

County of Santa Clara  
2021 Advisory Redistricting Commission



**DATE:** October 20, 2021, Regular Meeting

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**PLACE:** By Virtual Teleconference Only

**MINUTES**

**Opening**

**1. Roll Call.**

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present via virtual teleconference, pursuant to California Government Code section 54953(e).

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Nancy Smith	Chairperson, Seat No. 8	Remote	
Bob Staedler	Vice Chairperson, Seat No. 2	Remote	
Cynthia Cooper	Commissioner, Seat No. 1	Remote	
Mario Burnias	Commissioner, Seat No. 3	Remote	
Juan Velazquez	Commissioner, Seat No. 4	Remote	
Dana Tom	Commissioner, Seat No. 5	Remote	
Dolores Alvarado	Commissioner, Seat No. 6	Remote	
Peter Pham	Commissioner, Seat No. 7	Remote	
Laura McAllister	Commissioner, Seat No. 9	Remote	
Katie Zoglin	Commissioner, Seat No. 10	Remote	
Maria Pineda	Commissioner, Seat No. 11	Remote	
Zhaohui Hong	Commissioner, Seat No. 12	Remote	
Edwin Tony Tan	Commissioner, Seat No. 13	Remote	
Daniel Nguyen	Commissioner, Seat No. 14	Remote	
Raven Malone	Commissioner, Seat No. 15	Remote	

**2. Public Comment.**

No public comments were received.

**3. Approve Consent Calendar and changes to the Commission's Agenda.**

**3 RESULT:** APPROVED [14 TO 0]

**MOVER:** Peter Pham, Commissioner, Seat No. 7

**SECONDER:** Daniel Nguyen, Commissioner, Seat No. 14

**AYES:** Smith, Staedler, Cooper, Burnias, Velazquez, Tom, Alvarado, Pham, McAllister, Pineda, Hong, Tan, Nguyen, Malone

**ABSENT:** Zoglin

## Regular Agenda - Items for Discussion

### 4. Consider recommendations relating to Communities of Interest. (ID# 108067)

Possible action:

- a. Receive report from the Office of the County Executive.
- b. Receive public testimony.
- c. Receive testimony from Communities of Interest representatives.
- d. Receive verbal report from the Office of the County Executive, Office of the County Counsel, and Redistricting Partners relating to communities of interest testimony and potential impacts on mapping, and discuss and approve recommendations regarding mapping, if any.

At the request of Chairperson Smith, Commissioner Pineda provided a presentation and testimony relating to her Gilroy community of interest, including health and community centers; agriculture and wineries, including 2020 crop reports; and, housing, including rental, ownership, and programs.

Chairperson Smith invited members of the public to provide testimony relating to Communities of Interest. Ten individuals addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Pham requested that Administration provide information relating to the location of renters and homeowners in the County.

Chairperson Smith next invited representatives of Communities of Interest to provide testimony.

Gwyn Azar, Elise Chiu, and Sarah Liu, Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, provided a presentation, and expressed support for the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (Communities of Interest [COI] No. 102). Vice Chairperson Staedler and Commissioner Nguyen noted that COI No. 102 is identical to COI No. 57, keeps Los Gatos in District One, and predates District One testimony. In response to an inquiry by Chairperson Smith, Ms. Azar clarified that their Community of Interest includes Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Los Gatos, San José, Los Altos, and Fremont Union High School District.

Ann Marquart, Executive Director, Project Sentinel, provided a presentation relating to the organization's work with very low income tenants and property owners. Ms. Marquart expressed no strong recommendation for a specific map, but noted that Project Sentinel clients identify with city boundaries.

Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance; Andres Quintero, Redistricting Committee Chairperson, Latino Leadership Alliance; and, Jeffrey Buchanan, Policy Director, Silicon Valley Rising Action, provided a presentation relating to an updated Unity map (COI No. 109).

Discussion ensued relating to the basis and analysis of the updated Unity map (COI No. 109).

Chairperson Smith recessed the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Chairperson Smith reconvened the meeting at 8:22 p.m. with all members present.

Further discussion ensued relating to the basis and analysis of the updated Unity map (COI No. 109).

Melanie Jimenez Perez, Program Manager II, Office of the County Executive, stated that a report relating to Communities of Interest testimony would not be provided in the interest of time.

