

County of Santa Clara
2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission



DATE: October 27, 2021

TO: 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission

FROM: Melanie Jimenez Perez, Program Manager II
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SUBJECT: Supplemental Information: October 27, 2021, Item No. 4: Review Draft Supervisorial District Maps and Recommendation to the Board

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Given continued challenges with the agenda portal, meeting materials have been posted to the redistricting homepage: www.sccgov.org/2021redistricting. To address the Commission during public comment, the public may sign onto <https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/99630088388> (recommended) or (669) 219-2599, meeting ID 99630088388# (participant ID not required).

Beginning October 26, 2021, public comment on redistricting issues and/or draft maps should be directed to the Board of Supervisors and may be submitted by email to BoardOperations@cob.sccgov.org. Written comments will be distributed to the Board as quickly as possible; however, please note that documents take up to 24 hours to be posted to the agenda for the November 2, 2021 Board meeting.

As a reminder to the Commission, rules prohibiting ex parte communication remain in effect until the Board adopts a new map. If members of the media reach out to Commissioners, they may direct those inquires to the County's Office of Communications and Public Affairs at SCCPublicAffairs@ceo.sccgov.org.

The 2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission has been meeting regularly since July to solicit public testimony on what neighborhoods or groups in our County define themselves as "communities of interest" and should be kept together when new supervisorial district boundaries are drawn to ensure representation that reflects the communities of interest. Public testimony has been in the form of speakers during meetings, emails, Communities of Interest (COI) forms, COI maps, and proposed countywide maps.

All public comment received through October 25, 2021, is posted on the Communities of Interest page of the redistricting website: www.sccgov.org/2021redistricting/COI. In addition to receiving public testimony, the Commission began an iterative process to review draft

maps prepared by the County’s consultant, Redistricting Partners, weekly. This phase of the process began on October 13, 2021, and maps were adjusted to factor in public testimony.

At the Saturday, October 23, 2021, Commission meeting, Item No. 5, Commissioners identified six maps for potential recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The maps for consideration are listed below with the maker of the motion, seconder, vote total, and requested changes:

- **Nguyen and Unity Maps:** Approved 13-2 to move forward to the Board of Supervisors
 - Motion: Vice-Chairperson Staedler from District 2
 - Second: Commissioner Alvarado from District 1
 - Nguyen to be entered into Maptitude by Redistricting Partners to ensure Asian-Pacific Islander (API) majority-minority in District 3
 - Potential shift of Gramercy and Alexander Neighborhoods from District 3 to District 2
 - Potential shift of Warm Spring neighborhood from District 2 to District 3
 - Unity Map to be adjusted in Maptitude by Redistricting Partners to ensure API majority-minority in District 3

- **Y2 and Pham Maps:** Approved 13-2 for further consideration
 - Motion: Commissioner Tom from District 5
 - Second: Commissioner Cooper from District 1
 - Y2 revised to remove San José from District 5
 - Pham map to be entered into Maptitude by Redistricting Partners

- **X3 Plan:** Approved 11-4 for further consideration
 - Motion: Commissioner McAllister from District 4
 - Second: Commissioner Velazquez from District 4

- **Equal & Equitable 2.0 (EE 2.0):** Approved 8-7 for further consideration
 - Motion: Chairperson Smith from District 3
 - Second: Commissioner Pham from District 2
 - Enter EE 2.0 into Maptitude by Redistricting Partners

The changes outlined above have been incorporated by Redistricting Partners in the draft “*Map Analysis*” linked below, except for the shift of the Warm Springs Neighborhood from District 2 to District 3 in the *Nguyen map*, which was partially incorporated. The table below summarizes the maps and provides links. If there is a Communities of Interest number (COI#), the map originated from a community submission through DistrictR and was developed in the consultant’s software, Maptitude, for further evaluation. Maps without a COI# were originally developed by the consultant in response to public testimony and/or Commission discussion.

