October 19, 2021

County of Santa Clara Redistricting Commission
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Submitting Community of Interest Testimony for District 2/ East San Jose

Dear Members of the Santa Clara County Redistricting Commission,

On behalf of Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), I am writing to urge the redistricting commission to keep the communities in Alum Rock and Mayfair intact, representing a significant portion of AACI’s East San Jose patient population.

AACI operates a clinic in East San Jose and serves many individuals and families in District 2, particularly in the Alum Rock and Mayfair neighborhoods. According to the 2017 AAPI Health Assessment, these neighborhoods have high concentrations of Latinx, Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and Vietnamese, who experience significant health disparities that are linked with social determinants of health, which range from higher rates of obesity, cancer, tuberculosis, and preterm births.¹

The pandemic has further highlighted these health disparities. According to the County’s COVID-19 data dashboards, census tracts in this district had some of the highest COVID-19 case rates in the County. As of September 2021, data show a case rate of over 9,300 for every 100,000 residents. These communities also have some of the lowest COVID vaccination rates, with some census tracts in Alum Rock only having a 60 percent vaccination rate compared to 90 percent in the neighboring Berryessa neighborhood.

Because of these factors, these communities should be left intact in the redistricting process so that those elected to represent them can focus on their unique and specific health and wellness needs. The patients we serve in these communities have historically been underserved and they cannot afford to have their political power further diluted by being separated by district lines. Please keep these communities intact. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Villaverde
Director of Advocacy