<b>4 RESULT: RECEIVED</b>
---------------------------

<b>Time Certain - To Be Heard No Earlier than 7:00 p.m.</b>
---

- 5. Receive report from the Office of the County Executive, Office of the County Counsel, and Redistricting Partners relating to draft Supervisorial District maps, and discuss and approve recommendations regarding mapping, if any.** (ID# 108065)

Ms. Jimenez Perez provided a presentation relating to the remaining meeting schedule and Communities of Interest testimony, including a request for final submissions by October 25, 2021. For technology reasons, Ms. Jimenez Perez encouraged submissions by October 24, 2021 to ensure testimony is included in the Board of Supervisors material. Ms. Jimenez identified Communities of Interest reference numbers, names, data, and other identifying information to guide the Commission and public through their review of map submissions.

Chairperson Smith invited members of the public to provide testimony relating to maps. Thirteen individuals addressed the Commission.

Chairperson Smith recessed the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Chairperson Smith reconvened the meeting at 10:09 p.m. with all members present.

Kimi Shigetani, Chief Administrative Officer, Redistricting Partners, provided a presentation relating to ranked criteria mandated by the Fair Maps Act and three draft maps for consideration by the Commission.

Ms. Shigetani stated that Plan X2 focuses on District Three with an Asian Pacific Islander (API) population of 45 percent; unites Koreatown, which necessitated splitting Sunnyvale into two districts; includes a majority of Santa Clara, Cupertino, and Los Gatos in District Four; keeps District One as a more rural district; and, has a plan deviation of 3.4 percent. She noted that overlays identifying existing Supervisorial District lines and city lines are included with each map, and links can be provided for a more granular review of streets.

Ms. Shigetani next stated that Plan X3 considers mobile home parks; maintains cities that the Commission requested by kept whole in District Two; keeps Milpitas, Placentia Park, Berryessa, and Sunnyvale together; keeps Santa Clara and Campbell whole; links higher income areas in District One, but moves Los Gatos to District Five with coastal communities; includes a portion of San José; splits Koreatown along El Camino Real; and, has a plan deviation of 8.2 percent. Ms. Shigetani noted that District Five is slightly underpopulated and that the population can be increased.

Ms. Shigetani next stated that the Commissioners Plan is based on three maps submitted in DistrictR; the map provided by Redistricting Partners is substantially the same with minor adjustments for contiguity and population; the majority of Santa Clara, Cupertino, and Los Gatos are together in District Four; District One is more rural; Campbell and Los Gatos are split; Saratoga and Monte Sereno are together in District Five; and, the map has a plan deviation of 2.9 percent.

Ms. Shigetani noted that the Unity map would not be reviewed as a revised map was submitted on October 20, 2021, and an updated analysis is not yet available.

Finally, Ms. Shigetani provided information relating to next steps for the Commission, including identification of preferred maps in a continued iterative process.

Three individuals addressed the Commission.

Chairperson Smith next invited the Commissioners to provide comments and preferences relating to the draft maps.

Commissioner Malone requested that Administration provide demographic information relating to Sunnyvale, including a comparison with current Districts Three and Four demographics.

Vice Chairperson Staedler suggested consideration of the South County Rebalanced map (COI No. 59), Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102), and the Unity map (COI No. 109) as the basis for discussing the disposition of Los Gatos, keeping Sunnyvale in one district, and options for the South County.

Commissioner Nguyen requested that Administration provide school district and neighborhood overlays and provide Plans X2 and X3 in DistrictR; noted that Plan X2 has no Asian majority Citizen Voting Age Population district; expressed acceptance of Plan X3; expressed confusion relating to the location of Almaden Valley in the Commissioners Plan; and, noted that the Unity map (COI No. 109) has a plan deviation over 10 percent, compactness issues, and Almaden Valley in District Five. Commission Nguyen stated that he submitted a map entitled Edit of 64085 (COI No. 113) that places Los Gatos and Monte Sereno in District Five rather than District One based on lack of commonality with District One and shared high school district, police, and municipal services with District Five; places Almaden Valley in District One based on a shared rural character and common interests regarding transportation and County parks; and, has a plan deviation of 2.33 percent.