Maps Identified on 10/23 for Consideration on 10/27

COI #	Name	DistrictR #	DistrictR Link	Map Analysis	HTML Link*
155	Commissioner Nguyen's Map	69094	https://districtr.org/edit/69094?event=santa_clara_county	SCC Nguyen Map 69094 Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Commissioner Nguyen Map - Enlargeable
131	Unity Map 10-23	68785 **	https://districtr.org/plan/68785	SCC Unity Map 10-23 Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Unity Table Map Plan 10-23 - Enlargeable
N/A	Y2 Revised	N/A	N/A	SCC Draft Plan Y2 Revised Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Plan Y2 Revised - Enlargeable
130	Commissioner Pham's Map	68920	https://districtr.org/edit/68920?event=santa_clara_county	SCC Pham Plan 68920 Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Commissioner Pham Map - Enlargeable
N/A	X3	N/A	N/A	SCC Draft Plan X3 Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Plan X3 - Enlargeable
102	Equal & Equitable 2.0	66950	https://districtr.org/edit/66950?event=santa_clara_county	SCC EE 2.0 Static.pdf	Santa Clara County Equal and Equitable 2.0 Map - Enlargeable

*The HTML links are associated with the County's agenda portal and may not be accessible. HTML maps allow for zooming in to get a better understanding at a street level of where boundaries are proposed.

** Not created through the County's DistrictR site (https://districtr.org/event/Santa_Clara_County)

The Commission voted to move *Commissioner Nguyen's Map* and *Unity Map 10-23* to the Board of Supervisors, but they are included in map comparisons below and will be included as part of the presentation to the Board of Supervisors discussion.

Review Draft Supervisorial District Maps

During Commission discussions of draft maps and the submission of public testimony, central themes or considerations have been identified as reoccurring:

- Total Plan Deviation districts that are as close to equal as technologically possible
 - Current boundaries with 2020 Census data have a deviation of 17.2%
- Establishing a Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) majority-minority Asian-Pacific Islander (API) district
- Maintaining a Latino Influence district with a majority percentage of total population
- Keeping cities together to the extent possible, especially small cities
- Identifying the number of supervisorial districts San José is split into
- Unifying cities in the western area of the county
 - Palo Alto, Mountain View, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos
 - Alternatively, unifying West Valley area of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Cupertino, and Campbell
- Almaden Valley- locating with the community they identify with
- Alum Rock & East Foothills- considering keeping together with unincorporated areas
- Diridon Station- keeping the neighborhood together around the transportation hub
- Maintaining neighborhoods in the current District 4
 - Part of San José, Campbell, Cambrian Park, Burbank, Willow Glen, Rose Garden, Shasta Hanchett, City of Santa Clara
- Evergreen- locating with the community they identify with
- Los Gatos- determining area of the county with most similarities
- Sunnyvale- whether to remain in one or two districts

Attached to this supplemental report is *Draft Maps Comparison*, which presents this information for all six plans identified by the Commission. Commissioners also had the opportunity to highlight the merits of individual maps, which is included below.

Commissioner Nguyen's Map:

- Achieves 50% Asian CVAP in District 3 (D3) and 44% Hispanic population in D2.
- D3 has Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale for 50% Asian CVAP.
- Includes Los Gatos/Monte Sereno with Saratoga in D5 and keeps Almaden Valley in D1. Puts all rural areas in northeast county in D1.
- All districts are contiguous.
- All neighborhoods (including San José's) are kept intact; all but one single-city COI is kept intact
- All cities (except San José) and Census- Designated Places (CDPs) kept intact
- District boundaries are easily identifiable and understandable
- Districts are compact
- San José neighborhood boundaries were the ones used on DistrictR's website for San José's redistricting (https://districtr.org/tag/san_jose)
- Map evolved from Commissioner and community submissions on DistrictR

Unity Map:

- Achieves 50% Asian CVAP in D3 and 49.7% Hispanic population in D2. Majority-minority CVAP in 3 districts in this map and the Pham map. Majority-minority CVAP in 2 districts in all other maps.
- D3 has Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale
- Includes Los Gatos/Monte Sereno with Saratoga in D5 and also moves Almaden Valley out of D1 and into D5. Moves more rural areas from D1 to D5.
- A triangular piece of the City of Santa Clara is put into D2 whereas most of the City of Santa Clara is in D4, although map submitters indicated an intent to keep the city whole.
- While deviation is within the acceptable margins, it is high compared to the other options.

