Blankley](#)  
**To:** [2021redistricting](#); [District1](#); [Chavez, Cindy](#); [Supervisor.Lee](#); [Ellenberg, Supervisor](#); [Supervisor Simitian](#); [Wasserman, Mike](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:14:58 PM

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To the members of the Advisory Redistricting Commission and the SCC Board of Supervisors:

As a lifetime resident of south county and current Mayor of Gilroy, I wish to voice my concern with a proposal to significantly alter the geographical make up of District 1 as put forth in the Updated Unity Map. Gilroy, San Martin and Morgan Hill remain largely rural in nature, and Gilroy specifically borders only unincorporated lands on all sides. The rural portions of Los Gatos and Almaden Valley are far more akin to south county than the more densely populated San Jose areas of Evergreen, Silver Creek, Communication Hill and Cambrian. Districts should maintain their current boundaries with minor tweaks to balance populations and unify divided communities instead of being subjected to dramatic changes. I encourage you to reject any maps that divide well-established neighborhoods and disempower their residents.

I urge you to reject the Updated Unity Map as one of your redistricting considerations because it will cause my voice and that of all of south county to be overshadowed by the more densely populated areas of San Jose.

Respectfully,

Marie Blankley, CPA  
Mayor, City of Gilroy