Commissioner Zoglin expressed agreement with Commissioner Nguyen's concerns relating to the Unity map (COI No. 109); disagreed with maps that place all of the west side of the County in one district; and, expressed agreement with Plan X2, but requested an alternative that includes Sunnyvale in District Five. Commissioner Zoglin stated that she considers El Camino Real the transportation corridor rather than Highway 85, and that she does believe Los Gatos, Saratoga, and Monte Sereno have shared interests with Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Mountain View. Commissioner Zoglin requested a map that does not include all of the west side of the County in one district, and a map with a district that consists of the southwest side of the County, including Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Campbell, Cupertino, and a portion of San José, if sufficient population can be found. Commissioner Zoglin expressed an objection to any map that includes San José in all five Supervisorial Districts.

Commissioner Pham requested renter and homeownership overlays. He expressed his belief that a consensus exists relating to North County lines with some residual questions and alternatives, but that a controversy exists relating to South County lines, primarily disposition of Los Gatos and South San José. Commissioner Pham expressed interest in forwarding the decision to the Board of Supervisors through submission of three maps that alternatively include Los Gatos in District One, exclude Los Gatos from District One, and include Los Gatos and a portion of South San José in District One as a compromise. He further suggested including the North County in District Three as an immediate border and to balance population, if necessary. Commissioner Pham requested that Administration or County Counsel provide the Commission with a legal analysis of each map under consideration to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Finally, he identified Plan X2, the Unity map (COI No. 109), and the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102) as his preferred maps, and South County Rebalanced (COI No. 59) and Edit of 64085 (COI No. 113) as additional maps of interest.

Commissioner Tom stated that Communities of Interest are not always compact, contiguity is a lower ranked priority, and maintaining demographically similar communities is ranked higher. He expressed uncertainty relating to all of the maps without having key factors to understand their underlying considerations and trade-offs. Commissioner Tom expressed a preference for keeping Monte Sereno, Los Gatos, and Saratoga together based on a shared high school district, and expressed mixed opinions relating to the disposition of Almaden Valley. He identified the Unity map (COI No. 109) as his most preferred map to date based on the extensive underlying collaboration in preparing the map, efforts to keep cities intact, and an explanation of trade-offs provided by the presenters. Commissioner Tom requested that Redistricting Partners work with the authors of the Unity map (COI No. 109) to resolve importing process issues and to reduce populations that result in a plan deviation greater than 10 percent. Finally, Commissioner Tom identified Plan X3 as his second preferred map, noting that Almaden Valley is located in District One; expressed concern relating to Plan X2 due

to splitting Santa Clara and Sunnyvale into different districts; and, requested more information relating to the Commissioners Plan.

Commissioner Alvarado agreed with the principles and approach to the Unity map (COI No. 109), and expressed interest in the Commissioners Plan. She noted the potential for keeping Almaden Valley in District One if Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga are located in District Four or District Five. Commissioner Alvarado further expressed confidence that Administration will not allow the Commission to submit improper maps, and stated she did not require a formal legal analysis from County Counsel.

Commissioner McAllister expressed support for Redistricting Partners working with the authors of the Unity map (COI No. 109); expressed concern that Plan X2 splits Santa Clara into three districts; identified Plan X3 as her preferred map based on maintaining the Santa Clara to Campbell area together, including portions of San José along Highway 17 and Bascom Avenue that share shopping, schools, and neighborhoods; and, stated that she considered the Commissioners Plan a compromise map. Commissioner McAllister requested that the next iteration consist of Plan X3, the Commissioners Plan, and the Unity map (COI No. 109).

Commissioner Cooper identified the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102) and the Unity Map (COI No. 109) as her preferred maps. She stated that her experience as a long-time resident of Almaden Valley is that the community engages with the south rather than the north. Commissioner Cooper further expressed appreciation for the focus on people that is the basis of the Unity map (COI No. 102).

Commissioner Velazquez identified Plan X3 as his preferred map based on populations, maintenance of city boundaries, cohesiveness, compactness, and keeping Communities of Interest together. He identified the Unity map (COI No. 109) as his second preferred map subject to further analysis.

Commissioner Tan stated that the Unity map (COI No. 109) includes issues of interest and concern, including high population deviations, and supported Commissioner Tom's request to have Redistricting Partners work with the authors of the map to meet the majority of their goals while reducing population deviations. He identified the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102) as a map for further consideration. Finally, Commissioner Tan expressed his view that Los Gatos and Monte Sereno do not belong in District One; stated that he lacks sufficient information to determine the most appropriate district for those areas; and, expressed disagreement with dividing Santa Clara into three districts in Plan X2.