Y2 Revised:

- Most compact option.
 - Avoids the upside-down “u” shape seen in maps joining Milpitas and Mountain View
- Achieves 56% Asian CVAP in D3 without Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale. Hispanic population of 47% in D2.
 - Recognizes the diverse ethnicities and cultures encompassed within the “Asian” Census category and distinct communities
- D5 focuses on north county cities compared to most maps that extend south to include Cupertino, Saratoga, and Los Gatos.
- Includes Los Gatos/Monte Sereno with Saratoga while keeping more of the rural area to the west of Los Gatos in D1.
- D4 focuses on the central area between San José and Palo Alto.
- Reflects COI testimony that Sunnyvale should be included in D5 given the strong ties among Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale. The ties include but are not limited to the fact that many live in one city and work in the other and El Camino Real is a transit corridor that ties the communities together.
- Reflects the view that the north county cities have close ties to one another and do not see themselves as having close ties with cities such as Los Gatos or see the west side of the county as reflecting a common community of interest, which is shown in all the other maps.
- Includes public testimony that both Mountain View and Sunnyvale are facing similar environmental issues due to their border on the bay and dealing with development issues north of 101.

Commissioner Pham's Map

- Blends Unity Map with Commissioner Nguyen's Map. Compared to Nguyen's map, this increases the Hispanic CVAP from 36% to 41% and adds slightly more rural area west of Los Gatos to D1. Compared to Unity map, D5 does not stretch as far south.
- Achieves 50% Asian CVAP in D3 and 50% Hispanic population in D2. Majority-minority CVAP in 3 districts in this map and the Unity map. Majority minority CVAP in 2 districts in all other maps.
- D3 has Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale
- Los Gatos/Monte Sereno with Saratoga in D5 and keeps Almaden Valley in D1. Keeps more of the rural area to the west of Los Gatos in D1. Puts all rural areas in northeast county in D1.
- Expanded to Latino communities in D2 to maintain high Latino Influence district
 - Burbank from D4 to D2
 - Highest of the six options
- Utilizes major roads/highways or natural borders (ie river) as district boundaries
- Keep supervisorial districts compact

X3

- Achieves 50% Asian CVAP in D3 and 47% Hispanic population in D2.
- D3 has Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale
- Includes Los Gatos/Monte Sereno (and rural area to the west of them) with Saratoga in D5 and keeps Almaden Valley in D1. Puts all rural areas in northeast county in D1.
- Closest of six options to the existing Supervisorial District lines

Equal & Equitable 2.0 (EE 2.0)

- Keeps Los Gatos/Monte Sereno split from Saratoga.
- D3 has Milpitas reaching over Santa Clara to Sunnyvale

Discuss Presentation of Recommended Drafts Maps

Staff recommends the presentation to the Board be divided between Redistricting Partners, the Chairperson, and the Vice-Chairperson. The following outlines the proposed presentation and presenter for discussion amongst the Commissioners:

- Overview of 2020 Census Data: *Redistricting Partners*
- Recommended framework and overall themes incorporated in maps: *Chairperson*
- Recommended maps: *Vice-Chairperson*
- Next Steps: *Office of the County Executive*
- Questions and Answers: *Redistricting Partners*

Based on the iterations of maps and selections by the Commissioner, all maps share a framework that can be presented to the Board as follows:

- Keep districts contiguous
- Treat cities and Census Designated Places (CDPs) as COIs because many members of the public and Commissioners stated cities and CDPs were their COIs
- Keep neighborhoods and COIs intact
- Try to keep school districts intact
- Keep total deviation as low as possible to maximize the idea of one person, one vote
- Ensure at least one district has a CVAP API Majority-minority

Additionally, staff recommends the Commission utilize a random draw process to determine the order in which recommended draft maps are presented and named as one of the following: Red; Orange; Yellow; Green; Blue; and Purple.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Maps Comparison
- Draft Maps Presentation