Commissioner Hong stated that he did not yet have sufficient information to identify preferred maps.

Commissioner Burnias stated that he has identified a preferred map, but he was unable to immediately provide the title or identification number.

Chairperson Smith expressed support from the Unity map (COI No. 102), and requested that it be further revised to reach a deviation closer to zero; expressed concerns relating to Plan X2; expressed support for Plan X3; and, expressed an intent to review the Commissioners Plan before October 23, 2021. Chairperson Smith requested that the Commissioners provide comments relating to the basis of maps they submitted. Finally, she requested consideration of maps submitted by Margaret Okuzumi (COI No. 81), particularly the second map; the map submitted by James Nakamura (COI No. 103); the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action map (COI No. 107), and the Edit of 64085 map (COI No. 113).

Commissioner Malone expressed support for the Unity map (COI No. 109) and for Redistricting Partners working with the authors to reduce population deviations; requested clarification of whether the map includes Koreatown and Sunnyvale in the same District; and, expressed concern relating to southern expansion of District Five in the map. She expressed interest in consolidating the Unity map (COI No. 109) with the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102) map. Finally, Commissioner Malone noted the importance of equal representation for communities of color.

Commissioner Nguyen clarified that Vice Chairperson Staedler submitted the Equal and Equitable map (COI No. 40), Commissioner Nguyen submitted the Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102), a substantially similar map was submitted as the Fair for All Communities map (COI No. 101), and he submitted a consolidated Equal, Equitable, and Fair for All map (COI No. 114). Commissioner Nguyen noted that Vice Chairperson Staedler has not had an opportunity to review the latter map for consistency with his original Equal and Equitable map (COI No. 40).

Danielle Christian, Legislative Manager, Office of the County Executive summarized key maps of interest to the Commission as the Unity map (COI No. 109); Equal, Equitable, and Fair for All map (COI No. 114); Plan X3, the Commissioners Plan; Plan X2; South County Rebalanced map (COI No. 59); Equal and Equitable 2.0 map (COI No. 102); the second of three Margaret Okuzumi maps (COI No. 81); and, the James Nakamura map (COI No. 103).

Vice Chairperson Staedler clarified that his South County Rebalanced map (COI No. 59) is an alternative way of moving Los Gatos into District Four; he does not support the Commissioners Plan as it splits Campbell; and, key considerations moving forward are maps that identify an API over 50.1 percent and keep cities together, as the best way of maintaining Communities of Interest.

Chairperson Smith requested a guided discussion on October 23, 2021 relating to policy issues, including splitting cities, trade-offs necessary to achieve equal population, and disposition of the South County.

Commissioner Alvarado clarified that she supports of the Equal, Equitable, and Fair for All map (COI No. 114) and the principles underlying the Unity map (COI No. 109).

**5 RESULT: RECEIVED**

## 6. Propose future agenda items.

Commissioner Zoglin requested guidance from County Counsel relating to Voting Rights Act issues by October 23, 2021.

Commissioner Tom requested that Administration provide the Commission with information relating to key factors considered by Redistricting Partners, including trade-offs and balancing of ranked criteria, for each draft map.

**6 RESULT: RECEIVED**

## Announcements

### 7. Announcements and correspondence:

- a. Chairperson's announcements.

Chairperson Smith reminded the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., by virtual teleconference.

**7.a RESULT: RECEIVED**

- b. Commissioners' announcements.

No announcements were made.

- c. The County of Santa Clara provides reimbursement to appointed Commissioners for family care expenses incurred during the time spent performing their official County duties. For additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 299-5001.

## Consent Calendar

### 8. Approve minutes of the October 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**8 RESULT: APPROVED [14 TO 0]**

**MOVER:** Peter Pham, Commissioner, Seat No. 7

**SECONDER:** Daniel Nguyen, Commissioner, Seat No. 14

**AYES:** Smith, Staedler, Cooper, Burnias, Velazquez, Tom, Alvarado, Pham, McAllister, Pineda, Hong, Tan, Nguyen, Malone

**ABSENT:** Zoglin



## Adjourn

- 9. Adjourn to the next regular meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., by virtual teleconference.**

Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Doyle  
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT